

SYLLABUS

TR 12:25 - 1:40 pm, in WH 209

***Professor:* Dr. Anne Murtagh**

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OFFICE HOURS: Mon. and Wed., 1 – 4 pm

Other times by appt.

Catalog description:

PSYC 311. Introduction to Clinical Psychology (3)

An introduction to theoretical systems and approaches to the prevention and treatment of psychological difficulties, with an emphasis on empirically supported interventions.

Prerequisite: PSYC 309, Abnormal Psychology.

Textbook:

Trull, T. J. (2005). *Clinical Psychology, 7th ed.* Wadsworth, CENGAGE Learning.

Other required reading:

APA style: <http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/basics/index.htm>

Short article: How to read a research study

Google “Blewett How to read a research study”

Critiquing a research study

ww2.sjc.edu/archandouts/researcharticlecritique.pdf

On science:

“Science is not a collection of facts, any more than opera is a collection of notes. It’s a process, a way of thinking, a method, based on a single insight – that the degree to which an idea seems true has nothing to do with whether it is true, and that the way to distinguish factual ideas from false ones is to test them by experiment.”

Timothy Ferris

From The New Yorker, 7-20-98

Welcome to the study of Clinical Psychology!

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATIONS OF YOUR PROGRESS

Your grade for this course will include:

- **3 regular exams and a final exam (each worth 15 pts., for a total of 60 pts.)**
- **1 APA-style literature review (worth 30 pts.)**
- **class participation (worth 10 pts.)**

Details about these requirements

Exams: Mixed multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, short essay. Midterm exam will count as a regular exam. Final exam will be comprehensive or cumulative, covering material from the whole semester, but will count 15 pts. like the others.

Literature review: Review the key scientific literature on some aspect of clinical psychology. Articles you review should be empirical articles from peer-reviewed, professional sources. **When I say “empirical articles” I mean specific reports of scientific studies that were conducted. To be sure your articles are descriptions of empirical studies, look for separate sections in the article describing their participants, methods used, specific statistics and results, etc.** Choose 10-15 articles related to your topic. **Your paper will be based completely on these articles.**

Use the library databases to search for articles from professional journals in psychology and related fields. Ask me, or consult a reference librarian, if you are not clear about how to locate appropriate articles. **You will need to comb through** the articles you locate that are related to your topic – **some of them will be quite difficult** (remember -- these articles are written for scientists who specialize in this area!), and others will be more readable and understandable (with some effort on your part). Naturally, if you want to write a quality paper, **be careful to choose articles that you can mostly understand.** (Results sections are particularly difficult for novices in the area – if you do not follow all the statistical analyses, that is OK, but you should have a basic grasp of what they did and how they did it.)

ON TUES., 9/7 you will submit a **research paper proposal.** This proposal will be a 1-2 page (double-spaced) summary of your specific topic, with a list of references you plan to use. Choose your topic early, and be sure to allow yourself ample time to locate appropriate articles. (Proposal counts as 1/10, or 3 pts., of your paper grade).

ON TUES., 9/28 you will submit an annotated bibliography – a list of your 10-15 articles, in the style of APA references, with a brief summary of each one. Should be about 3-4 pages, single-spaced. Also attach copies of the first page of each article. (Counts as 1/10, or 3 pts., of your paper grade.)

PAPER IS DUE THURS., 11/18. Paper should be **18-20 pages** (including cover page, abstract, and references), in **10-12 pt. type, with 1-in. margins.**

You will be completing a tutorial on APA style, and be sure to follow this style precisely for overall style, headings, citations and references.

Include:

- 1) **Cover page** (follow APA style exactly).
- 2) **Abstract:** one paragraph that concisely but completely summarizes your paper. On

- a page by itself.
- 3) **Main body of your paper** should have these sections (but not on separate pages):
- **introductory section** that discusses the significance of the topic (why is this topic interesting and/or important?);
 - **summaries of the literature**: for each study, describe the central question of interest, methods, results, and conclusions (about 10-12 pages);
 - **critique**: discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the research studies (combine your critiques of these into one section). Most empirical articles discuss the limitations of their study; include these limitations but give it some thought and state your own views too. For example, did it seem like there were enough participants? It is generally best to have diversity in participants -- Was there a range of ages, both sexes? Were they ethnically and/or culturally diverse? Did the articles seem to be written and organized clearly? Were their conclusions warranted – i.e., well supported by what they found? I know this is not easy, but do your best. (2-3 pages)
 - **conclusions**: discuss what we can be concluded based on this scientific evidence. (2-3 pages)
- 4) **References**: using APA style, list your articles.

Follow the sample paper exactly, with regard to style and placement of headings, page breaks, etc. Insert a running head on the top right corner of each page – your title, or a shortened version of it. Clear, grammatical, well-organized writing (including correct spelling) is important. Be sure to staple it, and then **clip your articles to the paper**.

Research paper is due 11/30.

Start thinking about your topic now (comb through the book and see what interests you), and be sure to **allow yourself ample time to locate articles** related to your topic that you can understand. ILL can sometimes take a week or more. It is **difficult to tell much from just an abstract – you will need to review the article itself** before you decide whether to use it, so you will need to do the electronic search and get 3-4 articles to look over.

If you submit your paper or proposal late, points will be deducted for each day it is late.

I will not accept:

- **e-mailed papers**
- **un-stapled or un-clipped papers**
- **papers or proposals submitted without the articles**

ALSO do not hand me a loose bundle of paper and articles – attach it all together with a clip or use a folder.

Questions? Please ask!

IMPORTANT! When you are summarizing and analyzing these articles, BE SURE TO WRITE COMPLETELY IN YOUR OWN WORDS!

Turnitin

It is required that you submit your research reports to **Turnitin.com** for an originality report – i.e., a report of how much your paper matches up to existing papers in their (very extensive) database. To do this, go to www.turnitin.com and create an account (it is free).

Our class ID is **3380284** and the password is **introclin** (case-sensitive)

Class participation (1/10th of grade). Classes will consist of a relaxed dialogue in which readings, questions, and examples are discussed. The class will be more interesting and you will all learn better if we have a lively exchange of ideas – come prepared for that. Attendance will count as part of class participation; if you miss more than 1 or 2 classes, it will have a negative impact on this part of your grade. If you need to miss a class it is your responsibility to get the notes and any announcements from one of your classmates.

(Please note the dates of exams on the schedule. If you miss an exam, you may or may not be permitted to make it up. Documentation will be required for make-up exams, and make-up exams will consist of essay questions.)

Class Sakai site. You will find a Sakai site devoted to our class. After each class, I will post Powerpoints from the class lecture under “Resources” on this site for your convenience.

Note:

FREE TUTORING! ANY COURSE! TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A FREE “PERSONAL TRAINER FOR THE MIND!”

ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER, Lower level of Scarborough Library (LIB 103)

www.shepherd.edu/ascweb; (304) 876-5221; 8:00 – 4:30 am

POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY.

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Shepherd University Academic Integrity Procedures found in the **Shepherd University Student Handbook**. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy (exception: group project).

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

All papers should reflect your own words and thoughts, unless you indicate otherwise. Academic honesty requires that you give credit for ideas or statements that are not your own. Thus, if you are summarizing someone's ideas in your own words, you must cite the source of the ideas. It should be clear **in every statement or sentence** whether you are expressing your own thoughts,

or reporting those of someone else. If you find a quote that you think will add substantially to a paper, you must use quotation marks around the quote, and give the precise source of that quote, including the author, source, and page no.

Plagiarism is taking credit for the ideas or statements of someone else, presenting it as your own work. It is becoming more common these days, as people cut and paste material from the Internet, and falsely submit it as their own writing. However, there are ways to detect this dishonesty. Plagiarism is a serious act, and it will be reported to the Dean of the College. Suspension or dismissal from the college are possible consequences. If you have any questions at all about what is OK and what is not, please ask me. For more information about college policies related to academic honesty, please see the Shepherd University Student Handbook.

Shepherd Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted unless the student can provide documentation of an emergency preventing them from submitting work on time. The instructor reserves the right to deny the request.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Please see me to discuss any appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

Please feel free to come and talk to me (or call or e-mail) if you have any questions, concerns or comments, or if I can be of service to you in any way. I enjoy meeting with students one-on-one, and I hope you will not hesitate to share your thoughts with me.

Let's have a great semester!

