

PSYC 498: Senior Field Internship in Psychology  
Course Syllabus

Fall 2021

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Meetings: Thursdays 1-2:30pm (concomitant with PSYC 410--see PSYC 410 syllabus for course calendar)

Student Hours: W 9-10am; M 2:30-3:30pm; other times by appointment. I'm not available to meet on Tuesdays as I'm at Liberty House that day.

How to contact me: email: [medelson@willamette.edu](mailto:medelson@willamette.edu); phone: (503) 370-6133

The senior experience in Psychology consists of two complementary components:

1. **APPLICATION OF PSYCHOLOGY:** Students are required to apply psychology in an internship, either in a field setting or in a research project with a faculty member. This course, PSYC 498, provides the structure for receiving credit for a field internship. PSYC 497 provides the structure for receiving credit for a research internship. Students are required to take one of these two courses in order to meet the Application of Psychology requirement of the senior experience.
2. **SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT OF THE PSYCHOLOGY LITERATURE:** All junior or senior majors are required to take PSYC 431W, an advanced topical seminar in Psychology, in which students examine primary source literature and engage in an in-depth examination of a topical area of psychology. Students will write their senior papers in this class.

**PSYC 498 STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. To apply skills and knowledge gained from Psychology coursework to a field internship experience. This will be accomplished by completing a 168-hour field internship at a psychology-related agency or organization. Students' on-site supervisors will also provide an evaluation of the student in their internship role to ensure that the internship was successfully completed.
2. To evaluate and reflect upon the internship experience in light of the experience itself, its relationship to Psychology coursework, and with regard to the student's initial career exploration that was begun in PSYC 300. This will be accomplished by writing a reflection paper responding to specific prompts provided to the students. Students will also present a portion of their paper in PSYC 410 (see PSYC 410 syllabus).

NOTE: In order to get credit for PSYC 498, students need to earn at least a 70% (C-) on their supervisor evaluations of their internship experience.

*Time commitment for this course: Willamette's Credit Hour Policy holds that for every hour of class time there is an expectation of 2-3 hours work outside of class each week. For this class, you will meet that expectation by completing at least 168 hours of a field internship experience.*

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Students must complete an average of 12 hours/week at your field internship site. This time commitment may include any specific training offered by your internship setting as well as the normal duties you assume at your site. Given a semester of 14 weeks, this equals a minimum of 168 hours of experience.

**NOTE:** Some internships require *more* hours than this; if so, you must agree to fulfill the minimum hour requirements of the agency or organization in which you complete your internship. All commitments should be finalized at the time of internship approval (e.g., in PSYC 300), and all experiences carry the same unit of credit for PSYC 498, regardless of any extra hours required by your internship site.

2. Students must receive a favorable evaluation of their performance by their on-site internship supervisor (**100 points; ~74% of your grade**). In order to receive a passing grade in PSYC 498, interns must earn at least 70/100 points on the evaluation form (70%). In other words, merely completing 168 hours of internship experience does not guarantee credit for your internship experience; you must demonstrate that you have fulfilled the obligations of your field internship site as agreed upon with your supervisor and that you have performed adequately in your role as a field intern.

**NOTE:** Evaluations must be completed on the PSYC 498 evaluation form and be signed by your internship supervisor. Please have your internship supervisor write comments to justify their ratings. We will not accept evaluations that are not on our form or are not signed. Also, in order to turn in grades on time, it is vital that evaluation forms be turned in when due.

Therefore, failure to turn in an evaluation form on time will result in a deduction of 10 points from your supervisor evaluation form for each day the form is late. Please ensure that you talk with your supervisor and let them know of the deadline so that you can get these forms deposited to WISE by the due date! Please see me if there are extenuating circumstances that prevent this.

3. Students must write a reflection paper (**35 points; ~26% of your grade**) on their internship experiences. For summer interns, this paper will be due early in the semester; for fall interns, this paper will be due at the end of the term (see the PSYC 410 course calendar for when these are due).

The paper will require you to address the following components: (a) a reflection on what you learned from the internship and an evaluation of the internship experience. It can help to include anecdotes about your experiences that illustrate what you learned from your internship as long as they are done so in a confidential way, and be sure to discuss the strengths of the internship (what you really valued from the experience) and the weaknesses of the internship (what you wish could have been better); (b) a reflection on how you evolved as an intern during your internship experience; (c) a reflection on how your internship extended the knowledge that you learned either through your prior Psychology coursework and/or through the supplemental readings and/or through trainings that were provided at your

internship site; (d) given the self-assessment measures you completed in PSYC 300, a reflection of how your internship experiences matched with what you learned about your skills, values, and interests (e.g., were your internship experiences what you would have expected given your self-assessment measures?); and (e) a reflection on what you learned from your internship experiences about whether you would want to pursue a possible career in an area similar to or related to your internship and why. The paper should be approximately 1000-1250 words. No citations are required, but if you decide to include citations, they must be in correct APA format, 7<sup>th</sup> edition; and you must include an APA-formatted Reference section.

FINAL GRADES for PSYC 498 are determined based on a straight percentage. Pluses and minuses will be awarded for students at the top and bottom of each grade distribution.

122 and up: A

108-121: B

95-107: C

81-94: D

80 and below: F

The following are some issues of which you must be aware in order to get credit for your field internship in PSYC 498.

- a. NATURE OF FIELD INTERNSHIPS: Note that field internships cannot be predominantly clerical or observational in nature, and students will **not receive credit** for such internships. It is your responsibility either to discontinue the internship and to find another internship, and/or to contact me for troubleshooting advice, if you find that your internship is primarily clerical or observational.
- b. CHANGE IN SUPERVISORY STAFF AT FIELD PLACEMENT: If there is a change in your supervisor between when a field internship is negotiated and approved and when an internship begins, a new goals sheet must be completed and turned in to ensure that the internship is still desirable and will meet the requirements of the senior internship.
- c. CHANGE IN WHEN YOUR INTERNSHIP WILL BE COMPLETED: If you are a summer field intern and will not complete your internship hours by the end of the summer, you need to inform me by the first day of class and state the reason for this. Similarly, if you are fall field intern and will not complete your internship hours by the end of the fall semester, you need to inform me as soon as you realize that your hours will not be complete. Depending on the reason why your hours are not completed as required, your grade for your internship may or may not be adjusted down.
- d. WORLD ENGAGEMENT-SERVICE LEARNING CREDIT AND EXPECTATIONS: PSYC 498 counts for the WE-SL requirement as long as you do an off-campus internship and it fulfills the requirements of WE-SL. In order to meet this requirement, there are four things that must occur, most of which are structured within PSYC 498.

These four things are: (a) the service meets or addresses a community-defined need; (b) the service experiences are incorporated in course learning objectives; (c) students carry out at least 10 hours of service per semester, regardless of credit assigned; and (d) the course provides structured opportunities for guided reflection. Requirements (b), (c), and (d) are part of PSYC 498 in which you are earning credit specifically for service-learning through a field internship in a psychology-related agency or organization, you are completing well over the 10 hours of service required, and you will complete a reflective paper of your internship experiences. For requirement (a), you were asked to note on your field internship application form how your internship meets or addresses a community-defined need. Only internships that met or addressed a community-defined need were approved. However, if you find that your internship has changed after your field internship application was approved and your experiences no longer meet or address a community-defined need, you need to speak with me about this; and although you can still get credit for PSYC 498, you may not qualify for WE-SL credit depending on how many hours were completed prior to this change.

#### **POLICIES AND PHILOSOPHIES ABOUT WHICH YOU SHOULD BE AWARE:**

SICK POLICY: Especially given COVID, if you are sick with a fever above 100°, have a cough, or have difficulty breathing (as well as other COVID symptoms or symptoms of other serious illnesses), please let me know and do not come to class (unless it is Friday and we are meeting remotely). Also, please contact Bishop Wellness Center if you have symptoms of COVID to arrange for a test and isolate yourself from others until those results are in and you know how to proceed. If you develop COVID or are sick for an extended period of time, please let me know, and we will arrange for how you can complete any missed classwork.

DACA/UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT ADVOCATE: Willamette is committed to supporting our DACA/Undocumented students in a variety of ways. This year, Delia Olmos-García is the contact person for all DACA/undocumented students can provide those students with a number of external and internal resources that are available. Her contact information is email: [dolmosga@willamette.edu](mailto:dolmosga@willamette.edu), Office: FAW 232B, Phone: 503-370-6371.

STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS: In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access to this class, or if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment or achievement, please notify me as soon as possible. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Services (AES) office in Matthews 103 at 503-370-6737 or [accessible-info@willamette.edu](mailto:accessible-info@willamette.edu) to discuss a range of options to removing barriers in the course, including accommodations. Students must verify their eligibility through the AES office in order to receive accommodations. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact me.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students of Willamette University are members of a community that values excellence and integrity in every aspect of life. As such, we expect all community members to live up to the highest standards of personal, ethical, and moral conduct. Students are expected not to engage in any type of academic or intellectually dishonest practice and encouraged to display honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility in all they do. Plagiarism and cheating are especially offensive to the integrity of courses in which they occur and against the College community as a whole. These acts involve intellectual dishonesty, deception, and fraud, which inhibit the honest exchange of ideas. Plagiarism and cheating may be grounds for failure in the course and/or dismissal from the College.  
<https://willamette.edu/arts-sciences/catalog/policies/plagiarism-cheating.php>

RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY: We are fortunate to have a diverse student population at Willamette who bring to our campus a diversity of religious, political, cultural, and social views and backgrounds. In this class, we will be discussing many issues where individuals may differ in their opinions. In order for this to be an inclusive class where individuals can safely express their beliefs, I would ask that we respect the diversity of experiences, backgrounds, and opinions that are represented by those in the class. Additionally, I would encourage us all to remain sensitive about how we each express our views and opinions so that we don't inadvertently offend others whose views or backgrounds may be different from our own.

COMMITMENT TO POSITIVE SEXUAL ETHICS: Willamette is a community committed to fostering safe, productive learning environments, and we value ethical sexual behaviors and standards. Title IX and our school policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, which regards sexual misconduct – including discrimination, harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We understand that sexual violence can undermine students' academic success, and we encourage affected students to talk to someone about their experiences and get the support they need. Please be aware that as a mandatory reporter I am required to report any instances you disclose to Willamette's Title IX Coordinator. If you would rather share information with a confidential employee who does not have this responsibility, please contact our confidential advocate at [confidential-advocate@willamette.edu](mailto:confidential-advocate@willamette.edu). Confidential support also can be found with SARAs and at the GRAC (503-851-4245); and at WUTalk - a 24-hour telephone crisis counseling support line (503-375-5353). If you are in immediate danger, please call campus safety at 503-370-6911.

**NOTE: The Course Calendar for PSYC 498 can be found in the PSYC 410 Syllabus as the two courses meet concurrently.**