

Psychology in the Community PSYC 327
Spring 2021
Three Credits

Instructor:

Michael Hurley

Department of Psychology

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Office Hours: M 3:00-4:00 p.m.

The Service-Learning Partners program allows you to interact with clients or work as support staff in community service organizations that address issues, topics and themes you are learning about in psychology. Through this educational and service-oriented curriculum, you apply the information learned in your courses to practical, real-life situations. You will work with community organizations to seek solutions to community problems. All correspondence can be directed to the above contacts. Dr. Michael Hurley will handle grading and most other issues

Requirements *All late submissions will be penalized.*

1) Attend the orientation session on **Monday, January 25** and complete a minimum of **135 hours of direct community service** at your placement site. Commute time is NOT included in the service hours. You are responsible for finding a community-learning site. If you do not have a site as of yet, please contact Michael Hurley. Ideally, on-site work should begin **no later than February 1, 2021** and continue through **no later than April 30, 2021**.

20%

2) Record your service hours and tasks/projects by keeping an ongoing **log** throughout the time you are on-site. The log should note your observations during each on-site visit; tasks should relate to your overall learning objectives (i.e., if your learning objectives stress working with children, ensure your tasks reflect this). Writing “June 1- volunteered” is not enough! The log is included with your final project and should be typed. The log is included and graded with your final project.

3) **Post and respond to five discussion questions** on the class Blackboard bulletin board. This site is up and available for posting. Please utilize your GMU email stem (e.g., mhurley2 for Michael Hurley) as your ID and the last four digits of your Student ID as your password. This should be the case for all of you. Every student should respond to each question thoughtfully and substantially. Additionally, students should provide a relevant comment to **at least one other student’s response**. Please see the course’s Blackboard bulletin board for further information. If you have not used Blackboard before, please contact STAR (Student Technology Assistance and Resource Center), 229 Johnson Center, (703) 993-8990 for assistance.

10%

4) Complete and return a copy of the **Service-Learning Contract** (after you and the community service supervisor have signed it) to me in the psychology department (David King 2086) **NO LATER THAN February 8, 2021**. All students who fail to submit the service-learning contract by February 8 may need to consider dropping the course, or switching to the alternative version, unless they have discussed the delay with Dr. Hurley and have received a deadline extension.

5) Submit two typed **personal reflection essays** using the questions that follow (see “Class Schedule and Assignments” at the end of this document) to focus and structure your thoughts. A minimum of 1.5 pages at 12-point font (double-spaced) per entry is expected. This is separate from the log. Writing reflection papers is one way to forge a link between service and your learning process. It is your opportunity to examine your motivations, monitor your personal growth and clarify your values, as well as an opportunity to explore some of the underlying causes of the issues and themes you are addressing in class. Reflection papers are not merely logs of the events that you experience, but your response to those events. The format should include the question and question number, your name and course number. The reflection papers will be discussed at the two reflection sessions during the semester (see below). Entries should be emailed to Dr. Hurley at mhurley2@gmu.edu.

25%

6) Respond, by email, to 2 sets of discussion questions that will be emailed to you during the semester.

10%

7) Your community service supervisor will submit a **written evaluation** at the end of the semester, which discusses your overall performance of assigned tasks.

10%

8) Submit a **final project** (by email) that includes:

- Completed Log
- Completed Time Sheet or a letter from community learning site supervisor verifying hours. Letter should be on official organization letterhead.
- A 3 to 5 page typed essay that integrates your learning at the community learning setting with your psychology coursework. You should also address the learning objectives that you set for the course, and how effectively you were able to meet them through this experiential learning opportunity.

Unless other arrangements have been made, final projects are due by email no later than **Monday, May 3, 2021**. You are encouraged to review your log of tasks/projects and journals to serve as a reference for your final project.

25%

Grade Policy

Final grades will be given accordingly: 90 – 100 = A range (A- to A+), 80 – 89 = B range (B- to B+), 70 to 79 = C range (C- to C+), 60 to 69 = D, below 60 = F.

University Honor Code

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community have set forth this honor code: **Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.**

Add/Drop and Withdrawal Deadlines

Last Day to Add (Full-Semester Course)	February 1, 2021
Last Day to Drop w/ No Tuition Penalty (Full-Semester Course)	February 12, 2021
Unrestricted Withdrawal Period (Full-Semester Course)	February 17, 2021 – March 1, 2021
Selective Withdrawal Period (Full-Semester Course)	March 2, 2021 – April 1, 2021

** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Class Technology

Psychology in the Community is essentially a hybrid format, meaning that much of the class participation is done via Blackboard and university email, with a limited number of class meetings.

Official Communications Policy

George Mason University 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.

Class Schedule and Assignments:

- February 5 **Blackboard Posts** for question #1 due by midnight
Deadline for beginning your hours at your community site.
- February 8 Deadline for submission of service learning agreement to Dr. Hurley
- February 19 **Blackboard Posts** for question #2 due by midnight
- March 4 **Blackboard Posts** for question #3 due by midnight
- March 11 **Reflection Essay #1 due by 5pm.**
Describe your responsibilities at your community learning site. How do these responsibilities assist you in meeting the learning objectives you have set for this course.
- March 18 Respond to reflection questions #1 sent by Dr. Hurley
- March 25 **Blackboard Posts** for question #4 due by midnight
Submit for approval (via e-mail to Dr. Hurley or in Dr. Hurley's mailbox) the APA reference for the article you have selected for reflection paper #2.
- April 9 **Blackboard Posts** for question #5 due by midnight
- April 16 **Reflection Essay #2 due by 5pm.**
Locate and read an academic journal article (NOT a textbook chapter) that discusses the psychology specialization/topic that you are addressing through your service. Would the author have a different point of view by serving at your community learning site? With what do you agree? With what do you disagree?
- April 23 Respond to reflection questions #2 sent by Dr. Hurley
- April 30 Final Project due
Required number of service hours: **135**