Syllabus

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Course Information:

Readings in Psychology, 830:703:01

Class: Tuesday, 2 -3 pm ATG 208

Professor: Dr. Sarah R. Allred, srallred@camden.rutgers.edu 411 Cooper/309 ATG.

Office Hours: 1-2 pm Tuesday (in ATG 309), and by arrangement.

Course Overview:

The goals of the Readings course are to (1) Familiarize you with the breadth of content and methods in psychology; (2) Provide you with the opportunity to think critically about a new area in psychology. Each week you will hear from a different researcher/professional. Most presenters will provide reading material. Learning Objectives:

The learning objectives of this course are consistent with the goals of the department and the broad goals of general education at the university. Course activities are designed to assess these learning objectives. Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- 1. Think critically about a broad range of psychological research
- 2. Articulate how your research interests relate to this breadth of research

Course Logistics Overview:

This course is scheduled from 2-3 pm on Tuesdays. Each week you will hear from a different presenter. Presentations in the Readings course take a variety of forms. Example include: (a) A traditional research presentation covering an ongoing or completed research project of the presenter's own; (b) An explanation of or background for an important research question in the presenter's field; (c) An articulation of a particularly thorny problem the presenter is having in trying to set up a research study; (d) A description of how psychological research methods are used outside of academia.

The presenters are encouraged to invite discussion and engaged learning in several ways. You should expect to be asked questions about the presentation and to participate in answering them.

Most students take this course for multiple semesters to receive credit for a psych elective. If you are one of these students, you are expected to serve as a presenter at some point during your enrolled semesters. More details in class.

Course Materials:

There is no textbook. Each presenter will be asked to provide background reading material. This will likely be a short article. You are expected to read this before class. Reading material will be posted on Sakai. Each week will have a tab on the lessons page in Sakai, where you will find information about the presenter for that week and a link to their reading material.

Grading Overview:

Grading is based entirely on preparation and participation. For each class period, there will be a Preparation assignment (if the speaker provides background reading) and a Participation item in grade book. If you come to class and participate you will receive 10 points for that day's participation. For the Preparation assignment, you should complete the background reading and turn in two questions you had from the reading. (These can range from simple factual questions to broad, big picture questions). Full credit for completion. I will drop the lowest score from each (so that you get one free "miss"). If there is no background reading (for some reason), there will be no points assigned for that day.

I expect that as graduate students, everyone will do the background reading and we will have lively and interesting discussions, so I expect these grades to be a formality. If these expectations turn out not to be true, I will modify this grading scheme to address participation and preparation in a more rigorous fashion.

There is no final exam for this course.

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