PSY 380: SENIOR SEMINAR IN PSYCHOLOGY
Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 – 10:50 AM
Fall 2008

Avidan Milevsky, Ph.D.        Office: OM 390
Milevsky@Kutztown.edu        Office hours:
faculty.kutztown.edu/milevsky       Tue: 12:30 – 1:30 PM
Office phone: (610) 683-1363        Thu: 4:30 – 6:00 PM
Fax number: (610) 683-4467        Fri: 8:30 – 11:00 AM

Course Description:

This course, required of all liberal arts students majoring in psychology, provides an opportunity for senior
psychology majors to critically examine selected significant issues and problems within the discipline of psychology.
Through critical reading, discussion and expository writing students are encouraged to integrate and synthesize prior
training in psychology as they critically and creatively examine important issues and problems in the field. This
course should be taken during the school year of expected graduation. Required of all Psychology majors.

Prerequisites: PSY 011 with a C or better, PSY 200 with a C or better, Senior standing or permission of the
instructor.

Required text:


Course Requirements:

❖ Research proposal:

Research project:

You are to write, with a classmate, an APA style paper proposing an original research idea in any area of psychology.
The paper should include a literature review, proposal, method, and proposed analysis. You must submit your topic
and a brief overview by September 18. The instructor must approve the topic of the paper before you proceed with the
assignment. The information from the paper will be presented to the class in a 10-minute conference style presentation.
The instructor will assign the date of each presentation. Your paper is due the day you present. (100 points, based on
paper’s theoretical and empirical foundation, methodological feasibility of proposal, verbal presentation, APA style,
and time management of presentation)

❖ Professional/academic portfolio:

Career objectives:

Based on your career objectives you are to compile a professional or academic portfolio. If you plan on entering the
work force you are to compile a professional portfolio which includes documentation of academic, applied and service
accomplishments. If you plan on entering graduate school the portfolio should include all documentation needed for a
specific graduate school application packet to be determined. You should research what is typically included in the
portfolio that you are constructing. (50 points, based on accurate and complete information for each section of the
work)

❖ Mock professional/academic interview:

You will partner with another student with similar career goals as yourself and will conduct a 10-minute mock
interview in front of the class. One of you will serve as the interviewer and the other as the interviewee. You should
research the questions that are typically asked at an interview for a clinical position or graduate school and be prepared
with several questions, or with several answers for your interview. You will not know your partner until right before
you perform. (50 points, based on appropriateness of questions/responses, professionalism, poise, and time
management)
Critical analysis of classic studies:

- **Study review presentation:**

Each student will choose two of the assigned readings and will lead the class discussion for that reading on the day it is assigned. The presentation should begin with an overview of the reading followed by a discussion on the paper. The information should be conveyed to the class using a power point presentation. The entire presentation should be about 20 minutes. (100 points - 50 per presentation, based on thoroughness of presentation, engagement of class during the discussion, and time management)

- **Exams:**

There will be a midterm and a final exam on our class readings and discussions. The exams will be essay format. (100 point total, 50 per exam)

- **Reflective Essay:**

At the end of the semester, you will write a 1 page, double-spaced, paper detailing your impressions of the course. The paper should include 1.) A reflection on the information you gained during the semester, 2.) Ways in which you plan on incorporating the content of the course in your professional life, 3.) Your overall impression of the course. (25 points, based on coherence of paper, accurate understanding of the gestalt of the course, and conformity to length requirement)

- **Engagement in the learning process:**

Based on completion of class and home assignments by the deadlines, level of preparation for class, participation (quality not quantity), attendance, and punctuality. I particularly enjoy when students engage me in discussion in my office or in the hallways on the day’s class discourse. (75 points)

**Grade distribution:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>450-500</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>300-349</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>400-449</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-299</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>350-399</td>
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**Attendance:**

Attendance will be calculated as part of your engagement in the learning process grade. If you must miss a class, due to a legitimate circumstance, let me know before the absence that you will not be present in class. Students are reminded; however, that they are still responsible for the material covered in class and for whatever work was assigned and/or performed. They are also reminded that it is the student’s responsibility to do whatever is necessary to obtain material missed and to obtain and complete assigned work missed.

**Assignments:**

All assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of class on the day the assignment is due. If an assignment is handed in late the paper will receive a maximum of 50 % of the original grade.

**Instructional support:**

If for any reason you are finding it hard to keep up with the class assignments, feel free to come and see me during office hours or by scheduling an appointment. The best way to contact me is via e-mail, so if you have any questions or comments you may also email me for the quickest response.
Web-based support:

The assistance of my web page will be used throughout the course. You may find on the page: the class syllabus, an example of an APA style paper, information about canceled classes and other useful information. It is imperative that you utilize this tool.

Academic honesty and integrity:

All students are expected to conform to the University Code of Conduct, and to adhere to the principles of academic integrity as defined by the University Division of Student Affairs and the Division of Academic Affairs.

Incomplete grades:

A grade of ‘I’ (Incomplete) may only be granted, at the option of the instructor and the Department Chairperson, to a student who, due to serious, documented, and verifiable extenuating circumstances beyond his/her control (such as an illness requiring hospitalization) is unable to complete the work required to obtain a grade for a course. In no case shall a grade of ‘I’ be granted to a student because he/she is not passing a course and desires additional time to attempt to obtain a passing grade. A student granted a grade of ‘I’ must complete the work deemed by the instructor necessary to complete the course no later than two semesters after the grade was assigned to the student, or the grade shall automatically revert to a grade of ‘F’ (failing grade).

Right of revision:

Since the instructor adjusts his teaching, the material presented, and the course schedule according to the needs and characteristics of his current students, the instructor reserves the right to make revisions to any item on this syllabus, including, but not limited to, any class policy, the course outline, examination schedule, grading policy, required projects, etc.

Special needs:

Students with disabilities who may need special accommodations should contact and immediately register with the Office of Disabilities Services so that arrangements can be made to accommodate their needs. In addition, they are encouraged to inform the instructor that they will be contacting the aforementioned office to arrange special accommodations.
## Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>READING</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>Group and topic selection</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>NO CLASS – MONDAY SCHEDULE</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>Reading 1 and 2, portfolio information and style selection</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 9</td>
<td>Reading 3 and 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 11</td>
<td>Reading 5 and 6, Proposal writing workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>Reading 7 and 8, interview style selection</td>
<td>Topic overview due</td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td>Reading 9 and 10</td>
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<td>September 23</td>
<td>Reading 11 and 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>Reading 13 and 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>Fieldwork assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Reading 15 and 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 7</td>
<td>Reading 17 and 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>Fieldwork assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>Fieldwork assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>Reading 19 and 20</td>
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<td>October 21</td>
<td><strong>Mid-term exam</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>Reading 21 and 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>Reading 23 and 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>Reading 25 and 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>Reading 27, 28, and 29</td>
<td>Portfolio due</td>
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<td>November 6</td>
<td>Reading 30, 31, and 32</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 11</td>
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<td>Mock interview</td>
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<td>November 13</td>
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<td>Mock interview</td>
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<td>November 18</td>
<td>Reading 33 and 34</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 20</td>
<td>Reading 35, 36, and 37</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 25</td>
<td>Reading 38, 39, and 40</td>
<td>Reflective Essay due</td>
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<td>November 27</td>
<td>NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2</td>
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<td>Proposal presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
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<td>Proposal presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9 (8A)</td>
<td><strong>Final exam</strong></td>
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I, ______________________________, have thoroughly read this entire class syllabus and I understand and agree to strictly abide by all the class policies and procedures herein established.

Student Name (printed)  _________________________

Phone Number             _________________________

Student Email    _________________________

Date                              _________________________

Student Signature          ________________________ _