Psychology Field Placement
PSYC 365-010
Spring 2014

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Ryan M. Beveridge, Ph.D.
Location: Various sites in the community
Contact info: rbeveridge@psych.udel.edu (preferred contact method)
o) 302-831-7346 (not a very reliable way to contact me!)
Office Hours: 46 E. Delaware Ave. Rm. 202, T, 10-11am, Th, 11:30-12:30, both
days by appointment
Course Website: www.udel.edu/sakai (use your student login to access)

Objectives:
This course is an advanced undergraduate experience that gives you the opportunity to integrate theoretical, conceptual, and practical information and skills that you have gained in courses within a “real world” community setting. You will have the opportunity under the direct supervision of a faculty member from the Psychology Department, and a community agency supervisor, to work as an intern performing a wide variety of tasks within a community agency. As an advanced undergraduate student, this course is designed to help you develop an understanding of what types of professional activities you would like to pursue in the future, as well as to form important self-awareness that will allow you to better know your own interests, biases, strengths, and areas that you would like to improve yourself.

Depending upon your community placements, you will learn research and theory in psychopathology and individual differences, developmental psychology, and social and cultural psychology, as you interact within diverse community settings. Additionally, you may learn how genetics, environment, and social processes interact to affect mental health. You will be required to understand and think about the empirical base, or lack thereof, of the procedures and practices employed by your agency, and will be asked to comment on the adequacy of the approaches utilized. Furthermore, you will integrate your analysis of relevant research into a written proposal paper that communicates how empirical work may support a new, or modified, approach at your site. Finally, you will learn effective ways to communicate relevant research findings by discussing the ideas contained in the written proposal paper with your community supervisor.

Course Format and Requirements:

This course will be primarily completed at your field placement site. You will be required to choose an internship site from an approved list, prepare a resume and cover letter for the site, and arrange and prepare for an interview with the community agency supervisor. The internships are sometimes competitive, and you should treat the process as a regular job search. Therefore, you should have a “Plan B and C” in case your first site choice does not work out. **You must secure a position with an agency and be on site working by the week of Monday, March 3rd, 2014. Note that this date does not correspond to the University’s last date to withdraw from classes without receiving a “W” (February 24th)!** You must then complete an average of 9 hours per week for 11 weeks (99 total hours) at your placement to receive full credit for the hour
requirement toward your final grade calculation. This schedule allows you to complete 11 weeks of internship hours by the last day of classes on May 19th, 2014.

This is an experiential course! Therefore, the hours completed at your site account for the majority of your letter grade (70% of your total grade, 140 points). **If your supervisor approves your hours on a final evaluation form that I provide them, you will receive all of the points for this portion of your grade. However, if your supervisor does not confirm that you have completed the hour requirement satisfactorily, you will receive 0 points on this part of your grade and will fail the course!** It is very important to communicate with your supervisor to ensure that you are completing your hours in a satisfactory manner throughout the semester. Schedule and hours arrangements must be negotiated and arranged directly with the site supervisor.

Also, you must come to the mandatory orientation meeting in order to participate in the course. If you cannot attend the mandatory meeting, you may be able to schedule an alternative meeting time that works for you and the faculty member during the first week of the semester. During this meeting you will be introduced to the requirements and structure of the course and learn about important ethical guidelines for working in community settings within the field of psychology.

In addition to securing a placement, completing your hours at the agency, and attending the mandatory meeting, you must also complete the following requirements:

- **Three reflection papers (15% of total grade, 30 points) – 3 papers, around 2 pages each, (10 points each)**
  - 3 quality papers = 30 points toward final letter grade
  - 2 quality papers = 20 points toward final letter grade
  - 1 quality paper = 10 points toward final letter grade
  - 0 quality papers = 0 points toward final letter grade

The reflection papers should be submitted via the course website (www.udel.edu/sakai) under the “Assignments” tab. You may type the papers directly into the field Sakai provides, or you can write the papers in a word processing program (Word, etc.) and attach them.

Reflection Paper #1: Due at 10:00pm on Monday, 03/24/14
Reflection Paper #2: Due at 10:00pm on Monday, 04/21/14
Reflection Paper #3: Due at 10:00pm on Monday, 05/12/14

*If you do not submit your reflection paper by the due date you will not receive credit for the paper. Please do not ask to submit them late, unless you need feedback on a specific issue, in which case you should email me. I will give you feedback in these cases, but you will still receive a 0 for the paper.*

The purpose of the reflection papers is to provide a vehicle for you to record and report on your personal experiences within the context of the required internship hours. This process of introspection can allow you greater insight into personal and professional strengths and shortcomings. As the name implies, you will be expected to reflect upon your subjective experience. The goal is for you to present your personal reactions (both likes and dislikes/concerns) to the particular service experience. The submitted papers will also provide an opportunity for feedback, guidance, suggestions, and support from
the professor. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the papers serve as a method for you to reflect on how the science and research you have learned about in your courses relate to what you see happening in the field. Specifically, do you feel that the concepts you have learned about in your courses are appropriately reflected in the field work that you see and participate in? Does the field work change your ideas about the concepts you learned in your courses? Does the field work rely on sound science? Reflecting on these types of questions, which requires you to integrate the science of psychology with the practice of psychology, will be very helpful in preparing you to write your final proposal paper. The papers will be evaluated in terms of substance and quality of presentation.

Proposal Paper (15% of total grade, 30 points) – 5-7 page proposal paper

The proposal paper will be due on the last day of classes (Monday, 05/19/14) at 10:00 pm, and should be submitted via the course Sakai website (www.udel.edu/sakai) under the “Assignments” tab. You will also be required to provide a copy of the proposal to your agency supervisor, and discuss your ideas with them at the end of the term, in order to receive a satisfactory supervisor evaluation so plan on getting this paper done early!

The purpose of the proposal paper is to utilize critical thinking skills by integrating your proposal ideas with current research to provide the agency with a helpful idea of how an aspect of their agency may be improved/built-upon. The proposal paper should be written in APA style, include at least 5 research article citations to back up your proposed ideas, and should exhibit the quality of writing, thought, and research expected of an advanced level undergraduate. The proposal will be critically evaluated in terms of substance and quality of presentation. Your reflection papers will be an important mechanism for you to think about what aspects of your agency could be improved upon based on research concepts you have learned, and receive feedback regarding your ideas. In order for you to complete the paper successfully, you should allow yourself time to come up with an idea, research out alternative ideas to what your agency does, and write a research-based proposal paper. Waiting until the last minute to complete the paper will be very stressful and will likely result in a poor grade on this portion of the course.

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale (percentage rounded up at .5):

100-93=A 92-90=A- 89-88=B+
87-83=B 82-80=B- 79-78=C+
77-73=C 72-70=C- 69-68=D+
67-63=D 62-60=D- 59-below=E

Supervisor Evaluations: Similar to any job, you will be evaluated by your agency supervisor. Your agency supervisor will complete an evaluation of you at the end of the semester. The evaluation should be reviewed with you by your agency supervisor and is aimed at helping you learn about your strengths, and areas in which you may improve. In addition, the evaluation will allow for the agency supervisor to provide feedback to the professor regarding your performance, including if you completed the resume and interview process, if you completed your required hours, if you developed the necessary skills to work at the agency, and if you maintained a professional manner at the site. If there are significant concerns expressed by your agency supervisor, you will be required
to meet with the professor to solve the issues raised. If you are unable to resolve the issues, this may affect your grade negatively.

**Academic Dishonesty:** You are expected to be familiar with the University’s policy on Academic Honesty. Please refer to the Student Guide to University Policies for a description of what constitutes academic dishonesty and the consequences of engaging in this behavior.

**Special Needs:** Any student with disabilities or other special needs that may require accommodations for this course should make this known to the instructor during the first week of the class. Students seeking academic accommodations should also register with the University’s ADA office, which coordinates accommodations and offers support for students with disabilities, can be contacted at 302.831.8670.