First Year Seminar
Psychology in Everyday Life

Fall 2013

Instructors: Ricardo A. Machón, Ph.D. & Elizabeth C. Wimberly, M.A.
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Course: FFYS 1000
Section: 62

Class Meeting: TR 925-1040 am
Room: WHH 324
CRN: 44936

Office Hours: Machón- MW and TR 415-530 (Jazzman’s Café)
Wimberly- TR 11-12 (UNH 3229)
And by appointment.

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Required Texts:


Course Description:
This course explores the science of psychology and its applications in everyday life experience. By critically examining and meaningfully integrating its historical roots— Philosophy and Natural Science— the course will introduce students to the intersection of psychological science, transcendence and contemporary social issues. Students will be introduced to the Biological-Psychological-Social/Cultural model, a lens through with human behavior and mental processes are examined. By exploring the strengths and limitations of the scientific method along with the 3 pillars of contemporary psychology, students will gain a holistic understanding of what it means to be a thinking, feeling, acting, reflecting, and questioning human being in everyday life. This First Year Seminar is designed to address the broad theme of Science, Nature and Society.
This seminar has 2 sub-themes. The first is that we will examine psychology through the lens of the following “life” questions, inspired by the teachings and philosophy of St. Ignatius of Loyola—

- Why am I?
- How do I find meaning in me? ..in my life?
- What is my place in this world?
- How am I connected to others?
- How do I lead a good life?
- Who am I, really?

The second sub-theme is the application of the concepts and theories of psychology to everyday life.

**General Course Objectives:**
This First Year Seminar is designed to introduce the first year student to the life of the mind and rigors of a Loyola Marymount University “liberating arts” education. It draws inspiration from the LMU Mission in cultivating the education of your whole person by inspiring and facilitating your learning in all its forms.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
This course, as part of the LMU Core Curriculum, strives to achieve the following learning outcomes. After having taken this First Year Seminar, students will demonstrate increased:

- Understanding and appreciation of the intellectual rigor and academic excellence of an LMU education.
- Engagement in critical and reflective scholarly discourse.
- Skills in reading critically and reflectively.
- Effective use of basic research skills and information literacy.
- Use of skills in oral and written communication on psychological topics.

**Grade Breakdown and Course Requirements:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Projects</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major Writing Assignments (2)</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Activities, Discussions, Reading Presentations, Reading Journals and Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Literacy competencies</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Course Percent</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
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**Final Course Grade Computation**

- ≥ 93 %       A
- 90 -92 %     A-
- 87 -89 %     B+
- 83 -86 %     B
- 80 -82 %     B-
- 77 -79 %     C+
- 73 -76 %     C
- 70 -72 %     C-
- 60 -69 %     D
- ≤ 59 %       F
Kindly note that I do not award “extra” points for any reason. Grades are rounded to the next highest tenth of a percent on all assignments/exams with the exception of the Final Course Grade.

**Group Projects:**
Oral presentation demonstrating psychology in everyday life. More details to follow.

**Major Writing Assignments:**
Students will turn in 2 major writing assignments, each 10-12 pages in length. Topics will be chosen in consultation with the instructors. Each assignment will be developed over several weeks and multiple working drafts will be submitted along the way. In addition to the final draft, prior drafts, Author’s Notes and a Learning Letter will also be turned in on the due date. More details to follow.

**Information Literacy Tutorials:**
In collaboration with the library staff, these tutorials are designed to help you achieve “information literacy”. You must complete 4 of these online modules. You are allowed to take each tutorial at most twice. A grade of 75% is passing. This requirement is graded on a pass/no pass basis. More details will be provided on a separate handout.

**Class Routine:**
Generally, this will be the cycle followed, with a few exceptions depending on the week—
- Tuesdays: Class discussions and presentations. Reading journals are turned in for the readings of the week.
- Thursdays: Writing workshops and conferences

**Attendance:**
The pedagogy of this seminar requires attendance and in-class participation. You cannot participate if you are not here, and it is not possible to make up the classes that you miss. You are allowed 3 absences. Each absence thereafter will lower your final grade by one letter grade. Tardiness (more than 10 minutes) is also not acceptable. Two late arrivals will be counted as one absence.

**Conferences:**
Individual conferences with the instructors are required. Come to these conferences prepared. Bring copies of your draft and Author’s Note. Missing a scheduled conference, showing up late or showing up unprepared is equivalent to missing one class period.

**Paper Format:**
All drafts must be typed, double-spaced with one-inch margins on all sides, in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. All documents must include your name, date, course name, and document type in the upper right corner. All documentation will be in APA style. Late papers will be penalized by one letter grade for every day they are late.
Student E-mail Addresses:
All students registered in the class are required to have an active e-mail account. E-mail will be sent to your official LMU lion account. It is expected that you will check your e-mail regularly because I will use it as a supplemental means of communicating with the class.

Policy on Use of Electronics in the Classroom:
Use of a laptop in class is a privilege. I allow it for those of you who need to use it for taking notes. Abuse of this privilege (non-course related use, such as surfing the Internet, checking e-mail, chatting, instant messaging and the like) will result in loss of this privilege for the individual student and likely the entire class. Additionally, use of telephone for texting and other non-course related activity during class time will not be permitted. You may be asked to leave the room if you are seen using your telephone. In any case, your mobile phone should be turned off or placed on vibrate/silent mode during class.

Pre-requisites:
None.

Late Assignments:
All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will gladly be accepted. Your grade will be lowered one full grade for every day that it is late, starting 10 minutes after the beginning of class when the assignment is due. No exceptions.

Academic Honesty and Integrity—LMU Honor Code and Process:
Cheating or plagiarizing on exams or assignments will not be tolerated and will result in at least a grade of F on the assignment or exam and it may be referred to the appropriate disciplinary body for additional sanctions. Kindly refer to the LMU Honor Code and Process printed in the Undergraduate Bulletin for further reference.

Americans with Disabilities Act:
Students with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act who need reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this course should promptly direct their request to the Disability Support Services Office. Any student who currently has a documented disability (physical, learning, or psychological) needing academic accommodations should contact Disability Services Office (Daum Hall- second floor, 310.338.8216) as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please visit http://www.lmu.edu/dss for additional information.

The information contained in this syllabus is based on the instructor's best judgment prior to the start of the semester. The course calendar may change due to extenuating circumstances. Students will be informed in class or via e-mail regarding any adjustments to the course schedule.
Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1:

T, 8/27 = Welcome!

TH, 8/29 = Review Syllabus. Discussion reading journal, due each Tuesday (15 minutes). Mention Writing Center. In-class diagnostic.

HW: Content Homework. Reading Journal 1 due Tuesday.

Week 2:

T, 9/3 =
The Science of Psychology
   An Emerging Science, Ch. #1; ***PSP***


TH, 9/5 = Discuss Reading Journal 1. Idea Invention & using Reading Journals as inspiration. Creating a thesis.

HW: Reading Journal 2 due Tuesday.

Week 3:

T, 9/10 =
The Science of Psychology
   Biological Psychology, Ch. #3; ***PSP***
   Psychoanalysis, Ch. #4; ***PSP***


HW: Work on Rough Draft 1 due Tuesday.
Week 4:

M, 9/17 = Rough Draft 1 Due to groups.

The Science of Psychology
  Behaviorism, Ch. #5; ***PSP***
  Humanistic Psychology, Ch. #6; ***PSP***

HW: Read drafts & make comments.

TH, 9/19 = Model & Group Workshops. Reflection, if time.

HW: Revise your draft. Reading Journal 3 due Tuesday.

Week 5:

T, 9/24 =
The Science of Psychology
  Cognitive Psychology, Ch. #7; ***PSP***
  Evolutionary Psychology, Ch. #8; ***PSP***


TH, 9/26 = Rough Draft 2 due. Revision discussion: time for a critical eye. Tips for reworking.

HW: Reading Journal 4 due Tuesday.

Week 6:

T, 10/1 = Sign up for conferences. Information Literacy tutorial, “Types of Information” and Quiz due by today.
The Science of Psychology
  Sociocultural Foundations, Ch. #9; ***PSP***

HW: Come to your workshop with questions prepared.

TH, 10/3 = Individual Conferences.

HW: Work on Paper 1. Final draft due Tuesday.
Week 7:

**T, 10/8** = Paper 1 due.
The Science of Psychology
Psychology in Perspective, Ch. #10; ***PSP***

HW:

**TH, 10/10** = Reflection on Paper 1. Discuss common issues?
Personality Psychology
pp. 4-17; 32-51; 97-118; ***PPP***

HW:

Week 8:

**T, 10/15** = Group Project day. Writing Work.


**TH, 10/17** = Writing Work. Ethos, Pathos, Logos. Rhetorical Situation.

HW: Reading Journal 5.

Week 9:

**T, 10/22** =
Personality Psychology (*Continued*)
pp. 119-125; 126-144; ***PPP***

HW:

**TH, 10/24** = *Information Literacy Tutorial, “Finding and Evaluating Information,” and Quiz due by today.*
Biological Issues in Personality Psychology
pp. 170-182; ***PPP***

HW: Reading Journal 6.
Week 10

T, 10/29 =
Biological Issues in Personality Psychology (Continued)
pp. 183-189; 204-211; ***PPP***

Consciousness and Personality Psychology
pp. 298-310; ***PPP***

HW:

TH, 10/31 = Idea for second paper due by today.

HW: Reading Journal 7.

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Week 11:

T, 11/5 =
Consciousness and Personality Psychology (Continued)
pp. 502-516; 517-536; ***PPP***

Socio-cultural Issues and Personality Psychology
pp. 414-432; ***PPP***

HW:

TH, 11/7 =
Socio-cultural Issues and Personality Psychology (Continued)
pp. 449-456; 457-470; 471-481; ***PPP***

HW: Reading Journal 8.

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Week 12:

T, 11/12 = Information Literacy Tutorial “Using Information Ethically,” and Quiz due by today.
Humanistic Issues and Personality Psychology
pp. 320-331; 346-357; 358-381; ***PPP***

HW:

TH, 11/14 = Draft 1 due today.

HW:
Week 13:

T, 11/19 =
Humanistic Issues and Personality Psychology (Continued)
   pp. 382-395; ***PPP***

HW:

TH, 11/21 = Class Workshops.

HW:

Week 14:

T, 11/26 = Class Work day.

HW: Work on Paper 2.


HW:

Week 15:

Optional Conferences held this week

T, 12/3 =
Integration and Final Reflections

HW:

TH, 12/5 =
Integration and Final Reflections

HW =

Finals Week

T, 12/10= 2-4pm
Paper 2 due