



PSYCHOLOGY 400—History and Contemporary Issues in Psychology

Psychology Department

Fall 2018

Section 1, 2 Units

Location: Evans, room 121
Day/Time: Wednesdays, 07:45am-09:35am
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Office hours: email to set up an appointment

I. PLNU Mission Statement

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan Heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is perused, and holiness is a way of life.

II. Course Description and Purpose

Students who graduate with an undergraduate degree in psychology typically find themselves at a crossroads in their junior or senior year. They can either immediately enter the workforce, or they can continue their education in graduate school. Psychology majors who choose not to go to graduate school often do quite well in the working world. Many go on to have successful careers in sales, marketing, management, customer service, human resources, ministry, or other human service field. However, graduate school is a strong draw for many students because it is associated with incentives in later stages of one's career (e.g., greater financial stability, quality of life, opportunities for advancement, etc.). Students who go on to graduate school receive specialized training in any of a variety of areas, including counseling, social work, academic or applied research, statistical methods, neuroscience, and many more. They go on to use this training in many diverse and specialized vocations.

Unfortunately, psychology students can easily become overwhelmed by the wide variety of career paths open to them. To combat this problem, the psychology department at PLNU offers PSY400, History and Contemporary Issues in Psychology. This course is required of all psychology majors, and it has been designed with a twofold purpose. The first is to survey the history of psychology with the goal of helping students see where the discipline has been so that they can anticipate and capitalize on future trends. The second is to help students wade through the wide variety of career choices they will find themselves facing as they prepare to graduate. An essential component of this second goal is to prepare students for the graduate school application process and/or entry into the job market.

From the catalog: "A study of important ideas and debates in the history of psychology as they reappear in contemporary theory and research (e.g., the mind-body problem; nature-nurture). This course also provides a comprehensive review of important theories and findings in psychology in preparation for the GRE Subject Exam. An overview of the graduate school

application process is offered. Prerequisite(s): Senior standing or spring semester of the junior year, if applying to graduate school in the fall of the senior year.”

III. Course Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to...

- Create a professional level CV and/or resume, customizable templates for cover letters and networking emails, and film a video resume
- Articulate the relationship between vocation and spirituality
- Articulate the major movements in the history of psychology
- Identify elements needed to apply to graduate school and/or a professional job

IV. Course Design

A combination of class lectures, demonstrations, discussions, and “hands on” practice of creating a video resume and CV will be utilized. The purpose of the lectures will be to highlight selected topics from the course and to supplement the material with related issues.

V. Required Text

GRE Subject Test: Psychology (Kaplan Test Prep) 6th edition

VI. Class Participation, Attendance Policy, and Late Assignments

This course will use the attendance policy that is listed in the university catalog: “Regular and punctual attendance at all classes in which a student is registered is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. Therefore, regular attendance and participation in each course are minimal requirements to be met. There are no allowed or excused absences except when absences are necessitated by certain university-sponsored activities and are approved in writing by the Provost.” For the complete policy, please refer to the “[Academic Policies](#)” in the undergrad student catalog.

In the vocational world, late work makes you look bad and could result in a lost job or lost wages. In this course, late work makes you look bad and could result in lost points or unwanted grades. If you miss class because of university-sponsored activities that have been approved in writing by the Provost, you may make up in-class work with no penalty, but you are responsible for making all arrangements for make up **in advance**. If you miss class without a university-sponsored excuse obtained in advance, you may still turn in late assignments for reduced points (a loss of 25 % per assignment). If you are late to class on the day of a reading quiz, or if you are late to class, you will not be allowed to make up the quiz. However, you can choose to take the quiz for enhancement (and reinforcement) of your learning process (but no points will be granted to your grade in the class).

VII. Academic Honesty

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As explained in the university catalog, academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one’s own when in reality they are the results of another person’s creativity and effort. Violations of university academic honesty include cheating, plagiarism, falsification, aiding the academic dishonesty of others, or malicious misuse of university resources. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic

dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for a) that particular assignment or examination, and/or b) the course following the procedure in the university catalog. Students may appeal also using the procedure in the university catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for further information.

VIII. Academic Accommodations

If you need (or think you might need) academic accommodations, please do not hesitate to seek them out. At PLNU, students who request academic accommodations must file documentation with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once you file documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact Dr. Filizetti and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student. For more information, please see the [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

IX. Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. **The final examination is scheduled for WEDNESDAY, December 12th from 730am-10am.** No requests for early examinations or alternate days will be approved with permission from the Academic Dean.

X. Policy on Electronic Devices

A student's classroom contribution is vital to the academic environment at Point Loma. Classroom contribution is more than just asking thoughtful questions; it also involves respectful attention to what others are saying. This is not only good because what is being said might be on a test, but it is also just a common courtesy. Although it does not need to be said to most college students, texting or listening to one's iPod detracts from the classroom environment. I doubt that this will be a problem, but first-time violation of the policy will result in a 1% reduction in a student's overall PSY 400 grade, and each subsequent violation will result in a 3% reduction in a student's overall PSY 400 grade. You may use your Laptop in this class to take notes; however, you are not allowed to be on the Internet unless instructed by the professor.

XI. PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

XII. Evaluation and Assignments

- a. **Vocational Paper:** 3 to 4 Page (double spaced) paper. The purpose of the paper is to reflect on your vocational plans after you graduate from PLNU. Discuss the following in your paper:
 - What are your career goals? Where do you see yourself in 5 years? In 10 years?
 - Do you plan on attending Graduate School? If so, what type of program are you considering? And why?
 - With the career you are choosing, what is the process to obtain a job in that field? What is the typical salary based on your expected education level?
 - With the career you are choosing, how will your faith "come into play?" Will there be chances for continued spiritual development in your career?

- b. **Reading Quizzes:** On the days that you are responsible for reading the GRE study book prior to class, there will be a brief 5-point quiz at the beginning of class. If you are late and miss the quiz, you cannot retake the quiz (so be on time!).
- c. **ACAT:** During class time, we will be taking the ACAT exam (a psychology major exam). Your score will not be counted towards your total grade in this class. But, you will receive extra points on your final exam grade based on your percentile score!
- d. **Resume and VITA:** Create both a resume and academic VITA. Upload your final copy on CANVAS prior to class on the day that it is due.
- e. **Cover Letter:** Find a job online that you are currently interested in. You can search on any of the online job boards (e.g. craigslist.org, indeed.com, monster.com, etc.). Make a copy of the job posting (you will turn this in with your cover letter). Write a cover letter for the job as if you were applying for the position. Upload both your cover letter and a copy of the job posting to CANVAS.
- f. **Linkedin.com assignment:** Creating a professional social media page is essential in today's job market. In class, we will be turning your resume into a linkedin.com profile. On the day of the linkedin assignment, come dressed professionally and we will be taking photos for your profile.
- g. **Video Interviews:** Create a video talking about yourself and your job interests. Make sure to dress professional. The video will be uploaded to Livetext. Dr. Filizetti will provide more information about the expectations for your video.

XIII. Grading: Your final course grade will be composed of the following:

POINTS FOR PSY350	
Reading Quizzes (5 points each quiz)	40 pts
Vocational Paper	30 pts
Video Interview	30 pts
CV	15 pts
Resume	15 pts
Cover Letter	15 pts
Linkedin profile	5pts
Final Exam	50pts
TOTAL POINTS	200 pts
**ACAT- bonus points on Final exam	

Grading Scale				
	A	93 to 100%	A-	90 to 92.99%
B+		88 to 89.99%	B	84 to 87.99%
	B-			80 to 83.99%
C+		78 to 79.99%	C	74 to 77.99%
	C-			70 to 73.99%
D+		66 to 69.99%	D	60 to 65.99%
	D-			50 to 59.99%
	F	0 to 49.99%		

CLASS SCHEDULE & READINGS

Class	Date	Reading (completed prior to class)	Class Focus & Assignments Due
1	8/29		Syllabus & Graduate school and various psychology degrees
2	9/5		Guest Speakers: Current Graduate Students & discussion of Graduate school continued
3	9/12	Chapter 3: Social Psychology	Other Psychology Careers
4	9/19	Chapter 4: Dev. Psychology	Other Psychology Careers con't
5	9/26		Assignment Due on LiveText: Vocational Paper Resume/Vitae Guest Speaker from OSV: Resume/Vitae
6	10/3	Chapter 5: Personality & Abnormal Psychology (2 Quizzes)	Bring rough drafts of your resume & Vitae to class for peer review
7	10/10	Chapter 5: Abnormal Psychology	Assignment Due on CANVAS: Resume & VITAE Guest Speaker: PLNU graduate program admissions counselor
8	10/17	Chapter 6: Physiological Psych	Cover Letter Workshop (bring Laptop to class)
9	10/24	Chapter 7: Sensation & Perception Chapter 8: Learning & Ethology (2 Quizzes)	Bring cover letter drafts to class for peer review
10	10/31	Chapter 9: Cognitive Psychology	Assignment Due on CANVAS: Cover Letter Guest Speaker: Fuller Seminary Admissions
11	11/7	Chapter 10: Research Design, etc.	Guest Speakers: Professionals in the Field Interview Workshop
12	11/14		Take the ACAT Exam (Must attend class!!) Interview Workshop con't
13	11/21	NO CLASS	THANKSGIVING BREAK
14	11/28		Bring video interview to class for peer review Linkedin.com Picture Day Contemporary Issues in Psychology
15	12/5		Assignment Due on LiveText: Video Interview Contemporary Issues in Psychology
16	12/12	FINAL EXAM	Assignment Due: Linkedin.com Profile

- The Instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule/syllabus as needed to maximize student learning needs.
- Note: The Final Exam is on **WEDNESDAY** of Finals week.