
Careers in Psychology (PSY 3073) – 1 credit
Course Syllabus, Spring 2020
INSERT DAY/TIME HERE
INSERT CLASS LOCATION HERE

Instructor: Edward Ester

e-mail: eester@fau.edu

Phone: (561) 297-1278

Office: BS 212 (Behavioral Sciences Building, Boca Campus)

Office Hour(s): by appointment.

Course Overview

Careers in Psychology are as varied as the field itself. In recent years, FAU Psychology graduates have pursued careers in mental health, social work, addiction recovery, information technology (Facebook and Google), state and local government, the armed forces (as civilians), computer science, artificial intelligence, and academia.

So, what would you like to do with your Psychology degree? Perhaps you know exactly what kind of career you want to pursue. Perhaps you have a vague inkling of what you'd like to do but aren't totally sure yet. Or, perhaps you have no idea what you want to do yet. Regardless of which category you fall into, this course is here to help. We'll introduce you to typical career paths in Psychology, including careers requiring undergraduate (BA/BS) and graduate degrees (MA/MS and Ph.D/PsyD), and in many cases you'll learn about different career options from different FAU Psychology faculty and recent program graduates. You'll also learn practical skills that will help you work towards your career goals, such as how to draft a cover letter for a job application, a personal statement for a graduate school application, and a curriculum vitae or resume that you'll need to pursue virtually any career in Psychology.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will have learned about different career options for students completing undergraduate and graduate degrees in Psychology, and about how you can tailor your coursework at FAU for the career you want. You'll also learn skills that'll help you to be a successful job or graduate school applicant, including (1) how to identify job, graduate school, and volunteer opportunities that fit your career goals, (2) how to write a killer curriculum vitae, cover letter, and personal statement, (3) how to identify and contact a prospective research mentor, and (4), how to apply to graduate school. These skills will help you navigate the (often challenging) transition from Psychology student to Psychology graduate.

Course Format

This course employs traditional lecture format, invited guests, written assignments, and exercises. Assignments and additional readings will be posted on Canvas.

Course Materials

1. The Psychology Major's Handbook, by Tara L. Kuther (5th ed), ISBN 9781544359465 (can be purchased on Amazon or other major retailers for ~\$40)
2. Other materials (handouts, example assignments) will be made available on Canvas.

Assignments and Grading

Attendance (30%): Students are expected to attend and participate in each class.

Practical Assignments (60%): This course includes several practical assignments that'll help you plan for and follow the career path of your choice. These include:

1. Drafting a resume or curriculum vitae
2. Drafting a cover letter for a job application and/or a personal statement for a graduate school application
3. Developing a degree plan that helps you identify elective courses that align with your career goals
4. How to find a research mentor or graduate program that's right for you.

Each assignment is worth 15% points towards your final grade. Feel free to work in groups to complete each assignment, but every student must turn in their own assignment. Plagiarism will not be tolerated (see Honor Code Policy below).

Anonymous Peer Review (10%): Each assignment will be graded twice. Once by me, and a second time by one of your classmates in a "double-blind" review format. Basically, we'll leverage the fact that we all have different experiences and knowledge bases to help make our own work better.

In brief, each assignment will be submitted via Canvas on the due dates below. Every student will then be given a classmate's assignment to review and score within one week of the submission date. The purpose peer review is twofold: first, it'll allow you to see examples from other students and incorporate helpful ideas into your own projects. Second, it'll allow you to collect constructive and helpful feedback from your peers. After reviews are submitted, I'll make reviewer comments available to each student. I will also read each student's project and their peer reviews before assigning a final grade.

The review process is totally anonymous: the reviewer won't know whose assignment they're evaluating, and the student won't know who evaluated their assignment (hence "double-blind").

Grading scale (%):

100 - 93.00 = A

92.99 - 90.00 = A-

89.99 - 87.00 = B+

86.99 - 83.00 = B

82.99 - 80.00 = B-

79.99 - 77.00 = C+

76.99 - 73.00 = C

72.99 - 70.00 = C-

69.99 - 67.00 = D+

66.99 - 63.00 = D

62.99 - 60.00 = D-

<59.99 = F

Communication and Attendance

Communication: The easiest way to reach me is via e-mail (eester@fau.edu). I try to reply to all questions within 24 hours, but please note that this may not always be possible. In general, questions about the course material should be directed to your teaching assistant. If you're still having problems, please contact me and we can arrange a time to meet.

Attendance: As noted above, attendance counts for 30% of your final grade. Moreover, FAU policy is that students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

FAU Policies & Procedures

Honor Code Policy: Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high-quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University regulation 4.001 at [http://www.fau.edu/ctl/4.001 Code of Academic Integrity.pdf](http://www.fau.edu/ctl/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf)

Disability Policy: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Reasonable Accommodation Statement for Makeups: Reasonable accommodation will be made for students participating in a religious observance or in University-approved activities, including athletic or scholastics teams, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center: Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Credit Hour Definition: This course involves 50 minutes of in-class instruction for each credit hour per week. To master the material covered in this course it is expected that the student will spend a minimum of three hours per week per credit hour on the out-of-classroom assignments.

Course Schedule

Note: dates & topics subject to change

Week	Topic	Assignment
1	Course Introduction & Objectives	Kuther Ch. 1-2 (p. 1-47)
2	Career Paths in Psychology I: Academic	
3	Career Paths in Psychology II: Industry	
4	Career Paths in Psychology III: Clinical	
5	Entry-level jobs in Psychology (BA/BS)	Kuther Ch. 3 (p. 49-66)
6	Graduate-level jobs in Psychology (MA/MS)	Kuther Ch. 10 (211-222)
7	Graduate-level jobs in Psychology (Ph.D, PsyD, MD, JD)	Kuther Ch. 10 (211-222)
8	Course Planning: Getting the most out of your degree	Degree Plan
9	Getting Involved: Research, Volunteer, Social, and Internship Opportunities	Kuther Ch. 4 (p. 67-83)
10	Preparing a CV and Cover Letter (Part I)	Draft CV & Cover Letter #1
11	Preparing a CV and Cover Letter (Part II)	Draft CV & Cover Letter #2
12	Graduate School: Options & Considerations	Lindsay Handout
13	Graduate School: The application process (Part I)	Kuther Ch. 11 (p. 227-266)
14	Graduate School: The application process (Part II)	Draft Statement of Purpose
15	The Importance of Perseverance and Resilience	CV of Failures