

PSY501 Professional Practices in Psychology

(3 credit hours)

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course will introduce students to professional socialization into the field of psychology. Students will critically examine the methods, problems, critical thinking styles, as well as the career opportunities, in the field of psychology. Students will participate in the debates on topics of current concern in contemporary psychology. Students will also practice the writing style of the American Psychological Association with the development of the required knowledge and skills needed for the advanced study of psychology.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe how the discipline of psychology is a science.
2. Distinguish between pseudoscience and true psychological research.
3. Conduct library/database searches of the professional peer-reviewed literature on topics in psychology and related fields and be able to speak appropriately on the research.
4. Write formal papers conforming to APA style on topics of current professional concern.
5. Name a variety of career opportunities in psychology, and transferable skills to related professions.
6. Explore factors related to gender, culture, and diversity and how these factors impact psychology as a field.

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

There are no required resources for this course. All course materials are included as links within the course.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your

learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays**.
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays**.

Learning Activities

Students in this course will engage in collaborative and individual exploration of topics related to professional practices in psychology including theoretical perspectives, research and data, APA style, psychology as a science, and career options. Students will have the opportunity to participate in practical applications within each topic, as well as engage in reflection on personal perspectives, preferences, and the evaluate the subsequent impact on future plans.

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Discussions Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.2 (40) Activity 1.3 (40)	Discussions Activity 2.1 (40) Activity 2.2 (40)	Discussions Activity 3.1 (40)	Discussions Activity 4.1 (40)	Discussions Activity 5.1 (40) Activity 5.2 (40)	Discussions Activity 6.1 (40)	Discussions Activity 7.1 (40)	400
Assignments Activity 1.4 (75)	Assignments Activity 2.3 (75)	Assignments Activity 3.2 (75)	Assignments Activity 4.2 (75)	Assignments Activity 5.3 (100)	Assignments Activity 6.2 (100)	Assignments Activity 7.2 (100)	600

155	155	115	115	180	140	140	1000
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Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | F: <69%

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Topic	Learning Activities (Due by 11:55 p.m. ET on day designated)
Start Here	<input type="checkbox"/> MON: Introduction (Forum) - Initial Post
Week 1: Psychology as a science Pseudoscience Introduction to APA style	<input type="checkbox"/> WED: Introduction (Forum) - Secondary Post <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 1.2 – Psychology and Pseudoscience <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 1.3 – APA Style Resources <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Discussion Responses <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 1.4 – Essay – Psychology as a Science
Week 2: Theoretical Perspectives Careers in Psychology Gender, Culture, and Diversity	<input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 2.1 – Theoretical Perspectives <input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 2.2 – Careers in Psychology <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Discussion Responses <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Essay – Gender, Culture, and Diversity
Week 3: Operationalism Essentialism Introduction to Research Design	<input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 3.1 – Experiment Design <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Discussion Responses <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 3.2 – Essay – Operationalism vs. Essentialism
Week 4: Peer Review Conducting Literature Reviews	<input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 4.1 – The Peer Review Process <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Discussion Responses <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 4.2 – Evaluating Credibility
Week 5:	<input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 5.1 – APA Style Reflection

APA style Interpreting Data Evaluating Research	<input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 5.2 – Exploring Graphical Data <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Discussion Responses <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 5.3 – Article Critique
Week 6: The complexity of psychology Psychology as a science revisited	<input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 6.1 – Analyzing Variables <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Discussion Responses <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 6.2 – Literature Review
Week 7: Psychology's image problem Psychological theory Review and Self-reflection	<input type="checkbox"/> WED: Activity 7.1 – Psychology's Image Problem <input type="checkbox"/> SAT: Discussion Responses <input type="checkbox"/> SUN: Activity 7.2 – Self-Reflection

Tips for Success

Successful online learning requires a good deal of self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge and review one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery and constructiveness. Your course is a place for you to stretch and grow as you benefit from the expertise, knowledge, experience and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge, understanding and application.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

For More Information:

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.