

**Psychology in the Community PSYC 327**  
**Summer 2013**  
**Three Credits**

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Instructor:

Michael Hurley

Department of Psychology

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Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30 p.m.

The Service-Learning Partners program allows you to interact with clients or work as support staff in community service organizations that address issues, topics and themes you are learning about in psychology. Through this educational and service-oriented curriculum, you apply the information learned in your courses to practical, real-life situations. You will work with community organizations to seek solutions to community problems. All correspondence can be directed to the above contacts. Dr. Michael Hurley will handle grading and most other issues

**Requirements** *All late submissions will be penalized.*

1) Attend the orientation session on **Tuesday, May 21** and complete a minimum of **135 hours of direct community service** at your placement site. Commute time is NOT included in the service hours. You are responsible for finding a community-learning site. If you do not have a site as of yet, please contact Michael Hurley. Ideally, on-site work should begin **no later than May 27, 2013** and continue through **no later than August 2, 2013**.

**20%**

2) **Post and respond to five discussion questions** on the class Blackboard bulletin board. This site is up and available for posting. Please utilize your GMU email stem (e.g., mhurley2 for Michael Hurley) as your ID and the last four digits of your Student ID as your password. This should be the case for all of you. Every student should respond to each question thoughtfully and substantially. Additionally, students should provide a relevant comment to **at least one other student's response**. Please see the course's Blackboard bulletin board for further information. If you have not used Blackboard before, please contact STAR (Student Technology Assistance and Resource Center), 229 Johnson Center, (703) 993-8990 for assistance.

**10%**

3) Complete and return a copy of the **Service-Learning Contract** (after you and the community service supervisor have signed it) to me in the psychology department (David King 2086) **NO LATER THAN May 27, 2013**. All students who fail to submit the service-learning contract by May 27 may be asked to drop the course unless they have discussed the delay with Dr. Hurley and have received a deadline extension.

4) Record your service hours and tasks/projects by keeping an ongoing **log** throughout the time you are on-site. The log should note your observations during each on-site visit; tasks should relate to your overall learning objectives (i.e., if your learning objectives stress working with children, ensure your tasks reflect this). Writing "June 1- volunteered" is not enough! The log is included with your final project and should be typed. The log is included and graded with your final project.

5) Submit two typed **personal reflection papers** using the questions that follow (see “Class Schedule and Assignments” at the end of this document) to focus and structure your thoughts. A minimum of 1.5 pages at 12-point font (double-spaced) per entry is expected. This is separate from the log. Writing reflection papers is one way to forge a link between service and your learning process. It is your opportunity to examine your motivations, monitor your personal growth and clarify your values, as well as an opportunity to explore some of the underlying causes of the issues and themes you are addressing in class. Reflection papers are not merely logs of the events that you experience, but your response to those events. The format should include the question and question number, your name and course number. The reflection papers will be discussed at the two reflection sessions during the semester (see below). Entries can be emailed to Dr. Hurley at [mhurley2@gmu.edu](mailto:mhurley2@gmu.edu); alternatively, you may submit a printed copy to Dr. Hurley’s box in the David King Hall mailroom.

**25%**

6) Attend both **reflection sessions** with Dr. Hurley and Heather Hare during the semester. These sessions - which fall on **Tuesday, June 25** and **Tuesday, July 23** - provide an opportunity to discuss your work at your community learning setting, and to learn about what your colleagues in this course are doing.

**10%**

7) Your community service supervisor will submit a **written evaluation** at the end of the semester, which discusses your overall performance of assigned tasks.

**10%**

8) Submit a **final project** (in a two-pocket folder) that includes:

- Brochures and information about the organization, if available.
- Completed Log
- Completed Time Sheet or a letter from community learning site supervisor verifying hours. Letter should be on official organization letterhead.
- A 3 to 5 page typed essay that integrates your learning at the community learning setting with your psychology coursework. You should also address the learning objectives that you set for the course, and how effectively you were able to meet them through this experiential learning opportunity.

Unless other arrangements have been made, final projects are due Friday, **August 2, 2013** by 3:00 pm in Dr. Hurley’s office in David King Hall (room 2086). You are encouraged to review your log of tasks/projects and journals to serve as a reference for your final project.

**25%**

### Grade Policy

Final grades will be given accordingly: 90 – 100 = A range (A- to A+), 80 – 89 = B range (B- to B+), 70 to 79 = C range (C- to C+), 60 to 69 = D, below 60 = F.

### Use of Technology

The lab section for this course will include instruction in statistical analysis using SPSS software. All students in the class will also be expected to have an active email account, as some of the course assignments and test preparation materials will be made available only via email.

\*\* If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center(DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

\*\*\* Please note that the add and drop deadlines for this fall are February 6 to add and February 23 to drop.

### University Honor Code

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community have set forth this honor code: **Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.**

Last day to add : June 7 (for I session)

Last day to drop: June 14 (for I session)

Selective Withdrawal: June 15 to July 3 (for I session)

## **Class Schedule and Assignments:**

May 21	Orientation Session @ 12:00 noon in R, rm A250
May 27	Deadline for submission of service learning agreement AND Deadline for beginning your hours at your community site.
June 3	Blackboard Posts for question #1 due by midnight
June 10	Blackboard Posts for question #2 due by midnight Recommended number of service hours completed: 55
June 21	Reflection Paper #1 due by 5pm. <i>Describe your responsibilities at your community learning site. How do these responsibilities assist you in meeting the learning objectives you have set for this course?</i> Recommended number of service hours completed: 40
June 25	Reflection Session #1 @ 12:00 noon in R, rm A250
July 1	<b>Submit for approval (via e-mail to Dr. Hurley or in Dr. Hurley's mailbox) the APA reference for the article you have selected for reflection paper #2.</b> Blackboard Posts for question #3 due by midnight Recommended number of service hours completed: 75
July 8	Blackboard Posts for question #4 due by midnight Recommended number of service hours completed: 90
July 19	Reflection Paper #2 due by 5pm. <i>Locate and read an academic journal article (NOT a textbook chapter) that discusses the psychology specialization/topic that you are addressing through your service. Would the author have a different point of view by serving at your community learning site? With what do you agree? With what do you disagree?</i> Recommended number of service hours completed: 110
July 22	Blackboard Posts for question #5 due by midnight Recommended number of service hours completed: 125
July 23	Reflection Session #2 @ 12:00 noon in R, rm A250
August 2	Final Project due by 3:00 p.m. Required number of service hours: 135