Psych 470A: Graduate Study and Career Paths in Professional Psychology---3 credit hours

Tuesday and Thursday from 3:40-5 PM at W289 Lago
(Fall Semester 2007)

Instructor:

ART KONAR (akonar@iastate.edu)

OFFICE HOURS: 10 AM- 11:50 AM Thursday, 3-3:30 PM Tuesday and Thursday
W279 Lago, 294-7462

Course Description: This class is designed to introduce the student to avenues in graduate study and career paths in professional psychology. This class is intended for upper level psychology majors who are considering graduate study in psychology. The student will learn various and specific roles of psychologists in the following settings: schools, business, hospitals, industry, forensic settings, health related settings, military settings, private practice, psychiatric settings, mental health centers and college and university settings. More focus will be on the role of psychologists in clinical, consulting and supervisory settings and less on the role of a psychologist as a researcher/faculty at a major university.

This class is divided into five professional sections. Each section will include readings, class discussion, interviewing/shadowing or researching psychologists in the field, and may involve guest lecturers. The 6th and last section will involve the student deciding which type a graduate program appeals to him/her and then preparing a mock application to that graduate school.

Class Requirements: Class attendance is mandatory. There will be no allowable unexcused absences for the semester. If the student is ill or has an immediate crisis he/she will be asked to clear the absence with the instructor before the class. If the student misses one week with an unexcused absence he/she may be asked to quit the course under the instructor’s discretion. The course will consist of lectures, demonstrations, discussions and projects designed to augment, supplement and integrate the reading assignments described in this syllabus. The projects and discussion will be an integration of the reading and lecture material as well as information that the student researched outside of class.
CLASS PREREQUISITE: The student must have at least 12 credit hours in psychology prior to taking this class. The student should want to explore graduate study in psychology.

Class Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday 3:40-5 PM –W189 Lago

Section I: Academia

Assignment: 8/21-9/4 Read Section I of Sternberg pages 1-98, interview an academic psychologist, prepare presentation on topic to be discussed

August 21: Introductions, Review of Syllabus. Getting to know the student’s experience, knowledge base and interests.

August 23: Psychology Faculty at a Research I University vs. Teaching at a Liberal Arts College—Research—Teaching—Administration—Service

August 28: Internships and Careers at college and university counseling services and affiliated mental health clinics Guest Lecturer: Erin Pederson, staff psychologist, ISU Counseling Services

August 30: Schools of Education vs. Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences vs. Medical Schools vs. Business Schools

September 4: Student presentation on an interviewed or researched psychologist in Academia

Section II: Clinical Psychology

Assignment: 9/06-9/20 Read Section II (except Chapter 8) of Sternberg pages 99-200, interview an clinical psychologist, prepare presentation on topic to be discussed in class

September 6: The history and philosophical underpinnings of clinical psychology

September 11: Clinical Psychology with psychiatric patients
September 13: Psychological Assessments: from a clinical psych perspective

September 18: Clinical Neuropsychology in various settings

September 20: Student presentation on an interviewed or researched clinical psychologist

Section III: Counseling Psychology

Assignment: 9/25-10/9 Chapter 8 in Sternberg; Other readings to be assigned, interview a school psychologist, prepare presentation on topic to be discussed in class

September 25: The history and philosophical underpinnings of counseling psychology

September 27: Guest Lecturer: Terry Mason, director ISU Counseling Services

October 2: Psychological Assessments: from a counseling psych perspective

October 4: Counseling and Psychotherapy in private practice

October 9: Student presentation on an interviewed or researched counseling psychologist

Section IV: School Psychology

Assignment: 10/11-10/23 Chapter 13 in Sternberg; Other readings to be assigned, interview a school psychologist or educational administrator, prepare presentation on topic to be discussed in class

October 11: The changing role of school psychology from classification to consultation

October 16: Counseling, Guidance and Consultation in school related settings
Guest Lecturer: Jeff Anderson, Principal Ames Middle School

October 18: IQ and Achievement Testing
October 23: Student presentation on an interviewed or researched school psychologist or educational administrator

Section V: Other Frontiers of Psychology

Assignment: 10/25-11/15 Section III and IV in Sternberg (except Chapter 13); Other readings to be assigned, interview an I/O, Forensic psychologist or another psychologist in a non-traditional setting, prepare presentation on topic to be discussed in class

October 25: Supervision of other practitioners and psychologists-in-training

October 30: I/O Psychology—Consultation and tests

November 1: Forensic psychology—Dr. Eugene Deisinger

November 6: Military and VA Psychologists

November 8: Sports Psychology

November 13: Psychology in the Public Interest: Public Policy

November 15: Student presentation on an interviewed or researched I/O, Forensic psychologist or another psychologist in a non-traditional setting

Section VI: Graduate Applications

Assignment: 11/27-12/06 Preparation of a mock application to a graduate program in psychology: Resource—APA Graduate Study in Psychology 2008

November 27: Exploration of APA Graduate Study in Psychology 2008 book—break into groups of two or three

November 29: Preparation of Application: What is needed

December 4: Preparation of application: Finishing up the job
December 6: Student presentation of selected aspects of the graduate application

The relative weights for class grades are as follows:

15 points  Presentation from Section I
15 points  Presentation from Section II
15 points  Presentation from Section III
15 points  Presentation from Section IV
15 points  Presentation from Section V
15 points  Presentation/Application from Section VI
10 points  Class discussion and participation

TEXTS:

**Career Paths in Psychology: Where Your Degree Can Take You, Second Edition**
Edited by Robert J. Sternberg, PhD
American Psychological Association
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