

**Senior Seminar in Psychology**  
**Psy 4800-80**

Winter Dec 22 2014 –Jan 11 2015

Credits: 3

Faculty: **Dr. Katherine Makarec**

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Virtual Office Hours: M-R 10-11 am

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**Required Text:**

Hock, Roger, (2013). *Forty Studies That Changed Psychology* 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. Prentice Hall.

***Important:** Many students believe that an online course is less demanding than a face-to-face course. This is definitely not the case! Students are often surprised by the effort it takes to do well in an online class. Online classes require intrinsic motivation, self-discipline and dedication. You must do a lot of reading on your own and keep up with the assignments since no one will be reviewing the material with you in person. Online classes also require active participation unlike some face-to-face classes where you can sit in the back row and get by without getting involved. Also remember this is a very short time frame that we are working in making it that much more important to stay on top of the readings, postings and assignments.*

*Online courses are demanding. I anticipate, however, that if you put in the time and effort you will find it a rewarding experience. On a positive note: online classes are much more flexible and I think a lot more fun because they are so interactive!*

**Contacting me:**

Please feel free to email with your questions. When contacting me always include in the subject line **psy 4800-80**– I will then give the message priority in responding to you.

Please do not post messages to me in Blackboard as I do not regularly check the message section.

I will be online during my virtual office hours – it is only during this time that you can expect a quick response from me. I am usually online every day except for weekends, – even without my online courses I get over 100 emails daily so please be patient! Do not

send me emails at midnight and become anxious when you don't hear from me by 6 am!  
I hold "normal" working hours – and I will get to each email in turn.

### **Student learning outcomes:**

Students will be able to:

At the completion of this course students will be able to:

- a) Show familiarity with the most famous books that articulate the diversity of theoretical approaches to the study of human mental processes and behavior
- b) Show familiarity with the most well known empirical research findings.
- c) Articulate an understanding of the ethical considerations of major psychological studies.
- d) Clearly express their knowledge in written form.
- e) Be able to propose an original theoretical model, often a variant or an application of existing theoretical models
- f) Clearly articulate career goals, both short, mid, and long term
- g) Be able to articulate an integrative framework for Psychology

### **Course Expectations:**

- a. This is an *intense reading* course. You are expected to stay on top of your reading!
- b. You are expected to explore the external links given.
- c. You are expected to master the material; if anything is unclear please contact me!
- d. Assignment dates are given in the course outline. ***There are no exceptions.***
- e. Paper due date is written in stone! No late papers will be accepted unless there are truly exceptional extenuating circumstances which can be documented.

### **Supporting Services:**

1) *Me*: I will be happy to clarify the material for you. I can also arrange telephone office hours.

### **Topical outline of the course content:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
12 22	Explore the website, work out any issues, carefully read the syllabus Posting for Chapter 1: Biology and Human Behavior
12 23	Posting for Chapter 2: Perception and Consciousness
12 24	Posting for Chapter 3: Learning and Conditioning <b>Proposal due: 1 page outline including references in APA format</b>
12 29	Posting for Chapter 4: Intelligence, Cognition, and Memory
12 30	Happy New Year!
12 31	Posting for Chapter 5: Human Development
01 2	Posting for Chapter 6: Emotion and Motivation
01 5	Posting for Chapter 7: Personality

- 01 6            *Posting: Careers in Psychology*  
01 7            Posting for Chapter 8: Psychopathology  
01 8            Posting for Chapter 9: Psychotherapy  
01 9            Posting for Chapter 10: Social Psychology  
01 9            **Posting: Final thoughts**  
                  **Final Paper due; must be in APA format**

**About your postings:** You will be posting twice per day: the first post is due by noon on the due date. This posting is a thoughtful reaction to something that you have read. I am looking at the quality of your response and expect a reasonable amount of detail. So, for example you may want to talk about the article “More Experiences=Bigger Brains”. First you should summarize the portion of the article you wish to discuss then you should provide your reaction to it. Your second posting can be submitted any time until midnight. Your second posting is a reaction to what your fellow classmates have written. In your second posting I am again looking for a substantial response. Saying you agree or disagree with someone is insufficient. Anything you post should also be substantiated by the readings (including page numbers and direct quotes if needed).

**Note:** You can submit all your “first” postings on the first day of class! I suspect many of you will have finished reading your text before the class begins. You can pre-prepare your first response and simply upload it into the appropriate discussion board when the course opens. If you follow this advice, you will then be able to really focus on the second, interactive posting while the course is actively running. It is also a way to spread out the work load so that instead of scrambling to meet deadlines you can reflect more on your learning. I strongly recommend this option.

**About your paper:** You have a five page paper due on the topic of your choice related to any aspect of Psychology. I recommend that you choose a topic that you feel passionate about whether it is the “Biological basis of behavior” or “Cognitive Behavior Therapy to Treat Depression” or “Career Options for Undergraduate Psychology Majors”, the choice is yours. Note that you cannot recycle a paper written for another course – I will check! Your paper is specific to this course. The final paper must be in APA format. You will find a link in blackboard in web links to a site that details APA format requirements. You will also have a link to the library and numerous web links that can be used as references for your paper. There are two due dates to keep in mind: one for your proposal and one for the final paper. The proposal is a one page outline that is due by Dec 24th. The purpose of the proposal is twofold: a) to ensure you begin working on your paper sooner rather than later and b) to ensure you are working on something that will meet the course requirements.

**About the exams:** Just kidding – there are no exams or tests!

**Teaching Methods:**

This course is a purely on-line course. In order to do well in this course you will need to be very responsible and self-motivated. If you do not keep up with the readings and postings you will quickly fall far behind. On-line classes require you to be more self-disciplined than traditional lecture classes.

The course syllabus can be found on blackboard: <http://bb.wpunj.edu> and all course material can be found here. Please explore our website.

### **Grading and other methods for assessing student academic performance:**

#### **How your grade is determined:**

- |             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| 1. Postings | 60% |
| 2. Proposal | 10% |
| 3. Paper    | 30% |

#### **Class Policies**

Respect: Even in an online environment, mutual respect is necessary for productive learning. This involves making the environment as user-friendly as possible. Please do not post disparaging or panicked messages in the discussion board as this takes away from our collective learning experience.

#### **Personal responsibility**

You are expected to take personal responsibility for your learning in this class. This is done by: reading all required material, completing assignments, and being a team player. If you do not understand something, you need to take the initiative and contact me. I am always happy to talk to students and am often able suggest additional resources to support your learning efforts if needed. You can find me during virtual office hours as posted, via email or you may set up another time to talk with me over the phone. You do not need to have a major problem or question to contact me.

**Academic Integrity:** All students are expected to abide by the University's policy on Academic Honesty which is outlined on the WPUNJ website:

[http://ww2.wpunj.edu/catalog/undergrad\\_2003\\_05/2GeneralInfoNew.pdf](http://ww2.wpunj.edu/catalog/undergrad_2003_05/2GeneralInfoNew.pdf)

Cheating, plagiarism, collusion and lying are serious violations and students should understand fully what constitutes each. Students' work is routinely checked to ensure that this policy is enforced. If you are unsure about any definitions or have questions, please ask before you take a chance!

Having said all the above, I would like to welcome you to the course. The sheer diversity of psychology has always fascinated me! I hope that you are now at the point in your understanding that you can share my enthusiasm of the breadth of Psychology. Once you have read and understood the course requirements please send me an email using your

WPUNJ email account with the header: my favorite area in psychology is xxx (fill in the xxxs to be relevant to you – I really do want to know!). Please do not put anything else in this email.