

# Capstone Seminar in Psychology – PSYC 494-002

A course offered by  
The Department of Psychology  
Spring 2012

**Meeting Time:** Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.

**Room:** Alumni Hall 1203

**Instructor:** Christopher B. Rosnick, Ph.D., MPH

**Office Location:** Alumni Hall 0132

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 10:45 – 11:30 p.m. and by appointment

**Phone:** 618-650-5351

**E-mail:** crosnic@siue.edu

## Required Texts:

*Concise Rules of APA Style* (6th ed.). (2009). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Cronk, B.C. (2010). *How to Use PASW Statistics: A step-by-step guide to analysis and interpretation* (6<sup>th</sup> Edition). Glendale, CA: Pyrczak Publishing.

## Course Description:

This course will examine the relationship between stress/ intrusive thinking and [insert construct of your liking] in young adulthood. Students will explore different theories about how stress impacts our lives. The theories will cover the psychological and biological effects of stress on our health and cognition. At the completion of the course, the students will have a better understanding of the impact of stress on students' lives. The course will consist of reading original research, developing a testable research question, analyzing data, and presenting a poster to the psychology faculty.

## Learning Objectives:

1. Students will develop a better understanding of the stress response and how it impacts health and cognitive functioning across the lifespan.
2. Students will develop the necessary skills to read and synthesize original research
3. Students will learn the process of conducting research with human subjects and the necessary procedures for gaining IRB approval.
4. Students will develop a working hypothesis, collect data, create an SPSS database, determine the appropriate analysis to answer their proposed question, and interpret the results.
5. Ultimately, students will learn how to write an APA style manuscript and prepare/ present a poster to the psychology faculty.

## Expectations

1. You are expected to be prepared for class each time; be prepared to discuss class content. Reading the material is imperative in understanding the background to what you will be doing for your projects. More importantly, they will give you the knowledge to conduct your own experiment.
2. You have to be self-motivated in this course, seek feedback from myself or group members, and be a conscientious group member.
3. Your notes from 220/221 will be helpful. I assume that you have basic knowledge of SPSS, and that you have the statistical and methodological knowledge you gained in 220/221.
4. As stated in your college handbook, you should expect to work 2 hours outside of class for every hour inside class (approximately 10-12 hours per week outside of class). It is necessary that some of the time you spend outside of class must be spent here at SIUE (either in a computer lab or working with your teammates). If you are only able to be at SIUE during class, and not at any other time, you should take this course during a different semester.
5. If you have difficulty with any of the content of the class or the assignments, please feel free to visit with me during office hours. If office hours are not convenient for you, I am happy to meet with you on an appointment basis.
6. If you need to be absent due to medical reasons (yours or your immediate family's) on a test day or a day that an assignment is due, please provide a physician's note and notify me PRIOR to class.

## Individual Grades

### Homework (60)/ Midterm Exam (100)

There will be three homework assignments at the beginning of the semester. The homework assignments will consist of running analyses in SPSS and worth 20 pts each. There will be no make-up assignments offered.

The Midterm Exam will cover material from the text, lectures and class discussion. The exam will consist of short answer and essay questions. This exam will be worth 100 points. I will not hand out any exams after the first exam has been turned in, so be on time. There will be no make-up exams offered.

### Articles/Reference List (30)

Each group member will bring a copy of their articles with their individual reference list for me to review. This will be due with the proposal (see below).

### OPTIONAL Paper Sections/ Final Paper (150)

At two points during the semester, you will have the opportunity to turn in sections of your paper for feedback. It is expected that each section will be turned in as if it were for your final grade. This is the ONLY chance you have to receive feedback on your paper prior to turning in your final draft. You will turn in a complete APA style paper detailing your project at the end of the semester (guidelines will be handed out later).

Reflection Paper (20)

At the end of the semester, you will turn in a paper that details what you have learned throughout the semester. I would also like you to indicate how the class will help you in your future endeavors. Lastly, I would like you to list two things you liked about the course and two things that you think can be improved (keeping in mind that a large part of the course is out of my control).

**Group Grades**

Proposal (20)

Your group will complete a proposal that describes what you intend to study for your senior assignment project. This proposal needs to be complete enough to obtain IRB approval, which means you need to know what your IVs and DVs are, who your participants will be, what you expect to find, why you are doing the study, and if there are any potential risks for the participants. As part of the proposal, the group will turn in a complete reference list (i.e., listing all 40 articles for a group of 4).

Oral Presentation (50)/ Final Poster Presentation (120)

Each group will give a 15-20 minute presentation of their project to the class. You will present the poster via a PowerPoint presentation.

You will be graded based on the quality of your poster (based on the feedback from the Psychology faculty at the Senior Assignment Poster Session) and the assessment by the other members in your group.

**Your grade will be based on the following (subject to change):**

	Points
<b>Individual Grades</b>	
<i>Homework</i>	60
<i>References</i>	30
<i>Midterm Exam</i>	100
<i>Final APA Paper</i>	150
<i>Reflection Paper</i>	20
<b>Group Grades</b>	
<i>Proposal</i>	20
<i>Oral presentation</i>	50
<i>Poster presentation</i>	120
<b><u>TOTAL POSSIBLE</u></b>	<b><u>550</u></b>

Your grade will be assigned based upon a 90% (A), 80% (B), etc., grading system. **I will not curve or round in grading.**

## **CLASS POLICIES:**

### *Attendance*

Class attendance is **MANDATORY**. Please send me an e-mail or call if you will not be in class (students are responsible for getting any assignments made during class if absent-contact your group before contacting me for class materials). Any student absent for ***more than 4 classes*** (for whatever reason; so, contacting me prior to missing does not “excuse” the absence) in a semester will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of WR (<http://www.siu.edu/policies/1i9.shtml>). **YOU WILL BE CONSIDERED ABSENT IF YOU ARE MORE THAN 20 MINUTES LATE.**

### *Final Grades*

Your final grade is your FINAL grade. If you are unhappy with your final grade but agree that it has been calculated correctly as described above, please do not ask to meet with me to discuss what you can do for a better grade, or extra opportunities to make a better grade. The answer to such unfair requests must always be "no".

### *E-mail*

Please use appropriate salutations when you e-mail me. Also, be sure to “sign” the e-mail so I know who I am speaking with. If you leave out either one of these, I will not respond.

### *Blackboard*

I will post information on Blackboard, including course lectures and articles for you to download and read. You will need Microsoft PowerPoint to view the lectures and Adobe Acrobat to view the articles. Lecture notes will generally be posted **AFTER** a lecture. These notes are provided to help you study and should be seen as a luxury, not a right. The articles should be downloaded and read before the date they will be covered. Check the Blackboard site regularly (at least once a day) for announcements/ updates. You are responsible for any information I post there.

### *Senior Assignment Groups*

You will be assigned into groups of no more than four students and you should sit with your team during class. At the end of the semester, you will be provided with an opportunity to give feedback about the relative contribution of your group members to your senior assignment project. Each individual will anonymously rate all other members of his/her group at the end of the course. Each person will assign a portion of the 100% workload to each member. So, for instance, in a team of four, if each person contributed equally, each will be assigned 25%. If person X is assigned a 25%, 25%, 20%, and 24% from the four members of the group, they would receive a 94% peer evaluation. This score will then serve to amend their team grade. If the team received a 75/100, then person X would receive a team score of  $75 \times 0.94 = 70.5$ . In this way, team members are encouraged to pull their weight. I do reserve the right to override the peer evaluation score if it appears it is being used unfairly. Also, reduced peer evaluation scores will require written justification.

**If you miss the Senior Assignment Poster Session, you will receive a failing grade for the poster and will fail the Senior Assignment.**

#### *Assignment Due Dates*

**No assignments/papers/etc will be accepted late.** If you miss a quiz, paper, draft, the poster presentation, or your oral presentation, you will receive a 0 for that assignment.

#### *Class Environment*

It is important to recognize that the classroom is an environment that requires respect for all participants. Therefore, students are expected to conduct themselves in a considerate manner. This means: being on time, turning off cell phones (if I **SEE** them out, I will ask you to leave), pagers, iPods, and headphones, avoiding extraneous talking and chat, refraining from reading non-class materials, closing laptops (except for note taking purposes), and eating in class.

#### *Course Materials:*

Materials used in this class, including papers, exams, and grading materials will be retained only through August 2012, after which they will be destroyed.

#### *Tapes and Notes*

It is not permitted to sell notes or tapes from this class without the expressed written consent of the instructor. Not only is it not permitted; it is illegal.

#### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Any student with a documented disability is encouraged to meet with me privately during the first week of class to discuss accommodations.

#### **Withdrawal from Classes and Incomplete Grade Policies**

All withdrawals must be completed by the end of the 13th week of classes during fall and spring, and by the end of the 6th week of an 8-week summer term. When students discontinue attending class and do not withdraw from a course they may receive the grade of UW (Unauthorized Withdrawal). The grade of UW will only be given when a student's grade based on the course requirements is an F. The grade of UW is calculated as an F in a student's grade average. The granting of a grade of I (Incomplete) is not automatic and is available only in cases when a student has completed most of the work required for a class but is prevented by a medical or similar emergency from completing a small portion of the work not later than the end of the following semester. If an instructor agrees to give a student an I, the instructor will fill out a Memorandum of Incomplete Grade to be kept with the student's records. If the work is not completed by the time specified on the Memorandum, the student's grade will be changed from I to F.

#### **Academic Dishonesty**

Cheating is defined as follows: (a) the unauthorized granting or receiving of aid during the prescribed period of a course-graded exercise: students may not consult

written materials such as notes or books, may not look at the paper of other students not consult orally with any other student taking the same examination; (b) asking another person to take an examination in one's place; (c) taking an examination for or in place of another student; (d) stealing visual concepts, such as drawings, sketches, diagrams, graphs, maps, etc., and presenting them as one's own; (e) stealing, borrowing, buying, downloading from the internet, or disseminating tests answer keys, or other exam materials, except as officially authorized, as in the case of research papers, speeches, etc.; (f) stealing or copying of computer programs and presenting them as one's own, which includes the use of another student's program as obtained from the magnetic media or interactive terminals or form cards, print-out papers, etc.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism includes either presenting someone else's words without quotation marks (even if you cite the source) or presenting someone else's ideas without citing that source. If you plagiarize, your instructor cannot evaluate your understanding of the topic. When paraphrasing from another source, at the very least the student should change the wording, sentence syntax, and order of ideas presented in the paper. Ideally, the student will integrate ideas from multiple sources while providing critical commentary on the topic in a way that clearly identifies whether words and ideas are those of the student or are from another source. Plagiarism is one type of academic misconduct described in SIUE's Student Academic Code (<http://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>). University policy states that "Normally a student who plagiarizes shall receive a grade of F in the course in which the act occurs. The offense shall also be reported to the Provost." (<http://www.siu.edu/policies/1i6.shtml>). The University policy discusses additional academic sanctions including suspension and expulsion from the University. To insure that you understand how to avoid plagiarism, we encourage you to review the information on plagiarism provided on the Department of Psychology web page at <http://www.siu.edu/education/psychology/plagiarism.shtml>.

I trust you will be honest in this course. Cheating on exams, plagiarism on class assignments, and other forms of cheating will result in a grade of zero for the assignment and other sanctions will be provided to the fullest possible extent.

**Department of Psychology SRA Policy:** All students at SIUE are required to do a Senior Assignment in order to graduate. This is the class in which you will work on this project. In order to pass the Senior Assignment requirement, you must 1) pass your Capstone course with a grade of C or better 2) present a poster based on the project you completed in the Capstone class at the Department of Psychology's Senior Assignment Poster Session, 3) have your poster deemed acceptable by the faculty (i.e., a mean rating of 4 or above on the faculty evaluation form) and 4) fulfill any other senior assignment requirements stipulated by your professor. In the event that you do not fulfill all four requirements in a given semester, you will need to retake the Capstone course and complete all four requirements in a subsequent semester. For example, if you receive below a C in the Capstone course, even if your poster presentation is deemed acceptable by the faculty, you will fail to complete the senior assignment requirement and must retake Capstone in its entirety with a new project. If you receive a C or better in the

Capstone course, but your poster presentation is deemed unacceptable by the faculty, this in most circumstances will result in having to retake Capstone in its entirety, unless the Capstone professor presents evidence to the contrary. In order to help you with this endeavor, you have several resources: your Capstone professor, the Senior Assignment Coordinator (Dr. Brown), and two Senior Assignment Graduate Assistants (Jacob Morgan and Sarah Zuber).

This semester's Senior Assignment Poster Session will take place on Friday, **April 20, 2012** from 3:00 – 4:15, with a pinning ceremony to follow from 4:15 to 4:45) in the **Morris University Center (MUC) Conference Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**. **Your attendance at this event is mandatory in order to pass Senior Assignment – please plan your schedule accordingly!** In the event that a medical emergency or other extenuating circumstance (e.g., jury duty, death in the family, religious obligation) might prevent you from attending the Senior Assignment poster session you must seek approval from your capstone instructor immediately and provide documentation. Should you miss the poster session for this reason you may be required to complete an individual makeup assignment equivalent to the poster session. We will have a mandatory in-class meeting with the SRA graduate assistants during the 2nd week of class where specific procedures relating to SRA will be discussed. Please make every attempt to be in class on that day! Should you be absent, you **MUST** contact the SRA graduate assistants as soon as possible for an individual appointment with them to hear this information. The SRA GAs' office is AH 0310 and their office hours for this semester will be posted shortly after the first day of class. You can stop by during their office hours or e-mail them at [psychsra@yahoo.com](mailto:psychsra@yahoo.com) for an appointment. You can also reach Dr. Brown, the Senior Assignment Coordinator, at [danicbr@siue.edu](mailto:danicbr@siue.edu) or during her office hours on Tuesday, 11:00am – 1:00pm.

Finally, the SRA GAs will need to be e-mailed by **ONE** member of your group by 3rd week of March with the following information: your Capstone professor's name, the title of your poster, and the names of all other members of your group.

**The Psychology Department's Policy on Course Evaluations:** Students will receive a "0" on their final paper in this course unless they first complete a course evaluation. The procedure for completing the confidential, anonymous and brief course evaluation online will be described toward the end of the semester. The evaluation allows students to print a proof-of-completion page (after responses are electronically submitted) and this page should be presented to your professor before the last day of class.

**TENTATIVE Course Schedule**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
T- Jan. 10	Introduction/ Overview Human Subjects Training <a href="https://www.citiprogram.org/default.asp">https://www.citiprogram.org/default.asp</a>	
TR- Jan. 12	How to Do a Literature Review Reserving a room/Pool Party APA style	
T- Jan. 17	<b>SRA Intake</b> ANOVA vs. Regression	
TR- Jan. 19	What is Stress?	Chp. 1 & 2- Cassidy Chp. 1 & 2- Sapolsky
T- Jan. 24	What are stressors?	Chp. 3 & 4- Cassidy
TR- Jan. 26	“Proposals” Due w/ Lit Review	
T- Jan. 31	SPSS-ANOVA	
TR- Feb. 2	SPSS-ANOVA/REGRESSION <b>Homework #1 Due</b> Review HW #1	
T- Feb. 7	SPSS-REGRESSION	
TR- Feb. 9	<b>Homework #2 Due</b> Review HW #2	
T- Feb. 14	<b>Homework #3 Due</b> Review HW #3	
TR- Feb. 16	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
T- Feb. 21	<b>References Due</b> <b>Meet with Groups (????)</b>	
TR- Feb. 23	<b>References Due</b> <b>Meet with Groups (????)</b>	
T- Feb. 28	Setting up a database in SPSS	

TR- Mar. 1	Recoding variables <b><i>OPTIONAL INTRO/METHODS</i></b>	
T- Mar. 6	<b>NO CLASS-Spring Break</b>	
TR- Mar. 8	<b>NO CLASS-Spring Break</b>	
T- Mar. 13	<b>NO CLASS- Data Collection</b>	
TR- Mar. 15	<b>NO CLASS- Data Collection</b>	
T- Mar. 20	Data Entry	
TR- Mar. 22	Data Entry/Analysis <b>Info Due to SRA GA</b>	
T- Mar. 27	Data entry and Analysis	
TR- Mar. 29	Data entry and Analysis	
T- Apr. 3	Finalize posters	
TR- Apr. 5	Finalize posters <b><i>OPTIONAL RESULTS/ DISCUSSION</i></b>	
T- Apr. 10	Poster presentations to Class	
TR- Apr. 12	Poster presentations to Class	
T- Apr. 17	Last minute questions before BIG DAY	
TR- Apr. 19	<b>NO CLASS-CAC Conference</b>	
<b><i>FRI- Apr. 20</i></b>	<b><i>Senior Assignment Day- 3:00-4:45 MUC</i></b>	
T- Apr. 24	<b>Wrap up</b>	
TR- Apr. 26	Dr. Mainz- <b>Final Paper Due</b> <b>Reflection Paper Due</b>	

### **KEY DATES**

**Jan. 20th**- Last day to drop a class without receiving a grade/ Last day for a full refund of tuition and fees

**Feb. 3rd**- Last day to drop a class and receive a partial refund when withdrawing from all classes  
\* no refunds will be given after this date\*

**March 23rd**- Last day to withdraw from a class or school without permission of an adviser/instructor

**April 13th**- Last day to withdraw from a class with permission of an adviser/instructor

### **REGISTRATION DATES**

**Jan. 9th**- Students can start making appointments for Summer/Fall 2012 registration. Please sign up in the main Psychology office (AH 0118) with a student worker.

**March 12th**- Registration for students with 90+ hours start on the web

**March 19th**- Registration for students with 60-89 hours start on the web

**March 26th**- Registration for students with 30-59 hours start on the web

**April 2nd**- Registration for students with 0-29 hours start on the web

**REMINDER:** Students are asked to bring a potential schedule to their advising Session; students who fail to do so will be asked to reschedule their advising appointment.