

Psychology 300
Applying to Graduate School
Section 001 - Fall 2009
Wed. 2-2:50 PM
341 MARB

Professor: Julie Nelson, Ph.D. (julie_nelson@byu.edu)
Office: 1030 SWKT
Phone: 422-5958
Office Hours: M,W 11- 12 PM (or by appointment)

TA: Stephen Francis (steve.byu@gmail.com)
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Phone: 422- 4287 (Office)
Office Hours: M-Th 10-11 am (or by appointment)

Texts:

Those students interested in *clinical- and counseling-type programs* should get:

Mayne, T. J., Norcross, J.C., & Sayette, M.A (2006). *Insider's guide to graduate programs in clinical and counseling psychology. 2006/2007 Ed.* New York: The Guilford Press.

ISBN- 10:1-59385-258-4 OR
ISBN- 13:978-1-59358-258-0

Those students interested in *other programs* should get:

Keith-Spiegel, P. & Wiederman, M.W. (2000). *The complete guide to graduate school admission: Psychology, counseling, and related professions, 2nd Ed.*

Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc.
ISBN- 0-8058-3120-7 OR
ISBN-0-8058-3121-5

Course Description:

Psychology 300 is designed to help you maximize your chances of getting into a graduate program that fits your needs. It is a Pass/Fail class. If you do each assignment, you will pass. These assignments comprise tasks you will need to do anyway during the course of choosing and applying to graduate programs. Professor Nelson normally will not give feedback on individual assignments. Rather, you will share your writing with other students in the class and with professors of your choice for discussion and suggestions. Written assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the following class period.

Late Work –No late work will be accepted. If you feel that you cannot complete an assignment on time you must a) make arrangements with me well in advance of the due date of the assignment, or b) your excuse had better be very, very good!

Lateness –You are expected to be in class on time. Please plan your schedules accordingly. Arriving late is disrespectful to the professor and other class members. Students who arrive late often disrupt class work and may face academic sanctions.

Cell phones must be turned off during class; no text messaging. Sending or receiving email, surfing the web, or playing games via phone or laptop computer during class is prohibited as it is distracting to members of the class. Persons violating this policy will be dismissed from the lecture. Repeated violations of this policy will result in a reduction in the course grade to be determined by the professor.

Illness (Flu) –

Alert Dr. Nelson or Steve (graduate TA) through email or by telephone if you have the flu or are showing signs of the flu. You should not come to class ill, since your attendance will risk further spread of a serious virus. Communicate with your professors the seriousness of your illness and discuss ways you can submit work and make up any missed work without attending class.”

Miscellaneous –While every effort will be made to adhere to the assigned schedule, all times, topics, and subjects covered in the course are at the discretion of the professor and could change. Advance notice will be given in the event of any change. You are encouraged to attend all classes and to turn in assignments when scheduled.

Resources for Psychology Students:

APA Format Tutorials:

I require all writing assignments (and references) to be written in APA style. I strongly encourage you to complete the online tutorial to learn APA format. This tutorial includes changes made in the new 6th Edition of the APA manual.

<http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/basics/index.htm>

<http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/whatsnew/index.htm>

FHSS Writing Lab:

To get help with your paper's organization, structure, focus, tone, and documentation style, you can go to the FHSS Writing Lab in **1051 JFSB** to meet one-on-one with a peer advisor. All advisors are students from our college and are trained in APA, Turabian, and some AMA and MLA.

To prepare for a tutorial, take

- o a copy of the assignment
- o a hard copy of your draft, whatever stage it may be in
- o a list of questions and concerns you have about your paper

Drop in or make an appointment: **Monday through Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, closed Tuesday from 11:00 am-12:00 pm (for devotional) and Thursday from 3:00 pm- 5:00 pm (for staff meeting).**

For more information, go to <http://fhsswriting.byu.edu> or email: fhss-writinglab@byu.edu

Honor Code and Other Issues

Plagiarism

It is an act of plagiarism to "borrow" ideas or quotes from former students' old papers and from the papers of students presently taking the course with you. Plagiarism also includes quoting or paraphrasing passages from any of your references without giving proper credit to the real authors (i.e., an APA-style citation), because doing so implies that this information came from you. Presenting the ideas of others as one's own is called plagiarism. Plagiarism, as defined by the BYU Honor Code, is a form of intellectual theft. It is an act of fraud; it is dishonest, deceitful, unethical, and can lead to serious and lasting negative consequences for your academic and professional career. In addition, please use only those sources that meet the course criteria for acceptable reference materials.^[1]

Academic Honesty

While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. See <http://www.byu.edu/honorcode> for specific examples of intentional, inadvertent plagiarism, and fabrication, falsification.

Preventing Sexual Discrimination or Harassment

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual

^[1] Always do right. This will gratify some people, and astonish the rest.—Mark Twain

harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Opportunity Office at 801-422-5895 or 801-422-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 801-422-2847.

Students with Disabilities

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center located in 2170 WSC (801-422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Opportunity Office at 301-422-5895, D-282 ASB.

Student Learning Outcomes

Each program at BYU has developed a set of expected student learning outcomes. These will help you understand the objectives of the curriculum in the program, including this class. To learn the expected student outcomes for the programs in this department and college go to <<http://learningoutcomes.byu.edu>> and click on the College of Family, Home and Social Sciences and then this department. We welcome feedback on the expected student learning outcomes. Any comments or suggestions you have can be sent to <FHSS@byu.edu>.

Honor Code Standards

Students are also expected to adhere to the Dress and Grooming Standards. Adherence demonstrates respect for yourself and others and ensures an effective learning and working environment. It is the university's expectation, and my own expectation in class, that each student will abide by all Honor Code standards. Please call the Honor Code Office at 422-2847 if you have questions about those standards.

DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT	WRITING ASSIGNMENT
09/02	INTRODUCTION		
9	What should I be doing when?	Ch. 2 (KW) pp. 32-37 (MNS)	Timetable in text: Check off what you've done; make a timetable for what you still need to do. (Appendix A in MNS)
16	GRE: Graduate student panel—taking the GRE	Chapter 10 (KW) Ch. 1; pp. 17-32, 37-39, 53-57 (MNS)	
23	What are “they” looking for? What do I want?	Ch. 4 & 5 (KW) Ch. 4 (MNS)	List the characteristics you're looking for in a graduate program
30	How do I get information about programs? How do I make final program choices?	Ch. 11 & 15 (KW) Ch. 4 (MNS)	Compile detailed information on five graduate programs in which you're interested.
10/7	How do I get help from faculty? What about letters of recommendation?	Ch. 6 & 17 (KW) pp. 78-83 (MNS)	Approach at least one faculty member about writing a letter of recommendation for you.
14	What can I do academically? What about research and practicum experience? What about professional organizations and meetings?	Chapters 7, 8, & 9	
21	What about statements of purpose and other essays?	Ch. 19 (KW) pp. 75-78 (MNS)	Draft of personal statement
28	What about writing a resume?	Appendix A (KW) pp. 72-75 (MNS)	Draft of resume
11/04	What are my first steps in applying? What should I consider when filling out application forms?	Ch. 16 & 18 (KW) Ch. 5 (MNS)	
11	Faculty panel: Applications and interviews		
12/18	Making final decisions. Is there anything I can do other than wait? How do I accept and reject offers? What if I'm an alternate for a program?	Ch. 21, 23, & 24 (KW) Ch. 7 (MNS)	
12/25	No class:	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	
12/2	Graduate student panel: How to succeed in graduate school		

