Psy 602 Psychology Capstone: Senior Studies II  
Fall 2017  
Tuesdays 9:20-10:50 (Section 1), 2:00-3:30 (Section 2)

Instructor:  Dr. Sherri Pataki
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Course description:
Psy 602 is designed to facilitate students’ success as they conduct, revise, review, and formally present their senior research theses. Each class will begin with an open discussion of any concerns or challenges you are experiencing as you carry out your research proposal. Class content is designed to meet the American Psychological Association (APA) Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major (Version 2.0) by focusing on the skills, knowledge, and research methodology required for completion of your Capstone research project. Topics may vary from the proposed schedule depending on student input and needs.  

All students are expected to actively participate and to contribute to all seminar activities including class presentations, homework assignments, and discussion. You are here to learn from and support each other. Successful completion of this course is required to meet the graduation requirement for all psychology majors at Westminster College.

Please note: To complete your psychology major, all Capstone students are required to present their completed Capstone research at a regional or national conference during the 2018 spring semester. Your seminar advisor will discuss your options with you. This is an excellent way to communicate your research to others, build up your CV, and prepare for the types of speaking situations you will encounter in graduate school or on the job.

Required textbooks:


Course outcomes:
To move towards mastery of the five goals identified by the APA Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major (as specified below), PSY 602 students are expected to meet the following course outcomes:

Collect and analyze an appropriate data set to evaluate the hypotheses proposed in PSY 601.
   APA Goal 1: Knowledge Base in Psychology, Goal 2: Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking, Goal 3: Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World

Prepare a comprehensive research report following the specific guidelines and format of the American Psychological Association.
   APA Goal 1: Knowledge Base in Psychology and Goal 4: Communication

Develop professional skills needed for graduate school and employment including oral communication and formal presentation skills, technical writing, statistical analysis, peer review, and critical thinking.
   APA Goal 4: Communication and Goal 5: Professional Development
Contribute to the academic learning community and scholarly discussion of research through active class participation and peer review.

APA Goal 4: Communication and Goal 5: Professional Development

Assessment:
Your final grade will be based on class participation, presentations, and homework assignments (40% of your final grade; approximately 15 assignments at 10 points each including an attendance grade), a final paper (50% of your final grade), and completion of the PACAT assessment during the finals period (10% of your final grade).

A course grade of less than a C- will require you to repeat this course the following fall semester. Please make sure that you keep up with all assignments so that you can graduate on time!

Attendance: Students are required to attend all classes. The only excused absences are those taken for a verifiable illness or family emergency. All other absences will affect your class participation grade.

Senior Studies Presentation: At the end of the semester, all Capstone students are required to present their research in a formal presentation at the annual senior studies night hosted by the Psychology Department. The schedule of presentations will be announced later in the semester. Presentations will be held on Monday, December 11th beginning at 5:30 pm. Friends and family are welcome to attend. Participation is mandatory for graduation so please plan your end of the semester travel arrangements to accommodate this evening event. Dress is business formal.

Accessibility statement:
Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact Faith Craig, Director of Disability Resources, located in 209 Thompson-Clark Hall, ext. 7192, e-mail: craigfa@westminster.edu

Academic integrity:
You are expected to comply with Westminster College’s policy on Academic Integrity (see your Student Handbook). If you are suspected of violating this obligation on any homework assignment, draft, or presentation, you will receive a zero for that assignment. If you are suspected of plagiarizing any portion of your thesis or fabricating research data, you will fail the course and you will not be able to graduate in May. Be sure you know what plagiarism is and how you can avoid it in your thesis.

Tentative Fall 2017 Schedule

Date: Topic, reading, and other assignments:

Aug 29 Semester overview and introduction
Discussion of the APA Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major (Version 2.0)
Reading: Review your complete research proposal and all faculty feedback from Spring Semester 2016.

Sept 5 Understanding your research design: main effects, interactions, mediators, and moderators.
Completing your senior year and what’s next… introduction to the “Senior packet.”
Sept 12  Ten minute oral presentation of your research proposal using Powerpoint or another web-based technology. Include a timeline of the research plan you will use to complete your project this semester. Please dress business casual for all class presentations.

Submit the most recent printed copy of your paper that has been revised based on the feedback you received from your Capstone advisor and as part of PSY 601.

Sept 19  Class presentations continued.

Sept 26  Review key sections of your paper and grading rubric. Discuss the format of the Results section.

Reading: APA Publication Manual, Section 1.10 and Chapters 2, 3

Overview of SPSS and your plans for data analyses.

Bring your updated data analysis plan, and all questionnaires and tests that you are using in your study.

Reading: Pallant, Chapters 2, 3

Oct 3   SPSS: Data files and descriptive statistics

Reading: Pallant, Chapters 4-10

Oct 10  SPSS: Correlations

Reading: Pallant, Chapters 11-12

Oct 17  SPSS: Regression
Preparation for your Discussion section.

Reading: Pallant, Chapters 13, 15

Oct 24  Mid-semester break!

Oct 31  SPSS: Comparing Means

Reading: Pallant, Chapters 16-22

Draft of your APA style abstract is due.

Nov 7   Presentation guidelines and preparing your Results section.

Detailed outline of your discussion section is due in class.

Reading: APA Publication Manual, Chapters 4, 5

Nov 14  Preparing your Discussion section and your formal presentation.

Reading: APA Publication Manual, review Appendix A

Draft of your results section is due in class.

Be sure to include your key figures/tables.

*All subject pool participation must be completed prior to Thanksgiving break.

Nov 21  Wrapping up Capstone and preparing for your final presentations!

Nov 28  In-class presentations (graded).

Dec 5   In-class presentations (graded).
Important Deadlines for finishing PSY 602:

Friday, Dec 8  
A printed final paper is due in my office by 4:00 p.m.  
Psychology celebration begins at 4:00!

*Completed Senior packet is due no later than 4:00 p.m. December 8th.

Finals Period

Section 1: Wednesday, December 13, Psychology Assessment Test (PACAT), 8:00-10:30

Section 2: Thursday, December 14, Psychology Assessment Test (PACAT), 11:30-2:00

Formal Departmental Presentation

Monday, Dec 11th, 5:30 p.m., Hoyt Science Center

- We will meet in HSC 138 at 5:15 p.m. Be sure to dress professionally. Participation is mandatory for graduation.