

SPECIAL TOPICS & FIELD EXPERIENCE PSYC COURSES **SPRING 2020**

PSYC 2250-001 (Tu-Th 8:00-9:15)—PSYC elective

Instructor: Dr. Curtindale

Topic: Global Leadership

Description: Leadership is key to the success of an organization, yet a successful leader can play many roles. Global Leadership uses active engagement of students at ECU and at a partner university in Russia to understand and apply the diverse methods of leadership around the world. Live video conferencing and a variety of collaborative tools make this course a special opportunity to learn about global leadership.

PSYC 4250-001 (Tu-Th 9:30-10:45)—PSYC capstone

Instructor: Dr. Maag

Topic: Humans and Dogs Through the Lens of Developmental Psychology

Description: Dogs have become a popular subject of psychological research and in this seminar, we will examine tasks used to assess socio-cognitive development in both human children and dogs. By studying concepts such as object permanence, theory of mind, language learning, and number sense, we will consider many challenges of psychological research and evaluate the cognitive abilities of dogs. We will review the domestication of dogs and consider how dogs manage to get humans to provide food and shelter for them. The course will involve reading research papers about dogs and reviewing the corresponding research findings about human children. Each student will write a research proposal and lead a discussion about their topic. As with most seminar courses, attendance and active participation is critical.

The course includes a Service Learning Project in which you will apply your knowledge of psychology by training dogs at the Humane Society. You will need to learn the basics of clicker training (positive reinforcement) and spend a minimum of 15 hours outside of class training dogs at the shelter. (If you are allergic to dogs or otherwise unwilling to work with dogs, you should take a different course.)

*****If this course is of interest to you, please contact Dr. Maag for permission to enroll.**

PSYC 4250-002 (MWF 12:00-12:50)—PSYC capstone

Instructor: Dr. Eppler

Topic: Mindsets Matter—How Implicit Theories of Intelligence and Personality Shape Beliefs and Behavior

Description: In this seminar, we will trace the historical development of Carol Dweck's theory of implicit beliefs (mindsets) from the 1970s to present time. This theory spans the areas of social, cognitive, personality, and developmental psychology. Basically, children and adult's views of

the nature of intelligence or the nature of personality have a powerful influence on how they respond to a wide range of challenges such as academic failure, prejudice, and bullying. Understanding how implicit beliefs influence responses to challenging situations provides the basis for a variety of interventions designed to improve academic performance and social relationships.

PSYC 4250-601 (DE)—PSYC capstone

Instructor: Dr. Dolbier

Topic: Health Psychology

Description: The aims of this advanced topic seminar are to understand and apply psychological science to the: (a) promotion and maintenance of physical health; (b) prevention and treatment of physical illness; (c) identification of causal and diagnostic correlates of health and illness; and (d) analysis and improvement of the health care system and health policy formation. This seminar will provide you with an overview of the major topics and current issues and research surrounding these areas. This requires an understanding of the dynamic interplay of biological, psychological, and social factors. Consequently, you will be exposed to material concerning human physical systems, and social/psychological theories and principles.

PSYC 4990 (FIELD EXPERIENCE)

Must contact faculty supervisor to arrange contract—several options (see below)

Field Experience in Psychology (PSYC 4990) is a specialized course in which students complete hands-on work in the field of psychology in order to acquire some practical skills, reflect on their learning and application of psychological principles in real-life settings, and read journal articles about research directly related to the practical hands-on field work that they are experiencing. This is a variable credit course (PSYC elective), and students are expected to work 3 hours per week for every 1 sh credit (some sections may have specific sh requirements). Note that most of these placements require a criminal background check, and some may also require drug testing.

PSYC 4990 (section 001) Field Experience in Psychology: Middle School Tutor

Instructor: Dr. Jeannie Golden

Description: This semester students in PSYC 4990 tutor and mentor intermediate, middle, and high school students from impoverished, rural communities who have academic difficulties. Many of these students do not have parents who are available to help them and have never thought of going to college prior to the tutoring experience. The ECU students receive training and opportunities to read about, reflect upon, discuss, and problem-solve issues that arise throughout their tutoring/mentoring experience.

*Class will be held on Monday nights from 4:30 to 6:30.

PSYC 4990 (Section 002) Field Experience in Psychology: Building Hope—Developmental Psychology in Action at an After-School Program

Instructors: Dr. Marsha Ironsmith & Dr. Marion Eppler

Description: This is a service-learning course where students meet at ECU in class once per week (for training, discussion of relevant readings, and reflection) and work with elementary school aged children at [Building Hope Community Life Center](#). Activities at Building Hope will include helping the children with homework, reading books, and other educational activities and games.

Details: Students will register for **2 sh** (6 hours per week, including class, volunteering at Building Hope, and readings plus other activities). Class meetings will be on Tuesdays from 12:30-2:00. Volunteering at Building Hope must be done at least once per week on Monday-Thursday (open from 2:30-5:30) for an average of 2-3 hours per week (30 hours required for the semester).

PSYC 4990 (Section 003) Field Experience in Psychology: REAL Crisis

Instructor: Dr. Jeannie Golden

Description: In this Field Experience section, also a service-learning course, students participate as volunteer crisis counselors at REAL Crisis intervention, Inc., under the joint supervision of field supervisor (Adam May) and university instructor (Dr. Jeannie Golden). Students must apply and be accepted, and complete REAL Crisis training course. Written reflection papers are required. Students should be willing to commit to a minimum of two semesters for this field experience.

*Class will be held on Monday nights from 4:30 to 6:30.

PSYC 4990 (Section 005)—2 to 3 sh—Field Experience in Psychology: ABA Therapy for Children with Autism

Instructor: Dr. Jeannie Golden

Description: This service-learning course will provide undergraduate students with the opportunity to work one-on-one with children and youth with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in the community. Students will learn skills in applied behavior analysis (ABA), which is an evidence-based approach for teaching children with ASD. Students must apply for these positions. Extensive training and supervision will be provided on-site with the opportunity to implement behavioral support programs.

*Class will be held on Monday nights from 4:30 to 6:30.

PSYC 4990 (Section 006) -2 to 3 sh- Field Experience in Psychology: Mediation Center of Eastern Carolina

Instructor: Dr. Jeannie Golden

Description: Students will have an opportunity to serve as interns at the Mediation Center of Eastern Carolina with the Teen Court. Teen Court is a program that provides immediate consequences for juvenile offenders as a form of intervention and prevention. Serving as an alternative program to the juvenile court system, the offenders are ages 6-17 years old, have committed a misdemeanor offense, and have admitted guilt to the offense. Teen Court

offenders receive various sanctions. Mandatory sanctions include life skills & anger management classes, jury duty, and community service.

Pitt County Teen Court accepts interns to work within the program each year. Our interns work closely with our youth to enhance their program experience, while also giving the intern an opportunity to be engaged in the juvenile justice system. If you are interested in becoming an intern for the program, please contact the program coordinators at (252) 758-0268 (ext.103 or 106). Ask for Ms. LaTanya Fitzhugh or Mr. Christopher Carr.

*Class will be held on Monday nights from 4:30 to 6:30.