

# **PSY 201: Academic and Career Opportunities in Psychology**

## **Course Syllabus**

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San Diego State University  
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Spring 2011  
Wed 3:00 – 3:50pm  
AL- 201

Office hours: Wednesday 1:00 - 2:00pm in LS24C and by appointment

### **Teaching Assistants**

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### **Required Materials**

Kuther, L.T. (2012). The Psychology Major's Handbook. Third Edition. Thomson Wadsworth, CA.  
Kuther, T. L. & Morgan, R. D. (2010). Careers in Psychology. Opportunities in a changing world. Third Edition.

### **Course Description**

Psychology majors sometimes have difficulty making the transition from college student to psychology graduate. Some learn, too late, about the steps needed for success in a given post-baccalaureate career endeavor and how to implement them effectively. Thus, this course will provide you with information about psychology related careers and will assist you in acquiring the skills necessary to apply for a job or graduate school – these skills are crucial to your development as a psychology major.

This course employs traditional lecture format, invited guests, written assignments, and exercises. Assignments and additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

### **Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the differences in career opportunities in psychology at the bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral level. Students will be able to effectively search resources for information about graduate school and be able to negotiate the psychology undergraduate advising center. Students will also obtain job search skills and will have an updated resume or curriculum vitae. Finally, it is expected that students will develop their own well-informed and customized educational plan

### **Evaluation Method**

Attendance checks count for 30 points and six assignments count for 70 points of the total 100 points for the course. A total of 70% (70 points) is required for credit in PSY 201. No student can be given a letter grade.

70 - 100 = Credit

0 - 69 = No Credit

**Attendance:** Attendance is highly encouraged! Students are expected to attend each class session and to have read the respective chapter before each class in order to be prepared to answer questions, and participate in class activities and discussions.

Throughout the semester, you will participate in ten random attendance checks. The checks consist of 2 – 5 minute writing activities such as reflections on the reading or class discussion, questions for the guest speakers, etc. The attendance checks may occur at the beginning or end of the class. To receive the full attendance credit (30 points) you must complete 9 out of 10 attendance checks. Given that one excused absence is built into the grading system, no absences will be excused, for any reason. If you complete at least

9 of the attendance checks you will receive the full 30 points, after that, 5 points are deducted for each missed attendance check (e.g., 8 attendance checks out of 10 = 25 points; 7 attendance checks out of 10 = 20 points).

**Assignments:** The assignments are exercises designed to reinforce the learning objectives in the course. Assignments will not be evaluated formally with grades. Assignments will be checked for completeness and will receive full credit, half-credit or no credit. Late assignments will not be accepted. Students will be encouraged to keep electronic copies of assignments in a portfolio for future reference.

***Two Informational Interviews*** (10 points each). Informational interviews are an effective way to meet people in a professional field of your interest. You will conduct two brief interviews with two individuals who have a career in the occupation/industry that you wish to learn more about. You will write an essay about the information interview experience (one essay for each interview). The essay should be at least one page (12 point font, 1-inch margins, double-spaced). Stapled to your essay, you will also turn in the thank you letter that you sent to the individual you interviewed.

***Orientation Worksheet*** (10 points). The purpose of the Psychology Advising Center is to fully assist students by providing the appropriate tools and resources to help guide students in their personal, academic and professional goals. You will become oriented with the advising center by visiting the center and resource room and answering the questions on the worksheet.

***Online, open-book exam*** (15 points). Questions on the exam will be based on the readings from the required course books, readings posted on blackboard and lecture material. You will take the exam during your own time, online and will be able to use your notes and books. The exam will consist of 30 questions in a true or false and multiple choice format.

***CV or Resume*** (10 points). A resume is a document that describing an individual's background and skillsets and is most often used in the job market. A curriculum vitae (or CV) is an academic resume that highlights your scholarly accomplishments and is most often used for graduate schools and in academia. You will prepare either a CV or a resume.

***Customized Education Plan*** (15 points). This assignment consists of compiling all the information you've learned about yourself and careers in psychology through your self-assessment, creating your CV, your informational interviews, and class lectures and readings. The plan consists of: Career Goal Statement, Professional and Academic 5 year and 2 year Goal Setting, and Course and Activities Goal Setting.

## Course Schedule

### Lectures

1/19	Introduction
1/26	What do psychologists do? <b>In Class:</b> Information interviews
2/2	Overview of career paths in psychology (Academic/research vs. Hands on/helping profession)
2/9	Careers with the BA <b>In Class:</b> Advising Center orientation. Guest speaker, Dr. Ulloa
2/16	Careers with a graduate school degree Applied Psychology
2/23	Jobs for Psych Majors <b>In Class:</b> Guest Panel
3/2	Masters degrees (Therapy and helping professions)
3/9	Therapy and helping professions (Masters level) <b>In Class:</b> Guest Panel
3/16	Class cancelled
3/23	Exploring the differences between Clinical and Counseling Psychology and the PsyD
3/30	Spring Break – No class
4/6	Research careers in psychology: Exploring the PhD in Psychology <b>In Class:</b> CV/Resume
4/13	Clinical & Counseling Psych. PhD and Psy.D <b>In Class:</b> Guest Panel
4/20	Becoming involved: Service, volunteering, research experience, and internships <b>In Class:</b> Guest Panel
4/27	Network building/letters of reference, Personal Statement: Preparing for graduate school <b>In Class:</b> Customized Educational Plan (CEP)
5/4	Preparing for graduate school (part II)

### Assignments

DUE DATE	
1/26	Read information interview file (on blackboard) Read PMH* pages 1-13, 39- 42, and CIP** 1-18
2/2	
2/9	Read pages PMH 144 - 174
2/16	Read pages PMH 177 – 191 Read CIP pages 72-80, 101-117
2/23	Bring questions for guest speakers
3/2	Read Social Work and MFT articles (on blackboard) Read CIP pages 47-57 <b>ASSIGNMENT: Information Interview (A)</b>
3/9	Bring questions for guest speakers
3/16	<b>Class cancelled – No class</b>
3/23	Read “clinical vs. counseling” article (on blackboard) Read CIP pages 33-46 <b>ASSIGNMENT: Orientation Worksheet</b>
3/30	<b>Spring Break – No class</b>
4/6	Read CV document (on blackboard) Read CIP pages 118-166 <b>ASSIGNMENT: Information Interview (B)</b>
4/13	Bring questions for guest speakers
4/20	Read PMH pages 45-68 Bring questions for guest speakers <b>ASSIGNMENT: CV / Resume</b>
4/27	Read PMH pages 193-223 Read Customized Educational Plan (on blackboard) <b>ASSIGNMENT: Deadline to complete online exam</b>
5/4	<b>FINAL Projects DUE: CEP</b>

\*PMH stands for Psychology Majors handbook

\*\* CIP stands for Careers in Psychology handbook.