**CAPSTONE SYLLABUS**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to give you the opportunity to reflect on where you have been and where you are going. In this capstone course, students demonstrate the ability to use psychological concepts and skills. Major assignments include a Graduate Portfolio, Integrative Paper, Research Project as well as oral presentations. Students also begin formal preparation for graduate school or careers and perform program skills self-assessments. We will take a final tour through the core areas of psychology and evaluate your retention of key material.

One goal for this class is to help you connect your degree in psychology with future life goals and challenges, thinking about how this degree prepares you for work or further study after graduation.

The graduation portfolio is the last major requirement needed to graduate with a psychology degree from Dallas Christian College. The portfolio is a synthesis of evidence and reflection illustrating what you have learned as an undergraduate and how this learning has prepared you for your future.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Synthesize your learning
2. Demonstrate your understanding of Psychology
3. Demonstrate research and communication skills
4. Investigate possible career paths

SPECIFIC COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES MAPPED TO ASSIGNMENTS

1. Understanding of knowledge bases in psychology be able to demonstrate a retention and understanding of the major areas and key themes in psychology.

Maps to – Demonstration of Knowledge (10%)

1. Advanced information-gathering skills. Ex the use of computerized search tools and print resources, sufficient breadth and depth of resources, ability to select relevant resources, understanding of scientific research protocols

Maps to - Research a specific topic (10%)

1. Advanced written communication skills. Show the use of appropriate scholarly resources, clear expression of ideas, logical organization of ideas, correct APA (scientific) style of composition and formats for topical papers and research manuscripts.

Maps to - Integrative Paper (10%)

1. Critical thinking skills. Ability to integrate and adequately support ideas; competent categorization, integration, and analysis of related concepts; the ability to formulate appropriate research questions, the ability to accurately apply research findings, appropriate use of constructive feedback; the ability to apply relevant content to real-world contexts.

Maps to - discussion of real world problems with psychological application (10%)

1. Research skills. Show competent adaptation of research materials; appropriate data collection procedures; time management of the research process; competent use of computer software; competent research design skills; use of ethical research principles.

Maps to - Research Proposal (10%)

1. Verbal communication skills. Discussions, group process, and presentations show: negotiation skills and openness to contradictory ideas; the ability to present scholarly information succinctly and clearly to an informed audience; the ability to understand and integrate cross-disciplinary ideas.

Maps to – Senior Exposition/Oral Presentation (10%)

1. Goal setting and career skills. Portfolios show: goal clarification and career/academic planning and preparation.

Maps to - Portfolio (20%)

1. Self-assessment skills. the ability to identify and use performance data to support evaluation; the ability to identify strengths and weaknesses; the ability to develop suggestions for improvement.

Maps to - Assessments (20%)

GRADED ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

1. Demonstration of Knowledge (10%) in class projects and discussion
2. Research a specific topic (10%) topic to be decided in conjunction with professor.
3. Integrative Paper (10%) demonstrate your ability to critically review current psychological literature from a Christian perspective.
4. Discuss real world problems with psychological application (10%) in class group discussion
5. Research Proposal (10%) brainstorm ideas, topics, sampling, measures, hypotheses, research topic literature review, variables, discuss designs, ethics, data collection, analysis of data, solicit participants, presentation requirements. Oral presentations will be performed, with appropriate powerpoint, visuals.
6. Abstract (1/2 – 1 page) – to be written last
7. Introduction- review of pertinent literature (approx. 3-5 pages)
8. Methods
   1. Participants
   2. Materials
   3. Procedures
   4. Ethics
9. Results - performed on SPSS software
10. Discussion (summary, conclusions, implications/recommendations)
11. References
12. Tables, Charts, Graphs - on SPSS/powerpoint or other graphing software
13. Appendices (consent form, debriefing form, materials used)
14. Senior Exposition/Oral Presentation (10%) The goal is to build your capacity to communicate through an oral senior exposition that creatively presents some aspect of your research and learning while here at DCC whilst also demonstrating cultural competency. Students are required to produce a 20minute oral presentation.

Sample Topics

* Human Thought, Emotion, or Behavior
* Human Development
* Motivation and Emotion
* Learning
* Social Psychology
* Abnormal Psychology
* Psychotherapy
* Pastoral Counseling
* Tests and Measurement
* Neuro-Psychology
* Human Sexuality
* Marital Counseling

1. Graduation Portfolio (20%) Collect evidence of your learning from several contexts, coursework, experiential learning, grades, relevant ideas, theorists, reflections. This will include aProfessional Preparation Component. It will contain: an edited, complete resume and a job search printout, a list (up to 5) of appropriate graduate programs of interest (each with a paragraph summarizing the program’s entrance criteria, and if available, program options, graduation rates, deadline dates, and number of applicants chosen each year), and a personal statement. Full points are awarded if all professional portfolio items are complete.
   * Describe your degree in 50 words
   * Detail Course review and course grades
   * Provide your current GPA alongside description
   * Your favorite and least favorite course and why
   * DCC Experiences Journal
   * What does a college education mean to you
   * What does it mean to graduate with a degree in psychology
   * Key components of DCC
   * Evidence learning/best coursework
   * Resume
   * Career plans (+ personal statement)
   * Thanks to
2. Assessments (20%) we will be reviewing 4 cornerstone exams. You will also be asked to complete some self-assessments and an in-house capstone exam.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Our discussions will focus on developing the portfolio and the exposition; reflecting on your academic experience; integrating coursework into a holistic view of your education; and making connections across academic experiences and the transition process.

Each individual possesses unique personal experiences and unique patterns of reading, thinking and learning. We share an equal responsibility to foster an atmosphere conducive to productive collaboration, in which everyone feels safe to express ideas, opinions, questions and doubts. Anyone who fails to adhere to these guidelines may be asked to leave the classroom.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Attendance, grading and technology policies are in line with DCC school policies. We also operate a tardiness policy whereby the minutes you arrive late are recorded and go towards your absences for this class.

This syllabus may be subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.