PSY201 Introduction to Professional Practices
(3 credit hours)
Course Syllabus

Course Description

Majors in human services and psychology learn the career opportunities, problems, methods, and thinking styles of professionals in their fields. Students participate in classroom debates on topics of current concern in modern psychology and human services, practice the writing style of the American Psychological Association, and acquire effective methods for developing a professional resume. Guest speakers, field trips, and other out-of-class experiences expand students' understanding of the diversity and challenges of modern behavioral science and practice. This is a writing intensive course.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Name a variety of career opportunities in psychology, human services, and related helping professions.
2. Describe the academic requirements and professional expectations of those careers.
3. Conduct library searches of the professional literature on topics in psychology and related fields.
4. Speak informatively and write formal papers conforming to APA style on topics of current professional concern.
5. Write a personal resume of educational and professional experiences that would facilitate employment or graduate school acceptance.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

PSY101

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

Kuther, T. L. & Morgan, R. D. (2020). *Careers in psychology (5th ed.).* Sage Publications.

Kuther, T. L. (2020). *The psychology major's handbook (5th ded.).* Sage Publications.

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online@tiffin.edu

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](#).

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

In this course you will focus on making practical connections to your professional field through the exploration of sources (readings, scholarly articles, professional websites, etc.), discussions with your instructor and peers, an interview with a professional, as well as a creative assignment that asks you to act as both a potential employer and an employee.

Grading

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

Activity	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Discussion 1	0	20	20	20	20	20	20	**120**
Discussion 2	20	20	20	-	20	20	-	**100**
Assignment	50	50	75	100	110	275	120	**705**
Total	**70**	**90**	**115**	**120**	**150**	**315**	**140**	**1000**

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Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | D: 60-69% | F: <60%

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Topic	Learning Activities (Due by 11:55 p.m. ET on day designated)
Start Here	❏ MON: Activity 1.1 (Forum) Meet Your Peers
Week 1: • Definition of psychological practice • Scope of practice • Influences on modern psychology	❏ WED: Activity 1.2 (Forum) Career Perspectives ❏ SAT: Discussion Responses ❏ SUN: Activity 1.3 Key Contributors Essay
Week 2: • Self-Assessment • Values and behavior • Scope of Practice • Personality and professions	❏ WED: Activity 2.1 (Forum) O*Net Interest Profile ❏ WED: Activity 2.2 (Forum) College Majors and Personality Types ❏ SAT: Discussion Responses ❏ SUN: Activity 2.3 Putting Values into Action
Week 3: • Library research • APA style • Self-Management	❏ WED: Activity 3.1 (Forum) Internet, Magazine, and Peer-Reviewed Sources ❏ WED: Activity 3.2 (Forum) Internet Job Search ❏ SAT: Discussion Responses ❏ SUN: Activity 3.3 Course Project Outline

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Topic	Learning Activities (Due by 11:55 p.m. ET on day designated)
• Scope of Practice	
Week 4: • Scope of Practice • Writing a Position Paper	❏ WED: Activity 4.1 (Forum) Research-Scientist vs. Scientist-Practitioner Models ❏ SAT: Discussion Responses ❏ SUN: Activity 4.2 Position Paper
Week 5: • Scope of Practice • Empirical Research	❏ WED: Activity 5.1 (Forum) Scholarly Article Search ❏ WED: Activity 5.2 (Forum) Research-Oriented Career Search ❏ SAT: Discussion Responses ❏ SUN: Activity 5.3 Professional Interview
Week 6: • Scope of Practice • Digital footprint • Cultural considerations	❏ WED: Activity 6.1 (Forum) Digital Footprints ❏ WED: Activity 6.2 (Forum) How Much Education? ❏ SAT: Discussion Responses ❏ SUN: Activity 6.3 Course Project
Week 7: • Preparing for a Career	❏ WED: Activity 7.1 (Forum) Current Events in the Field ❏ SAT: Discussion Responses ❏ SUN: Activity 7.2 Create your own Agency

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.

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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.