



Course Syllabus

Course Number | Name: PSY496NT - Psychology Capstone

Course Credits: 3

Course Duration: 8 weeks

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to apply the full breadth of learning in the student's program to problems, proposing meaningful, research-based solutions. Students will evaluate a variety of career or grad school opportunities in their field and select an appropriate topic to research and present to their class.

Psychology Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs*):

1	Apply basic research methods, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.
2	Demonstrate critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to applying psychological principles to personal, social, ethical, religious, and organizational issues informed by a biblical worldview.
3	Develop insight into their own and others' behavior and mental processes and apply effective strategies for self-management, self-improvement, and self-care, as well as apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.
4	Identify and apply basic knowledge of major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology and to evaluate them from a Christian worldview.
5	Analyze empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.
6	Communicate effectively in a professional and diverse global environment.
7	Demonstrate digital literacy throughout their program.

***Every psychology course must include assessments of some, but not all of the PLOs. The highlighted ones are assessed in this course.**

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Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):

#	CLOs	Bloom's*	PLO(s)~
1	Students will demonstrate proficiency in data collection, analysis, and presentation by leveraging digital tools and platforms, ensuring that findings and proposals are communicated effectively in a professional setting.	3	6,7
2	Students will develop and propose actionable solutions based on research and stakeholder engagement to address community psychological issues, with an emphasis on ethical considerations and societal impact.	3	1,5
3	Students will effectively conduct comprehensive research on a selected psychological issue, integrating empirical findings with qualitative insights from key stakeholders.	4	1,3
4	Students will conduct thorough in-depth literature reviews to critically evaluate historical and current trends in psychology while also maintaining the perspective of the Christian worldview.	5	2,4

*Indicates Bloom's Taxonomy cognitive domain level.

~Indicates which PLO(s) are aligned with the CLO.

Biblical Worldview Integration Plan:

In this capstone course, we recognize that the pursuit of understanding human behavior, cognition, and emotion is fundamentally intertwined with the truths illuminated in the Bible. As a Christian institution, our approach to psychology is informed and enriched by our commitment to the Christian worldview. This course, therefore, seeks not only to equip students with an advanced understanding of psychological theories, principles, and practices but also to engage deeply with the Scriptures, drawing parallels and identifying intersections between contemporary psychology and biblical teachings. Evidence of this deep engagement will be demonstrated in the weekly discussion posts and in the final capstone project.

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Our exploration will consistently circle back to foundational biblical truths: the inherent value of every individual as made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), the call to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and the mandate to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). Through readings, discussions, assignments, and particularly our engagement with Volf's "Exclusion & Embrace," students are expected to wrestle with and reflect on the interplay between psychological insights and biblical principles.

In essence, our aim is to shape practitioners who are not only competent in the field of psychology but are also compassionate, ethical, and Christ-centered in their approach. We believe that a biblically integrated understanding of psychology offers a richer, more holistic perspective on human nature and behavior, equipping our graduates to serve both the church and society effectively, reflecting the love and wisdom of Christ in every interaction.

Required Media:

Volf, Miroslav. (2021) *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation*. Tantor and Blackstone Publishing. ASIN: B08ZB19BPR. CD

OR

Volf, Miroslav. (2019) *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation*. Abingdon Press. ISBN-13: 978-1501861079. Paper

Grading Grid:

Assessments (# in parentheses) - # pts. each if > 1	Total Points
Weekly Discussions (8) - 25 pts. each	200
Weekly Reading Quiz (8) - 25 pts. each	200
Capstone Project (5) - (Wk1 -25pts, Wk3 -100pts, Wk7-175pts, Wk8-200pts)	500
Essays (5) - 20 Pts each)	100
Total Points:	1,000

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Course Schedule:

Week 1

Media:

1. Volf, Chapter 1: The Cross, the self and the author
2. Mental Health Crisis – John Stossel Video
3. Surgeon General warns of mental health crisis | GMA Video
4. LIVE: Youth Mental Health Crisis Video
5. Action research in development | Action research example Video
6. How to conduct action research Video
7. Action Research: The Presentation Video
8. In the footsteps of Kurt Lewin Article
9. Collaborative Consultation and Program Evaluation Article

Assignments:

1. Assignment 1-1 Essay - See Instructions in the course
2. Assignment 1-2 Capstone Submission 1 - See Instructions in the course
3. Assignment 1-3 Quiz 1
4. Wk1 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 2

Media:

1. Volf, Chapter 2 - Distance and Belonging
2. How to Review a Research Paper Video
3. What is an Annotated Bibliography? Video
4. Action Research: How to Formulate a Great Research Video
5. Action Research: How to Analyze Research Video
6. Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR): Towards Equitable Involvement of Community in Psychology Research Article

Assignments:

1. Assignment 2-1 Essay - See Instructions in the course
2. Assignment 2-2 Quiz 2
3. Wk2 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

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Week 3

Media:

1. Volf, Chapter 3 - Exclusion
2. Semi-structured interviews guide I semi-structured interview protocol Video
3. Giving your stakeholders a voice: carrying out effective public engagement and consultations Video

Assignments:

1. Assignment 3-1 Quiz 3
2. Assignment 3-2 Capstone Submission 2- See Instructions in the course
3. Wk3 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 4

Media:

1. Volf, Chapter 4 - Embrace
2. How to analyse qualitative data for an interview I semi-structured interview Video

Assignments:

1. Assignment 4-1 Essay - See Instructions in the course
2. Assignment 4-2 Quiz 4
3. Wk4 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 5

Media:

1. Volf, Chapter 5 - Oppression and Justice
2. Analysing qualitative interviews I semi-structured interview guide in qualitative research Video
3. A step by step guide to qualitative data analysis Article
4. QUALITATIVE Research Design: Everything You Need To Know (With Examples) Video

Assignments:

1. Assignment 5-1 Essay- See Instructions in the course
2. Assignment 5-2 Quiz 5
3. Wk5 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

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Week 6

Media:

1. Volf, Chapter 6 - Deception and Truth
2. Action Research: How to Write Conclusions Video
3. Basics of Summarizing Research Findings Article

Assignments:

1. Assignment 6-1 Quiz 6
2. Wk6 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 7

Media:

1. Volf, Chapter 7 - Violence and Peace
2. Presenting Research Results: Presenting Results as Telling Stories Video
3. Presenting Findings from Qualitative Research: One Size Does Not Fit All! Article

Assignments:

1. Assignment 7-1 Essay - See Instructions in the course
2. Assignment 7-2 Capstone Submission 3 - See Instructions in the course
3. Assignment 7-3 Quiz 7
4. Wk7 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 8

Media:

1. Volf, Epilogue - Two Decades Later

Assignments:

1. Assignment 8-1 Capstone Project Part 4-Presentation of findings – Final Submission - See Instructions in the course
2. Assignment 8-2 Portfolio - See Instructions in the course
3. Assignment 8-3 Quiz 8
4. Wk8 Discussion - See Instructions in the course