

Psychology 250
Academic and Career Pathways in Psychology
Fall, 2011

Class is scheduled for 1:00-4:00 PM on the following Mondays:

September 12, September 19, October 3, October 10, and October 24

The class will meet in the Library (Lib), Room 306 on the first day. The class may sometimes use other rooms throughout the term – any alternative rooms will announced in class one week in advance.

Instructor:

Mark Stasson, Ph.D.

Metropolitan State University - Midway campus
Suite 101

1450 Energy Park Drive

St. Paul, MN 55108-5218

Phone (VM): 651-999-5830

E-Mail: **mark.stasson@metrostate.edu**

Course Web Site: <http://psyc250.stasson.org> (Don't use "www")

Competence Statement:

The student will understand the principles, content, and values involved in psychology as a career and as a field of study, and will be able to apply these principles and values well enough to develop his or her own career goals.

Texts and Materials:

Landrum, E., & Davis, S. (2010). *The psychology major: Career options and strategies for success* (4th Ed.) Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th Ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Course Schedule

Sept. 12 Introduction to the course and the assignments. Establish/activate your Net Direct computer account, with University e-mail. Visit a University computer lab (e.g., in the Library) to do this (you will need it next week).

Begin

- SELECT TOPIC for Research Review
- Interest in Psychology Assignment
- Bring DARS/GELS/Major worksheets next week
(Most students have DARS and not GELS)

Sept. 19

LIBRARY ORIENTATION. Meet in St. John's Hall L9

Discuss: Psychologist interviews; Internet Reviews; Psychology Club and Psi Chi; General Education.

Review Metropolitan State Psychology major (or minors), careers in psychology, degrees in psychology, course planning and the SAL. Roles of diagnostic testing and prerequisites in course scheduling and planning.

Read (Before class)

- Chapters 1-4 in text: The Psychology Major
- Browse APA Publication Manual

Due Today

- **Interest in Psychology** assignment (including Research Review topic)
- Bring your DARS (or GELS) worksheet to class TODAY

Oct. 3

Psychology Lab orientation. **Meet in New Main, Room L202**

Graduate school presentations. More on Degree Planning –

Bring your GELS worksheets and any other information you have received regarding degree planning (e.g., from meetings with your advisor). Major Declaration Form and Psychology Degree Plan. APA writing style and Writing in Psychology. Understanding research.

Read (Before Class)

- Chapters 5-7 in text: The Psychology Major
- Review APA Publication Manual

Due Today

- Internet Site Project
- Bring GELS/DARS and all degree planning materials today

Oct. 10

More on Using the Internet for Research and Career Exploration.

Meet in _____

Careers in Psychology. Graduate Study. Various forms of internships and applications of knowledge, Degree Planning, Course Selection, Majors and Minors More in writing in Psychology

Read (Before Class)

- Chapters 8-10 in text: The Psychology Major

Due Today

- Psychology Lab Orientation Assignment
- Copy of 5 scholarly references in APA format

Oct. 24 More on Graduate Study in Psychology. Course Wrap-up. Tips for Course/Degree Progress and Career Planning. Reports on Interviews. Being successful at Metropolitan State. Individual meetings as needed. **Meet in LIB 306.**

Read (Before Class)

- Chapters 11-13 in text: The Psychology Major

Due Today

- Research Review Project
- Graduate School Information (3 copies)
- Psychologist Interview
- Individual Plan paper, Psychology Major Declaration Form and Psychology Major Planning Form

Course Attendance

Your attendance at all five sessions is required.

List of Assignments:

This course is offered **only** on an S/N basis. In order to receive an “S” grade for the course, attendance at all sessions is required. Each of the following assignments also needs to be completed in order to earn a passing grade. Assignments will be returned to students for rewrite, if necessary.

KEEP COPIES OF ALL YOUR ASSIGNMENTS!!!!

- 1) **Interest in Psychology.** This is a one page description of your interest in psychology, including reasons for the interest. You should also **include the topic for your Research Review**, which could be a topic used in a project for another class. **Due Sept. 19**
- 2) **Internet Site Project** Find a useful web site related to psychology and critique it. Why is it useful? How could it be better? The purpose of the assignment is to become familiar with web resources. **Due Oct. 3**
- 3) **Understanding Research.** A research paper will be distributed in class, and we will cover tips on how to read research articles and the types of information we should get out of articles. The purpose of the assignment is for you to be able to identify and summarize important elements of published research papers. **Due Oct. 10**

- 4) **Psychology Lab Orientation Assignment** This assignment is designed to offer you a “hands-on” opportunity to become familiar with some of the traditional science of psychology. You will write a 2-page reaction paper following the lab orientation. **Due Oct. 10.**
- 5) **Research Review Project** **Select a topic of Interest to you!!** Feel free to use a topic that might be a project from another course. You will need to identify five scholarly references related to your topic, two references from other (non-scholarly) sources, and one researcher or theorist who is active in the topic area. The purpose of the assignment is to become familiar with library resources and research on scholarly topics, skills needed in advanced psychology courses. **Final Project Due last class (5 references due sooner).**
- 6) **Individualized Plan for Study of Psychology** Assignment consists of a 2-3 page paper articulating decisions regarding the role of psychology in your overall degree plan, your finalized degree plan form, chart or map of degree plan (utilize “year-at-a-glance” type of class schedule), and your major or minor declaration form. This paper should reflect your reactions to and knowledge gained from the assigned readings, the interview, the lab assignment, the discussions on graduate programs, and your own reflection on your idea of what role psychology will play in your life-long learning plan. **Due last class.**
- 7) **Graduate School information** This assignment involves thinking about and collecting information on purpose, scope and admission requirements for a graduate school program in which you might be interested. You will provide a summary for your classmates for the last class meeting and be prepared to discuss the requirements with the class at that time. **BRING ONE EXTRA COPY OF EACH GRADUATE SCHOOL REPORT. Due last class.**
- 8) **Interview with a person working in Psychology (or your field of interest)** The purpose of this assignment is to offer you an opportunity to talk to a professional about his/her work life. You will be asked to write a 2-3 page summary of this interaction. This summary should reflect your knowledge gained from readings and discussions in class as well as the interview. **Due last class.**

Note: All students with disabilities who are requesting accommodations should do so through the Office for Students with Disabilities (651-793-1540), The office needs considerable advance notice, so contact them at least two-four weeks ahead of time to ensure accommodations. Otherwise, the office can't guarantee you will receive the accommodations in time.