Psychology 112-X is a new course, designed for members of the first Psychology Department Learning Community. It serves two functions:

A. To cover the material in Psych 111, *Orientation to Psychology*, which is required of all Psychology majors

Specifically, this segment of the course will familiarize the student with:

1. the University and LAS college requirements
2. the Psychology department curriculum and requirements
3. the Psychology advising procedures, degree audits and registration procedures
4. the Psychology faculty and type of research done at ISU

B. To begin our year-long exploration of *Poverty in America*, the theme of the 2010/2011 Psychology Learning Community.

In this segment of the course, students will:

5. Investigate poverty in their home county and their current county of residence (ISU is in Story County.)

6. Explore the many dimensions of poverty through reading, guest presentations, and classroom experiential learning sessions.

7. Develop critical thinking skills and skills in oral and written expression through class discussion and writing assignments.

8. As a class project, work with the Volunteer Center of Story County to design and administer a survey to low income residents of Story County to identify the most pressing needs of low-income families in our community.

9. Begin to formulate a plan for meaningful volunteer work in the community that will begin during Spring semester. The Social Services Volunteer and Career Fair on September 15th will provide valuable information on local volunteer opportunities.
COURSE MATERIALS:

Required textbook: *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich. Publisher: Henry Holt and Company, New York. (There are several different dates of publication [2001, 2002, 2008]. I ordered the 2008 version from the ISU Memorial Union bookstore, but any edition is probably fine.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course is graded Pass/Fail. In order to receive a satisfactory grade, you must:

- **Attend and participate in ALL classes.** Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. If you must miss a class due to an emergency or illness, you must notify me **PRIOR** to the class meeting time to be excused (ccutrona@iastate.edu or 294-0283).

- **Attend the following special events:**
  a. **Social Services Volunteer and Career Fair**  
     September 15th 10:00 to 2:00 (Need not stay the whole time!)  
     Great Hall, Memorial Union
  b. **Beyond Welfare Reader’s Theatre**  
     Friday, September 17th 7:00 p.m.  
     St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 2210 Lincoln Way  
     Feel free to bring a friend!

- **Complete the following assignments:**
  a. **Poverty Statistics Table**
     **Due:** September 14
     **Assignment:** Go to [http://quickfacts.census.gov](http://quickfacts.census.gov)
     1. Select “USA Quick Facts” and print out the two-page table of information for the entire nation.
     2. Select your home state and your home county and print out the two-page table of information that is provided for your home county. (It will also list statewide statistics.)
     3. Check the list of cities in your home state to see if your home town is listed. If it is, print out the two-page table of information on that city.
     4. Make a table that lists the following information for the U.S.A., your home state, your home county, and if available, your home town:
        a. Population (2009 estimate)
        b. Median household income (2008)
        c. Home ownership percent
        d. Median value of owner-occupied housing units
        e. Persons below the poverty line percent
        f. Percent high school graduates
        g. Percent with a Bachelor’s degree
b. Brief paper: Reaction to Beyond Welfare Reader’s Theatre
Due: September 21
You are required to attend this event to receive credit for the course. Write a brief paper (3 to 4 pages, double-spaced, typed) that addresses the following points:
1. What were the primary factors that contributed to people’s financial problems? Include factors in people’s histories, current environment, recent events, relationships with others, and personal characteristics (e.g., health, personality).
2. What would be the most helpful in improving people’s lives? Consider factors within people’s control and factors that are not necessarily within people’s control. (But be realistic!) What would it take to move these individuals out of poverty?
3. Choose one story that you found especially moving. Provide the basic facts of the individual’s story. Describe your emotional reactions to their story and try to explain the reasons for each of your emotions.

c. Graduation Coursework Plan
Due: September 28th
Develop a graduation plan. This must include specific courses you could take to graduate. Do NOT enter “elective” or “psych choice” in any of the blanks. Advisors will look over the plans, make comments and return the plans to you Week 7 as either “complete” or “correct & resubmit”. This plan must be typed and submitted on the Psych template available at:

d. Introduction to your faculty adviser
Due: October 12th
Introduction to your Faculty Adviser: Your faculty adviser’s name is listed in the red binder in the Psychology Advising Office. Office hours and contact information are available in the binder, on the wall outside of W022 and W112 Lago, and on the ISU Psych web page. Contact your Faculty Adviser to arrange a brief meeting, or attend their office hours. Complete the form that was distributed in class and be sure to have the Faculty Adviser sign it before you leave. The meeting need not be any more than a brief introduction.

e. Read Nickel and Dimed; On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich.
There will be a brief in-class writing assignment on each portion of the book:
Oct. 5th Introduction and Chapter 1: pgs. 1 – 49
Nov 9th - Chapter 2: pgs. 51 – 119
Nov 30th - Chapter 3: pgs. 121-191
Dec 7th – Evaluation and Afterward: pgs. 195-235
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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Introduction</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 24</td>
<td>Topic: Course Overview and Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Speaker: Susan Williams, Academic Advisor, Dept. of Psychology</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>Topic: ISU/LAS/Psych requirements and degree audits</td>
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<td>(Please bring a copy of your unofficial transcript from AccessPlus. You will receive an email with instructions on how to download it.)</td>
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<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Speaker: Dr. Madon</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Topic: Psych 491 and 492; Graduate school overview</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Topic: Poverty at Home</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>Assignment Due: Poverty Statistics Table</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Attend: Social Services Volunteer and Career Fair</td>
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<td>10:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union</td>
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<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Topic: Poverty Stories</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 21</td>
<td>Assignment Due: Reaction Paper to Reader’s Theatre</td>
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<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Speaker: Susan Williams, Academic Advisor</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 28</td>
<td>Topic: Registration procedures</td>
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<td>Assignment Due: Graduation Plan</td>
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<td>Extra Credit: Attend: “Candidate Forum on the Conditions of Poverty in Story County” : Political candidates for county and state offices will be asked to discuss their views on poverty in Iowa.</td>
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<td>Myers Auditorium, Mary Greeley Medical Center, 1111 Duff Ave.</td>
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<td>6:00: County Supervisor Candidates</td>
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<td>7:00: State Legislative Candidates</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Topic: Nickel and Dimed</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>Assignment Due: Read Introduction and Chapter 1(pgs.1-49) and come prepared to write about and discuss the material in class.</td>
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<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Speaker: Psychology Faculty Member (TBA)</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>Assignment Due: Faculty adviser signature</td>
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Week 9  
**October 19**  
**Speaker:** Psychology Faculty Member (TBA)  
*****Please note location:  **Hoover 1227**

Week 10  
**October 26**  
**Speaker:** Psychology Faculty Member (TBA)  
*****Please note location:  **Hoover 1227**

Week 11  
**November 2**  
**Topic:** Poverty Simulation  
**Facilitator:** Shellie Orngard, Volunteer Center of Story County

Week 12  
**November 9**  
**Topic:** Poverty Simulation Discussion and survey planning  
**Assignment Due:** Read Chapter 2 (pgs.51-119) of *Nickel and Dimed* and come prepared to write about and discuss the material in class.

Week 13  
**November 16**  
**Topic:** Survey planning (Possible guest speaker)

**Thanksgiving Break**  
**November 22-26**

Week 14  
**November 30**  
**Topic:** Survey planning (Possible guest speaker)  
**Assignment Due:** Read Chapter 3 (pgs.121-191) of *Nickel and Dimed* and come prepared to write about and discuss the material in class.

Week 15  
**December 7**  
**Topic:** Survey planning (Possible guest speaker)  
**Assignment Due:** Read (pgs.195-235) of *Nickel and Dimed* and come prepared to write about and discuss the material in class.

**Finals Week**  
**December 13 to 17**  
No class meeting. No final exam!
Fall 2010 Semester Dates and Deadlines

August 27  ♦  Last day to process a schedule change (add, drop, or section change) on AccessPlus (if no restrictions) without a fee;
♦  Last day to process a schedule change without a fee on a pink slip (if restrictions), signature of instructor required
♦  Must be completed by 5:00 pm.

September 6  ♦  Labor Day – NO CLASSES!

September 12  ♦  Psych Club Picnic from 5-8 pm at Brookside Park

September 24  ♦  Last day to drop a first-half semester course

October 2  ♦  Finalized Schedule of Classes for Spring 2011 will be available on-line at http://classes.iastate.edu/

October 5  ♦  Last day to drop first-half courses

October 15  ♦  First-half-semester courses end

October 18  ♦  Second-half semester courses begin (example: Lib 160)

October 21  ♦  First day of registration for Spring 2011 for seniors (Oct 28 for Juniors; Nov 4 for Sophomores; Nov 11 for Freshmen)

October 29  ♦  Last day to drop a full-semester course or withdraw without extenuating circumstances

November 19  ♦  Last day to drop a second-half course

November 22-26  ♦  Thanksgiving Break

December 13-17  ♦  FINAL EXAM WEEK

A complete listing of dates is available at http://www.public.iastate.edu/~registrar/calendar/cal-fall10.shtml