

Fall 2014  
Koelsch

**Orientation to the Psychology Major**  
**PSYC 102-01, 1 credit**  
**Fall 2014, Wednesday 3:00-3:50**  
**College Hall 644**

**Instructor:** Lori E. Koelsch, Ph.D.  
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**Office Hours:** Use Starfish to make an appointment

**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to provide a practical introduction to the psychology major at Duquesne University. Specifically, this course is designed to assist you in navigating the requirements you must meet as a psychology major, and it will help you plan a successful educational experience that will prepare you for the next steps on your educational and career path. We will cover a broad range of topics including career options for psychology majors, preparation for graduate school, and APA format. One of the requirements you will learn about is the Blackboard portfolio system, which will help track your progress as a psychology major.

**Course Objective:**

By the end of this course you will:

1. Have considered your educational trajectory and possible career path
2. Be able to use the Blackboard portfolio system
3. Be familiar with departmental goals for your education
4. Be familiar with APA-style basics

Specifically, all of the assignments in this course will help you toward make progress toward our sixth departmental goal, which is for you to: *become prepared for careers and/or graduate study in psychology, social work, and counseling, and in related fields such as education, business, law, health care, and human services.*

**Evaluation:**

This course will be graded on a **Pass/Fail** basis. In order to pass this course you must earn at least **150 points**. Here is how you earn points:

1. Attendance is worth **10 points every day** (except the first class period). I will take attendance every day. It is your responsibility to make sure that your attendance is recorded. If you are late and arrive after I take attendance, you must speak to me in person at the end of the class. I reserve the right to award partial credit if you are late. I also reserve the right to award partial credit if you are disruptive or using your phone in class.
2. Each homework and in class assignment is worth **5 points**. Here is my grading rubric:
  - **5 points:** Assignment is on time **AND** meets all requirements
  - **4 points:** Assignment is less than one week late and meets all requirements **OR** assignment was on time but you missed one requirement (e.g., it is too short)
  - **3 points:** Assignment is between one and two weeks late and meets all requirements **OR** assignment was on time but you missed more than one requirement (e.g., there are many errors)
  - **2 points:** Assignment is more than two weeks late and meets all requirements **OR** assignment is late by less than two weeks and does not meet all requirements
  - **1 point:** Assignment is more than two weeks late **AND** does not meet all requirements
  - **0 points:** You did not turn it in

**Recommended reading:**

Landrum, R.E. & Davis, S.F. (2014 or 2010). *The psychology major: Career options and strategies for success (4<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Upper Saddle Ridge, NJ: Prentice Hall.

**Assignments:**

*Homework (see Blackboard for more details on each assignment):*

1. Journal 1: Explain why you chose psychology as a major.
2. Journal 2: Briefly describe a few jobs that you are qualified for with a B.A. in psychology from Duquesne. It may help to use the Internet for this assignment.
3. Journal 3: You will need to describe what type of advanced degree you would pursue if you decide to further your education. Additionally, describe at least two jobs that you would be able to obtain with this degree.
4. CV/Resume: You will need to write one of these!
5. Question for guest speaker: You will be responsible for bringing one question for one of the guest speakers. You will be assigned a date.
6. Portfolio upload: Further details will be provided in class.

*In class (or homework if you do not have time to complete these in class):*

1. Course schedule: Using the course catalog, plan out the courses you intend to take in order to meet graduation requirements.
2. APA style: Successfully complete the in-class worksheet.

**Academic Integrity:**

You are responsible for knowing what constitutes academic dishonesty. For more information, you can download a PDF titled "Academic Integrity Policy" from <http://www.duq.edu/about/administration/academic-affairs/policies-and-procedures> in order to refresh yourself with Duquesne's policies. In our current Google/YouTube/Wikipedia/etc society it is easier than ever to *unintentionally* violate a policy. Even an unintentional breach of integrity is subject to sanctions. I strongly encourage you to speak with us if you have any questions. If I suspect that a policy is violated I will follow the procedures outlined by the University throughout the course of investigation and sanctioning process (if it is determined that a violation has occurred).

**Disability Services:**

I strive to make my classroom a positive learning experience for all students. If you have (or believe you may have) a disability that requires accommodations please contact the Office of Freshman Development and Special Student Services in 309 Duquesne Union (x6657). You may also contact me individually, however you must have documentation in order to receive accommodations.

**Additional Policies:**

- Use of cell phones (including texting) is distracting, and is therefore prohibited. Cell phones must be silenced and stowed away. If you need to keep your phone out due to extenuating circumstances, see me ahead of class.
- I do not communicate with students via text message. I understand that this is usually the most convenient way for you to receive messages, but for this class you must check your email regularly. All important information will also be posted on Blackboard, so you should check there if you are worried that you are not receiving my messages.
- I do my best to keep up with email, but please understand that I have many other responsibilities and cannot always reply immediately. I will respond to all emails **within two business days**. I always respond to email, even if to just say that I have received your

message. If you do not hear back from me, assume that I did not get your email and try to contact me again.

- All work **must** be turned in through the Assignment area on **Blackboard** unless it is an in class assignment. **I do not accept assignments sent over email.**

### Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings	Homework Due
8/27	Introduction & Purpose	Syllabus	
9/3	The Psychology Department <i>In class assignment: Course schedule</i>	The Duq Psych website www.duq.edu/psychology	Journal: Why I majored in Psychology
9/10	Careers with a B.A. in Psychology	Chapters 3 & 4	Final course schedule
9/17	Graduate school	Chapters 5 & 6	Journal: Possible jobs with a B.A. in psychology
9/24	Getting involved	Chapter 8, pp. 115-top of 122	Journal: Possible jobs with an advanced degree
10/1	Guest speakers	None	See Blackboard
10/8	Interviews, etc.	TBD	None
10/15	Guest speakers	None	See Blackboard
10/22	The CV/Resume	pp. 47-53; pp. 103-top of 110	None
10/29	Guest speakers	None	Draft of your CV or Resume/See Blackboard
11/5	APA style <i>In-class assignment: APA style worksheet</i>	Chapter 10	None
11/12	Guest speakers	None	Final APA worksheet/ See Blackboard
11/19	The Portfolio system	None	None
<b>11/26</b>	<b>No class</b>		
12/3	Wrap-up	None	Portfolio upload
12/17	<b>Deadline for all late work is 3:30pm!</b>		I will submit grades for all students

*\* I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at anytime.*