

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

Winter Dec. 26, 2019 –Jan. 14, 2019

Credits: 3

Faculty: **Dr. Katherine Makarec**

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Virtual Office Hours by appointment

Department and Secretary's Telephone Number: 720 2148

**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 can be 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 am usually online every day except for weekends, –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 like to sleep at night and do not keep my phone under my pillow! (You should not either!

☺) 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 well known empirical research findings.
- b) Articulate an understanding of the ethical considerations of major psychological studies.
- c) Clearly express their knowledge in written form.
- d) Begin to be able to propose an original theoretical model, often a variant or an application of existing theoretical models
- e) Clearly articulate career goals, both short, mid, and long term
- f) Be able to begin to think about articulating 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.*** Late work will be penalized by a full letter grade.

### **Supporting Services:**

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

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

| <u>Due Date</u> | <u>Topic</u>  |
|-----------------|---|
| 12 26           | Explore the website, work out any issues, carefully read the syllabus<br>Last day for a 100% refund for course withdrawal.  |
| 12 27           | Last day for a 50% refund for course withdrawal.  |
| 12 29           | Posting for Chapter 1: Biology and Human Behavior<br>Posting for Chapter 2: Perception and Consciousness<br>Review the Linked in video<br>Create a LinkedIn account and link with me under Kate Makarec |
| 01 02           | Posting for Chapter 3: Learning and Conditioning<br>Posting for Chapter 4: Intelligence, Cognition, and Memory<br>Posting for Chapter 5: Human Development  |

- 01 03            Last day to withdraw from the course (0% refund).
- 01 05            Posting for Chapter 6: Emotion and Motivation  
 Posting for Chapter 7: Personality  
 Posting for Chapter 8: Psychopathology
- 01 08            Posting for Chapter 9: Psychotherapy  
 Posting for Chapter 10: Social Psychology
- 01 10            First synthesis discussion topic postings due: Nature / Nurture  
 01 12            Second synthesis discussion topic postings due: The importance of  
 control/ autonomy of one's environment
- 01 14            Career goal paper due (email to me MakarecK@wpunj.edu)  
 Final thoughts discussion topic (discussion board)  
 Last day of class

Note: Yes, I know some dates fall on the weekend! You can always post ahead if you really want your weekend clear. My goal in setting this schedule was to maximize the time between due dates so the work would not become overwhelming.

**Chapter Postings:**

There are ten chapters in the text; in each chapter there are four readings. For each reading first summarize the reading paying particular attention to the method and results section then post about something you learned / surprised you / made you think / or was just interesting to you. Explain your choice, for example, why were you surprised to learn what you now know or what was it about that reading that gave you pause and made you think? For each chapter you need to provide a response for each reading. So, on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, chapters 1 and 2 are due therefore you will need to submit eight content posts. Please submit these in the discussion board under the appropriate chapter. Please do not upload a document but rather cut and paste the material into the board.

**Discussion Postings:**

There are several overarching themes that recur throughout the text, I have selected two of these for your consideration. One is the nature / nurture debate which runs throughout the text but is most notable in the earlier readings, especially reading 3. You will need to post your thinking on this, drawing from various readings in the textbook to support your thoughts. (Give specific references to page number and author; for example, reading 3 begins on page 19 and the lead author is Bouchard.) The other recurrent theme in the textbook that you are to think about and discuss is the importance of one's perception of control over one's environment (that is autonomy). Reading 20, 31, and 32 are a few examples that have this as an important consideration; there are other readings that would also be good to use for this.

You will have two postings for each of the above topics: the first is your thoughtful analysis of each topic while the second is a consideration of someone else's thoughts on the topic. In order to stretch your own thinking on each of these, pick someone who you do not fundamentally agree with and consider their viewpoint and how it differs from yours and why it differs. Saying you disagree without supporting evidence drawn from the textbook is insufficient. You need to always have data to support your position; in your response you will still need to draw on specific material from the textbook. Be kind to each other in this post, ensure you treat all respectfully.

### **Career Goal Paper:**

A brief, three to five page paper discussing your career goal and how you plan to attain these goals. I am looking for a specific plan that is the steps you need to take to achieve your goal.

### **LinkedIn:**

This has become an important career networking and job site. Many employers will be looking for you there so put your best foot forward! To find out more about LinkedIn please watch the following video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWp6AN00D\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWp6AN00D_c)

### **Resume and Trailblazer:**

TrailBlazer is a job listing site which you have access to now and for a period after you graduate. Take advantage to this! Also to help launch you successfully into the next stage of your lives, take advantage of the Career Development Center's expertise! The Center can help with resumes, cover letters, interview skills, networking, and so much more but we only have so much time in this class so all I can do is make you aware of this service. I strongly recommend that you reach out to them to avail yourself of their services. It is in your best interests to post your resume in Trailblazer. If you wish to do so you will need to have your resume vetted by the Career Counseling Center on campus. I strongly urge you all to do so. Please call and make an appointment with them. And to make it easy for you to call, here is their number: 973 720-3291.

**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 take the time to explore our website.

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

**How your grade is determined:**

- |                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| 1. Chapter postings (40)   | 50 |
| 2. Discussion postings (2) | 20 |
| 3. LinkedIn                | 10 |
| 4. Career goal paper       | 20 |

**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\\_05/2GenerralInfoNew.pdf](http://ww2.wpunj.edu/catalog/undergrad_2003_05/2GenerralInfoNew.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 for the breadth of Psychology.