

PSYC 461- 008/009/013/015 Spring 2018 Syllabus

Dr. Robert Pasnak DKH 2049

O: (703) 993 1354; C: (703) 674 9494 rpasnak@gmu.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 2-3pm, Wednesdays 11-11:30am, Thursdays: 11-11:30am;
Available for appointments & drop-ins

*Official Communications via GMU E-mail: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

There is no textbook. However, you will be provided with a written description of similar research in the past (see Blackboard).

Planned approach: This course serves the goals of GMU's General Education Mission to educate, liberate, and broaden the mind, and to instill lifelong love of learning. In conjunction with each student's major program of study and other electives, minors, or certificates, it seeks to produce graduates with intellectual vision, creative abilities, moral sensibility, and the skills to assure a well-rounded and useable education. There are four specific goals:

1. To ensure that you develop skills in information gathering, written and oral communication, and analytical and quantitative reasoning.
2. To expose you to the development of knowledge by emphasizing major domains of thought and methods of inquiry.
3. To help you attain a breadth of knowledge that supports your specialization and adds to your personal and professional education.
4. To encourage you to make connections between disciplines, between GMU and the external world, and between the USA and other countries.

Technology: You must pass the CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative), an examination on treatment of human subjects, which is accessible via Blackboard.

Assignments: You are required to attend one orientation on the second and third weeks of the semester, on the day of the week you have selected, to learn policies and procedures followed in this course.

PSYC 461- 008/009/013/015 Spring 2018 Syllabus

You must transport yourself to a public school in Alexandria to conduct the research and assist the teacher in a kindergarten classroom. To gain access to the school, you must have child protective clearances on file with Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). To get this, you must report to the Human Resources office for ACPS in Alexandria with a completely filled out and notarized form (we will provide the form) and proof of a negative TB test in the past year. There you will be fingerprinted, and your information submitted to the State Police and to Child Protective Services.

You are required to attend a kindergarten class in Alexandria at a time selected by the school each week on the day you have selected. There you will assist the teacher, and conduct research with the children whose parents have given permission. In the course of your efforts you will learn:

- (1) methods of data collection and recording
- (2) age-appropriate methods of administering standardized tests and researcher-devised tests
- (3) methods of keeping young children engaged in learning activities

Failure to accomplish any of the above will render you unable to participate in this class.

Grading: Regularity and sensible behavior is all-important when conducting research with kindergarteners in a public-school system. You will be expected to do your best to follow the directions of your on-site supervisor, and to follow all policies. Dress must be professional and cell phone use must be limited. If you meet this broad guideline, grading is based on attendance and the *records you maintain of the instruction you performed*. You will start at 100% (A+). Failure to attend on the day you are scheduled results in a 5% deduction from your grade for each absence. There are NO excused absences. We understand that some things are beyond any person's control, but the teachers count on you and the penalty for a single absence still leaves you with a very high grade. Two absences mean that you have missed more than 14% of your assignments, a rare occurrence. Tardiness or leaving early will result in a partial reduction proportional to how much time you miss.

If you are registered for two sections, you receive a separate grade for each section. Hence, you could receive an A+ for one section and an A- for the other, depending on your attendance for the particular day for each section

PSYC 461- 008/009/013/015 Spring 2018 Syllabus

Cancellation Policy.

You are excused from attending if your class is going on a field trip or has a lengthy assembly or other lengthy event during the hours you are scheduled to attend. This also applies to teacher workdays, parent days, and GMU or ACPS school holidays. Always check with your teacher and site manager about the possibility of such things and check the ACPS calendar.

Grading scale

100 -98% = A+ 97-93% = A 92- 90% = A- 89-88% = B+ 87-83% = B

82-80% = B- 79-78% = C+ 77-73% = C 72-70% = C- 69-60% = D

Below 60% = F

Disabilities: If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (ODS) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. I'm happy to cooperate.

Honor Policy: The Honor Policy is in full effect.

Examinations: There is no examination other than the CITI

Add/Drop deadlines:

1/29 last day to add, 2/12 last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty, 2/23 last day to drop with a 67% tuition penalty.