

ACADEMIC INTERNSHIP IN PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 463 – 001 (3 credits)

Fall 2016

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Office Hours: Drop-in hours: M 8:25-8:55 & 10:00-11:30; T 8:25-9:25 & R 8:25-9:25
Appointments: I am available for appointments M-F. Please see me after class or get in touch via phone or e-mail to schedule a meeting.

Course Description and Goals

The course is designed to provide an opportunity for students to integrate their psychology course work into a culminating practical experience in a human service, educational or business setting. Students will complete a minimum of 150 hours of supervised, professional work activities related to the discipline of psychology. In addition, they will participate in weekly dialogical seminar meetings that will include reflective supervision and opportunities to connect the internship experience with the psychology curriculum. The course meets multiple Department of Psychology goals for student learning (see <http://www2.winthrop.edu/psychology/> for additional information). Completion of the course fulfills the Department of Psychology capstone requirement.

Learning Objectives

- Gain enhanced understanding of psychological principles and their practical application.
- Apply psychological knowledge and methods to specific personal, organizational, or social needs and problems.
- Improve communication skills including the ability to present ideas about the self and others in a clear and cogent manner.
- Develop professional behaviors and skills relevant to postgraduate employment.
- Gain realistic knowledge of career opportunities and improved clarity regarding career interests and goals.
- Gain enhanced awareness and understanding of professional and personal attributes.
- Develop effective ways to respond to constructive feedback.
- Develop understanding of ways to capitalize on strengths as an emerging professional.
- Learn and practice the ethical principles of the discipline of psychology.

Reflection Assignments

Throughout the semester, students will be asked to submit reflection papers (1-2 pages, typed and double-spaced) that highlight particular internship activities, observations and reflections. Specific reflection topics will be assigned in advance of due dates. Psychological theories/principles should be incorporated into each paper. Students should be prepared to discuss reflections with classmates during seminar meetings. Reflection papers will be worth 7 points each and 5 papers must be submitted during the course of the semester. The total point value for this assignment is 35 points.

Intern's Measurable Learning Objectives

Students should prepare a written description of learning objectives that describe what they intend to accomplish during their internship field experience. Specific activity objectives as well as broader growth objectives should be included. Students must arrange a meeting during the first three weeks of the term with the site supervisor and the instructor to discuss the objectives, respond to questions and suggestions and obtain final approval. The point value for the learning objectives assignment will be 25 points.

Class Presentation

Each student will be asked to lead one 50-minute class session. This will involve delivering a presentation to the class describing how the student's internship experience relates to psychological principles and theories. Each student will be expected to develop a supporting handout that gives an overview of the presentation and to include an activity or exercise to involve fellow students in the class session. The presentation will be worth 60 points.

Bulletin Board Project

Each student will be required to develop and submit a handout that provides an overview of their internship experience. The handouts will be displayed on a bulletin board designed for the internship class. Important elements will include a description of the organization, its mission and the clients/customers served. A section highlighting the intern's professional roles and activities will be a central component. The handout should also include information pertaining to learning outcomes, personal and professional benefits derived from the internship and any impact the internship experiences may have on future plans. The bulletin board project will be worth 40 points.

Summary Sheet and Final Paper

Students will be required to complete an internship summary sheet that provides details about their internship experience and that will be kept on file for reference by future, prospective internship students (worth 10 points). Students will also be required to submit a final reflection paper (3-4 pages typed and double spaced) that explores what they learned both personally and professionally during their internship experience (worth 30 points).

Site Supervisor Evaluations

Near the middle and again at the end of the semester, the on-site supervisor will be asked to provide feedback about student performance. These evaluations of the intern's field work will collectively determine one third of the course grade. Students must obtain satisfactory on-site evaluations to receive a passing grade in the course.

Class Attendance and Participation

A vital aspect of this class will be active and appropriate involvement in seminar discussions. An important assumption of a seminar class is that each person has something to contribute. Thus, the students and instructor take collective responsibility for the success of the experience and come together as a "learning community". Students will receive a participation grade (worth 50 points) based on the quantity and quality of contributions to class discussions. Students will be expected to practice good listening skills and to offer respect and support to other seminar members. Appropriate submission of required paperwork (e.g., time sheets; learning objectives) and professional behaviors such as punctuality will also count toward the participation grade.

Expectations for Student Behavior

Students taking PSYC 463 represent not only themselves but Winthrop University and the Department of Psychology. It is important that students *take their responsibilities seriously*. They should:

- a) dress and act in a professional manner at all times;
- b) be very conscientious about attendance, punctuality and completion of hours;
- c) follow ethical and legal guidelines (including those pertaining to confidentiality of client/patient information);
- d) be responsive to supervisor feedback and suggestions;
- e) communicate clearly and quickly with the instructor about any issues or concerns that arise related to their field experience;
- f) complete all field work and course requirements in a conscientious and timely manner;
- g) engage in active and appropriate participation during seminar meetings.

*Failure to meet these expectations may result in a failing grade in the class.

Time Sheets

Students will be required to complete a time log each week that documents internship participation and includes the initials of the site supervisor. All time logs should be submitted to Dr. Nelson by the last seminar meeting.

Students with Disabilities

Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Accessibility Services (OA) at 803-323-3290, or at accessibility@winthrop.edu. Once you have your official notice of accommodations, please inform me as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Integrity

Winthrop University students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will contribute to the maintenance of academic integrity. As noted in the Student Conduct Code: “Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals.” The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the “Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy” in the online *Student Handbook* at <http://www2.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf>.

Class Listserv

The class listserv is PSYC463001@class.winthrop.edu. I will use the listserv to send announcements about the class. Students may also use the listserv to post public questions and answers related to the course. Private messages should be sent to my e-mail address directly.

Evaluation of Student Learning/ Course Grading

Assignment	Possible Points
Reflection papers	(5 X 7 pts.) = 35 pt.s
Learning objectives assignment	25 pt.s
Class presentation	60 pts.
Bulletin board project	40 pt.s
Summary sheet & Final paper	(10 + 30) = 40 pt.s
Participation	50 pt.s
Mid-semester site evaluation	50 pt.s
Final site evaluation	100 pt.s
TOTAL	400 pt.s

Grades are based on the percent of total points earned

A = 374 and above	A = 93.5 – 100%
A- = 358 – 373	A- = 89.5 - 93.4%
B+= 346 – 357	B+= 86.5 - 89.4%
B = 334 – 345	B = 83.5 - 86.4%
B- = 318 – 333	B- = 79.5 - 83.4%
C+= 306 – 317	C+= 76.5 - 79.4%
C = 294 – 305	C = 73.5 - 76.4%
C- = 278 – 293	C- = 69.5 - 73.4%
D+= 266 – 277	D+= 66.5 - 69.4%
D = 254 – 265	D = 63.5 - 66.4%
D- = 238 – 253	D- = 59.5 - 63.4%
F = 237 and below	F = 59.4% and below

Class Readings

From time to time, the instructor will assign articles or chapters that provide supplemental information to support a class topic or assignment. The readings will be available online.

Class Schedule/Important Dates

1	8/29	Course introductions	
2	9/5	Labor Day – no seminar meeting	
3	9/12	Getting to know your internship site; Professionalism on the job	Reflection 1 due
4	9/19	Ethical principles of psychology	
5	9/26	Ethical principles of psychology	Reflection 2 due
6	10/3	Student presentations	**submit interim supervisor evaluation by 5 pm.
7	10/10	Student presentations	
8	10/17	Fall Break – no seminar meeting	
9	10/24	Taking stock of progress Student presentations	Reflection 3 due
10	10/31	Student presentations	
11	11/7	Student presentations	
12	11/14	Confronting challenges Student presentations	Reflection 4 due
13	11/21	Student presentations	
14	11/28	Reflections on internship endings Student presentations	Reflection 5 due
15	12/5	Group activity	**Bulletin board projects due
	12/9 at 8:00 a.m.		**Final internship summary sheet and final papers due. **Final site evaluation and time sheets due

Syllabus change policy

If any changes to the syllabus need to be made, students will be notified in a timely manner.