About this course:

The goal of the graduate Psychology proseminar is to provide students with broad exposure to faculty research in the Department of Psychology at Rutgers-Newark in order to promote professional academic research training. A major task of graduate training in the sciences is learning to present your research in a comprehensive and deeply-informed manner – that is, not just by talking about your research questions, study methods, and findings, but by presenting the fuller scope of the ideas and theories underpinning your work. The proseminar will, ideally and hopefully, challenge you to think at a higher level about the ideas that shape the research you and your faculty do, in turn enhancing your own ability to present your work in a meaningful and compelling fashion.

Course objectives:

By participating in this course, you will:

1. Gain a clear understanding of the variety of research activities undertaken by faculty in this department.
2. Develop your ability to connect theory to methods to analyses to implications of behavioral and social science research.
3. Develop your ability to present theoretical and empirical material and engage others in discussion about this material.

Course requirements:

- Attendance and active engagement in group discussion. (Note: Active engagement will be assessed weekly via peer nominations.)
- Leading at least two (2) class discussions and introducing at least two (2) speakers.
• Reaction papers based on weekly readings to be submitted electronically (pboxer@psychology) by class time. These papers should include at least one page (1” margins, 12 point font, double-spaced) of text per assigned reading, and summarize your evaluative thoughts and feelings about the papers you read.
• Final cumulative reaction paper to be submitted electronically on the last day of class. This paper should present, in clear first-person narrative, what you learned from this course, how you learned it, and how you believe it will (or will not!) help you in your professional development as an academic researcher. This paper should be 10 pages (1” margins, 12 point font, double spaced) of text at a minimum, not to exceed 20 pages overall. (Title pages don’t count.)

Grading:

Participation – 25%
Leading class discussions and preparing introductions – 25%
Weekly reaction papers – 25%
Final paper – 25%