Our overall goal this semester is to identify a relevant and interesting question in the field of personality and social psychology that can be completed during a two semester capstone. Each week we will become increasingly focused on identifying and designing your capstone project. This seminar is an opportunity for you to discuss your ideas with your peers and to enhance your project development.

You are also required to attend an individual meeting with Dr. Pataki each week. If you cannot come during office hours, please find an alternate time to meet.

**Seminar objectives are to:**
- Identify a relevant, interesting, and unanswered question in the social psychological literature.
- Review contemporary and classic research in this area to develop an integrated literature review.
- Design an empirical study to test your theoretical ideas and hypotheses.
- Create a formal proposal for peer review.
- Write a formal research proposal that includes a complete APA Introduction and Methods section.

**Your final grade for PSY 639 (2 credits) is based on the following:**

**Final paper:** 80%
- The final paper is a research proposal that must include each of the following in APA format:
  - Introduction
  - Methods
  - Materials
  - Informed Consent
  - Debriefing
  - References
  - Appendices

**Group seminar and individual meetings:** 20%
- This grade will be based on attendance, preparation, and participation.

Please note: A course grade of less than C- will delay your graduation at least one semester and require that you repeat Capstone in the spring semester.

**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**
All students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to): lending your work to another student so that he/she may turn it in as his/her own and copying and turning in another person’s work as one’s own (e.g., material taken from a publication that is not cited properly). Students caught participating in such an activity will receive a course grade of "F." If you have any questions regarding academic integrity, please feel free to discuss your questions or concerns with the instructor.
**Topic/Assignment**

**Week 1**  
Finalize meeting times, expectations, and evaluation criteria with advisor  
Begin reading 5 journal articles per week related to your area of interest

**Week 2**  
Discuss one of the theories of interest presented in the articles you reviewed

**Week 3**  
Discuss possible thesis topics  
Begin to ‘narrow in’ on theories and ideas that might be appropriate to your study.

**Week 4**  
Develop possible thesis statements.  
Begin to identify research paradigms that might be appropriate to your study. Focus on equipment/materials used, experimental design, quality of design, improvements on study

**Week 5**  
Finalize your thesis statement and hypotheses  
Create an outline of your introduction section

**Week 6**  
Develop methods  
Consider how you might begin to operationalize your ideas. Begin thinking about study designs. Consider the variables and methodology that you will use (independent and dependent variables? correlational methods?)  
Discuss study designs used in your area of research.

**Week 7**  
Writing your methods section

**Week 8**  
Predicted results and statistical analyses

**Week 9**  
Finalize materials and data collection procedure

**Week 10**  
Peer review

**Week 11**  
Peer review

**Week 12**  
Pilot studies and IRB review

**Week 13**  
Preparing to begin your study in the fall  
Consider the following:  
What have you finished?  
What still needs to be done? What needs to be done before the fall semester?  
How will you complete the work?  
Will you be collecting data over the summer?

**Week 14**  
Finalizing your paper.

*** Final papers are due on Friday, May 4th. ***
Late papers will be penalized 5% per day.

**Week 15**  
Feedback on final paper.  
(Finals Week)