

## Thinking and Writing about Psychology (PS-204)

### Fall quarter 2022 Syllabus (Subject to revision)

Instructor: Randall Webber, MPH, CADC

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Office Hours: Tu/Th 12:30-1:30 P.M. or by appointment

Texts: 1) *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (2019); 2) *Thinking about Psychology* (2013). Other materials to be announced.

Schedule: Tu/Th 2:00-3:50 PM

**Catalog Description:** Introduction to thinking, writing, and career options in psychology and related fields. Serves as an orientation to the psychology major. Emphasizes academic skills such as critical thinking in the field of psychology, writing in APA style, effective communication, and making logical arguments. Provides resources and tools to effectively use a psychology degree. A writing intensive course.

#### Schedule

- Sept 27: Class begins. Introduction to course and class/Reading assignment: *Thinking about Psychology*, Modules I & II
- Sept 29: *The Science and History of Psychology* (PowerPoint presentation)/Writing assignment 1: Violence and the Media. Introduction to Google Scholar.
- Oct 4: *The Science and History of Psychology Thinking about Psychology*, Module III
- Oct 6: *Research Methods* (PowerPoint presentation)/ Video: Ethics in Psychological Research/Writing assignment 1 due.
- Oct 11: *Critical Thinking* (PowerPoint presentation)/Writing assignment 2: Intelligence
- Oct 13: *Introduction to Writing in Psychology/APA Formatting*. Reading assignment: APA Publication Manual, Pps 9-13, Sections 1.17, 8.2, 8.3
- Oct 18: *Introduction to Writing in Psychology II*/Writing assignment 2 due/Reading assignment: APA Publication Manual, Chapter 4.
- Oct 20: Discussion of writing assignment 2/*Intelligence (PowerPoint presentation)*/Writing assignment 3: Will other people help you?/Reading assignment: *Thinking about Psychology*, Module 4: pps. 46-54
- Oct 25: Research Statistics (PowerPoint presentation)/writing assignment 4: Why do people wear or not wear bicycle helmets?
- Oct 27: Midterm exam
- Nov 1: Midterm review/Writing assignment 4 due/ Reading assignment: APA Publication Manual, Chapters 4 & 5.
- Nov 3: Discussion of Writing Assignment 4/APA Manual review/Writing assignment 5
- Nov 8: Writing assignment 5 due/Reading assignment: Guidelines for Good Writing (handout)
- Nov 10: Guidelines for good writing (PowerPoint presentation) /Writing assignment 6/Submit topic for final paper
- Nov 15: Guidelines for good writing (PowerPoint presentation)/APA formatting/Discussion of writing assignment 6 (due today)/reading assignment: APA Manual Chapter 6
- Nov 17: APA formatting/Referencing assignment

Nov 22: Discussion of referencing assignment/Guidelines for Good Writing (handout)/Reading assignment Thinking about Psychology, Appendix A.

Nov 24: No Class/Thanksgiving break

Nov 29: Careers in Psychology

Dec 1: Final paper due/Review for final exam

Week of December 5: Final exam

### **Attendance and Participation**

Students are expected to attend all classes on time. A sign-in sheet will be posted at the door and will be removed at the beginning of class. Student who are tardy can sign a sign-out sheet at the end of class, including time of arrival.

1. Students who maintain perfect attendance will be awarded one-half of a letter grade at the end of the term.
2. Students will be penalized one-half letter grade if they miss four (4) or more classes without instructor approval.
3. Students who arrive 15 minutes late for class will be marked tardy. Two tardies will be considered one absence. Students who arrive 30 minutes late for class will be marked absent.
4. Under extenuating circumstances the instructor has the right to use his judgement depending on the official documentation provided by the student. In the case of conflict, the student may appeal to the relevant program director or the Associate Provost. Their decision will be final.
5. Students are expected to participate in class. Class participation will be a factor in determining the student's final grade.
6. All students must turn in assigned work on time. No late submissions will be accepted.

### **EWU Student Attendance Policy**

1. When a student has reach one (1) week of unexcused absences prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> week of class, the instructor will attempt to reach out to the student (via phone or email) to determine the nature of the absences
2. When a student has reach two (2) week of unexcused absences prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> week of class and the student has not contacted the instructor regarding the absences, the instructor will withdraw the student from the class administratively without delay
3. Once a student has been administratively withdrawn from the class, the student may request reinstatement in writing and provide written, verifiable documentation for reinstatement to be considered. The decision to reinstate the student rests solely upon the instructor.
4. Nothing in this policy shall restrict the instructor from utilizing whatever resources he deems appropriate to assist a student with absences arising from a legitimate cause (e.g., illness, family emergency)

### **Academic Ethics**

Students in Psych 204 are expected to maintain a high standard of honesty in their academic work. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism or cheating on assignments, examinations, or other academic work, or without prior approval of the instructor, submitting work already done

for another course. Students shall avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to:

1. Plagiarism—the use of another’s words without attribution or without enclosing the words in quotation marks. Plagiarism may also be defined as the act of taking the ideas or expression of ideas of another person and representing them as one’s own - even if the original paper has been paraphrased or otherwise modified. A close or extended paraphrase may also be considered plagiarism even if the source is named.
2. Collusion—collaborating with another person in preparation of notes, themes, reports, or other written work offered for credit unless specifically permitted by the instructor.
3. Cheating on an examination or quiz—giving or receiving information or using prepared material on an examination or quiz.
4. Falsification of data —manufacturing, falsification of information, including providing false or misleading information, or selective use of data to support a particular conclusion or to avoid conducting actual research.

### **Grading**

Attendance: 10 pts/10%

Class participation: 10%

Writing assignments: 5 pts each (Total 30 pts)/30%

Midterm exam: 20%

Final paper: 30 Pts 30%

**TOTAL: 100 pts.**

90-100 pts = A

80-89 pts = B

70-79 pts = C

60-69 pts = D

Below 60 pts: F

East West University welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services at the Wellness Center which is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor room W310. You will need to provide whatever documentation you have to supports your request for reasonable accommodations. The Wellness Center will provide you with an accommodation letter. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. You must follow this process for every semester that you request accommodations.