PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH SEMINAR
Psychology 675
Fall 2010

Instructor: Dr. Paul Boxer, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Office: Smith Hall 333
Office Hours: Mondays, 12:30-2:30 and by appointment
Contact: pboxer@psychology.rutgers.edu

Classroom: Fishbowl
Meeting times: Mondays, 10:00-11:20 am

Course description:

The purpose of this course is to provide graduate students with a structured forum for the development of skills related to the presentation of research. As such all course activities target the goal of enhancing graduate student skills in regard to: 1) Identifying and formulating research ideas; 2) Operationalizing research ideas; 3) Developing a program of research; 4) Oral presentation of research findings; 5) Written presentation of research findings; 6) Etc.

Course requirements:

Class attendance and participation are expected. When you are in class, you are expected to participate to the fullest of your ability. You are expected to be an engaged participant in any class activities. Finally, you are responsible for all readings. These should be read before each class so that you are prepared for lecture and discussion.

The instructor makes use of the Blackboard online course management system (http://blackboard.newark.rutgers.edu) for many course activities including reading assignments. If you are not familiar with the operation of Blackboard you are responsible for becoming familiar with it, and can request assistance from the instructor if need be.

Evaluation in this course will be based on the following:

1. Class participation.

2. Class presentations throughout semester.

Each student will be assigned one day to lead the class in a topic of her or his choosing. The student class leader will select three empirical journal articles (no reviews, no meta-analyses, no theoretical work) to present. Articles must be selected one week prior to class for uploading to Blackboard and sharing. The format of the presentation will be discussed in class.
3. Final presentations.

During the penultimate class meeting, each student will present 8-minute “capsule capstone” presentations. Meaning, the presentations are short and meant to present the sum total of the students thinking and development about research topics and programs over the course of the semester.

4. Brief research write-ups.

On the last day of class (or sooner, if so desired), each student will turn in a BRIEF (not to exceed 4 pages of text and one page of references, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1” margins). This write-up will reflect the material presented in the capsule capstone presentation.

Course policies:

*Academic integrity* is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. The instructor maintains a zero tolerance approach to academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Any instances of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the policies and procedures of Rutgers University.

*Classroom conduct* is a key factor in the value of a course to students. To ensure that the class environment is conducive to learning, the following policies will be enforced:

1. Cell phones MUST be turned off before class begins. Cell phone rings cause distractions and disrupt learning for other students. This is especially important during exams and quizzes. No cell phone use of any kind is permissible during exams and quizzes.

2. Courteous behavior is expected at all times. You might not agree with everything stated by the instructor or by other students but you are expected to treat the instructor and your fellow students with respect. This includes minimizing any and all distractions you might cause other students or the instructor, including and especially cell phone use (texting as well as talking; see #1 above).

3. Without special accommodations authorized by Disability Support Services, laptop computers and similar wireless-internet capable devices must be shut off during class. You must take notes via paper and pen/pencil or via an audio recorder.

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus with adequate notice.