

## Senior Seminar in Psychology: Winter Session 2020

Psychology: #480-80  
Winter Session, 2020  
Dr. Bruce J. Diamond  
Office: 2062B Science Hall-East  
Office Hours: by appointment  
Phone: 973-720 x3400  
Email: diamondb@wpunj.edu  
Room: Cyberspace

Course Structure: This course will include:

Discussion on psychologically and ethically-related issues  
Writing: CV and topical paper  
Career-related topics and discussions

1. TITLE OF COURSE AND COURSE NUMBER: Senior Seminar, PSY 480-81, Credits: 3.
2. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: This course serves as a vehicle for integrating current and previous learning about psychology into a coherent form. It is an opportunity for you to discuss important issues of psychological relevance and to express yourself in writing and on the Discussion Board. Issues relating to career development will be covered in a writing assignment and in the Discussion Forum. Your participation in the Discussion is an **ESSENTIAL** part of this course as is communicating with your fellow students.
3. COURSE PREREQUISITES: All core requirements of the major. This should be the last psychology course taken by seniors about to graduate.
4. COURSE OBJECTIVES: There are four objectives in the senior seminar. The first objective is to expose you to the diversity of thought and methods used within psychology. The second objective is to further your development of writing and communications skills -- in keeping with the achievement level implied by a degree in higher education. A third objective is to continue to develop an appreciation for the content of psychology, a sensitivity to the ethical issues that are integral to the field of psychology and to society, in general. The fourth objective is preparation for the next "chapter" of your life.
5. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: The student learning outcomes that correspond to these objectives are differentially emphasized by various faculty, but all of them fulfill the spirit of a senior seminar.

*You should:*

- a) be engaged in the process of transitioning to the next phase of your life.....career, strategies, goals.
- b) be knowledgeable and be able to communicate some of the most well-known empirical readings and issues in psychology and evaluate their impact on society.
- c) be knowledgeable of and be able to discuss ethical issues in psychology.

*Written and communication skills are similarly reinforced by some combination of the following:*

- e) be able to review a study, topic, or theoretical or applied issue in one or more brief papers;
- f) be able to discuss your own perspective on issues and topics.
- g) be able to discuss career-related issues and challenges.

## 6. TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE:

This course will consist of discussion, critical thinking, concise writing and hands-on career-related information & discussion:

You will produce two papers in this course: A CV that you can use for career-related and graduate education-related needs AND a paper based on content area of interest selected from a list of topics (See Focused Topics below)(Maximum: two-pages each, APA format)

1. **Week 1: Discussion Forum: Current Topics and Controversies**  
*Bullying in the schools: How do we solve this problem.*  
**PAPER 1:** (Maximum: two-pages, APA format). Select from list of Focused Topics (see below).
  
2. **Week 2: Controversial Topics.....Your opinion matters**  
**Discussion Forum:** *Should the homeless be involuntarily removed from the streets and put into shelters during very cold winter nights.* Develop your most convincing arguments FOR and AGAINST.....  
**Begin working on your CV (see posted materials on BB for examples and template for a CV)**
  
3. **Week 3: CV Due** (Maximum: two-pages, APA format)  
**Discussion Forum:** *Careers, Jobs and Graduate Education Forum: A Discussion of Your Career Goals, Issues, Concerns AND Strategies* that you can share with your fellow students

### **Focused Topic areas:**

Career Development: Strategies  
Graduate Education: Why does it matter  
Drug Use and Abuse: Insights and Thoughts

Meditation and Yoga: Can it help  
Forensic Psychology: Are you interested in it...if so...Why?  
Stress, anxiety, illness and the immune system: How can stress and anxiety makes us sick  
Prosopagnosia: What is it?  
Brain Imaging: What does it tell us and does it matter  
Cross-cultural issues in psychology  
Neurological Disorders: Multiple Sclerosis, Traumatic Brain Injury, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, stroke  
Depression and anxiety...their impact on everyday life  
Autism: Symptoms and treatments  
Gender and cognition...are there differences  
Phineas Gage and the frontal lobes....what did we learn from Phineas  
Behavioral Genetics...what is it?  
Education, Learning and Psychology  
Learning disabilities and developmental disorders: Do you have any personal experience with learning disabilities  
Explicit and Implicit Bias: What is it and why does it matter

7. TEACHING METHODS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: This class is capped as a small class by design. Consequently, it presents an excellent opportunity for you to think clearly, write succinctly, and present your emerging ideas coherently. A mixture of discussion and critical thinking will be used.

#### 8. STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be based on the following:

**A Discussion Board** will be set up so that it can used for discussing concepts, issues and questions.

#### **Overview of Assessment and Grading**

20 pts Brief Paper on Focused Topic

20 pts CV

60 pts Topics, Controversies and Career Development: Participation and Contributions

Grading:

A>=93%

B>=83%

C>=73%

D=60%

F<60%

**Attendance: University regulations will be strictly upheld.**

**Prerequisites and Background:** Students attempting this course should have successfully completed PSY 1100 (General Psychology) or the equivalent. In addition, students should be familiar with Blackboard (BB) support documentation: <http://www.wpunj.edu/dotAsset/198460.pdf>; and the BB

help for students: <http://help-archives.blackboard.com/Blackboard-Learn/9.1/SP09/EN-US/NAHE/Student/index.htm> to facilitate your use of the online learning management system, BB.

To successfully complete this course you will need regular access to BB (<https://bb.wpunj.edu/>). All of the chapter quizzes listed in the course calendar are offered on BB, and can only be completed online. It is your responsibility to gain access to BB and become proficient in using it. Technical problems must be directed to the HELP desk: <https://help.wpunj.edu/>. As discussed in more detail below, for issues relating to course policy and academic questions please contact me.

**IF PERSONAL ISSUES SHOULD ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF THE SEMESER, PLEASE VISIT THE COUNSELING, HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER.....THEY CAN HELP AND IT IS A RESOURCE THAT EXISTS TO HELP YOU.....PLUS YOUR FEES HELP SUPPORT IT.....IT'S CONFIDENTIAL AND CONVENIENT.....IT'S THERE FOR YOU!**

<https://www.wpunj.edu/health-wellness/>

## **Location**

Located at Overlook South, 1st Floor. (Between Matelson and White Hall)

## **Hours**

### **Fall and Spring Semesters:**

Monday: 8:30am to 6:00pm

Tuesday-Friday: 8:30am to 4:30pm

### **Summer:**

Monday: 8:00am to 6:00pm

Tuesday-Thursday: 8:00am to 5:15pm

There is a counselor on-call after office hours for psychological emergencies only. If you are experiencing a psychological emergency, and the office is closed, please call 973-720-2257 and ask to speak to the counselor on call