

Psychology in the Community PSYC 327
Fall 2023
One Credit

Instructor:

Michael Hurley
Department of Psychology
2086 David King Hall, MSN 3F5
(703) 993-1384
fax – (703) 993-1359
mhurley2@gmu.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays 3:00-4:00 p.m. (<https://gmu.zoom.us/j/6215258143>) or David King 2086

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 **Tuesday, August 22** 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 (mhurley2@gmu.edu). Ideally, on-site work should begin **no later than August 28, 2023** and continue through **no later than December 1, 2023**.
20%

2) Record your service hours and tasks/projects/experiences by keeping an ongoing **journal** throughout the time you are on-site. The journal 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 journal should be typed, and is included and graded with your final project.

3) **Post and respond to five discussion questions** in Packback. These questions can be found in the “Assignment” sections of Packback. The Packback discussion responses should include 3 parts: 1) You should respond to each of the questions that I have posed thoughtfully and substantially; 1) You should also provide a relevant response or follow-up comment to at least one other student’s response for each question; and 3) should pose a question of your own, related to the question to which you are responding, for a classmate to answer. In order to get full credit, students should achieve a minimum curiosity score in Packback of 65 on each post. Each of the 5 questions is worth 2 points, for a total of 10 points (or 10% of your final grade). Given that students start their hours at varying times over the first few weeks of the semester, these questions will all have a submission deadline of 11:59 p.m. on Friday, 11/17. However, earlier target (but not required) earlier deadlines for each question can be found on the final page of this syllabus that includes the semester calendar. Additional information about Packback can be found in an addendum at the end of this syllabus after the course calendar.
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 **September 11, 2023**. All students who fail to submit the service-learning contract by September 11 should contact Dr. Hurley to request a deadline extension.

5) Submit two typed **personal reflection essays** using the questions the first two of the 3 essay questions that can be found under “Deep Dives” in the Packback Assignments section. Each essay should be at least 1 page in length. The deadline for each of these first two essays can be found on the final page of this syllabus, which includes the semester calendar.

25%

6) Respond under “Deep Dives” in the Packback Assignments section to 2 sets of reflection questions.

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. A copy of the evaluation form can be found in the “Course Contents” section of **Blackboard**. The completed and signed evaluation should be emailed to me no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday, December 1.

10%

8) Submit a **final project**, which should include the following:

- Completed journal - to be submitted by email to mhurley2@gmu.edu
- Completed Time Sheet or a letter from community learning site supervisor verifying hours. Letter should be on official organization letterhead. – to be submitted by email to mhurley2@gmu.edu.
- A 3 to 5 page final essay, to be done as a “Deep Dives” essay in the Packback Assignments section.

Unless other arrangements have been made, final projects and supervisor evaluations are due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday **December 1, 2023**. You are encouraged to review your journals to serve as a reference for your final project essay.

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)	August 28, 2023
Last Day to Drop w/ No Penalty (Full-Semester Course)	September 5, 2023
Last Day to Drop w/ 50% Tuition Penalty (Full-Semester)	September 12, 2023
Unrestricted Withdrawal Period (Full-Semester Course)	September 13 – September 26, 2023
Selective Withdrawal Period (Full-Semester Course)	September 27 – October 23, 2023

** 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:

August 25	Packback posts for discussion question #1
August 28	Begin hours at practical learning site
September 11	Deadline for submission of service learning agreement to Dr. Hurley
September 15	Packback posts for discussion question #2 due by 11:59 p.m.
October 6	Packback posts for discussion question #3 due by 11:59 p.m.
October 6	Reflection Essay #1 (in Packback Deep Dives) due by 11:59 p.m.
October 9	Respond to reflection questions set 1 in Packback Deep Dives by 11:59 p.m.
October 27	Packback posts for discussion question #4 due by 11:59 p.m. <i>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 essay #2.</i>
November 17	Packback posts for discussion question #5 due by 11:59 p.m.
November 20	Reflection Essay #2 (in Packback Deep Dives) due by 11:59 p.m.
November 25	Respond to reflection questions set 2 in Packback Deep Dives by 11:59 p.m.
December 1	Final Project due by 11:59 p.m. Required number of service hours: 135

SEE NEXT PAGES FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT PACKBACK!

Packback Questions

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

Packback Requirements

Packback Discussion Questions

Discussion Questions Requirements:

Post and respond to five discussion questions which you will find in the “Assignment” sections of Packback. Every student should respond to each question thoughtfully and substantially, and should also provide a relevant response or follow-up comment to at least one other student’s response for each question. In addition, you must also post your own question that is related to the one that you’re responding to that a classmate can respond to. Given that students start their hours at varying times over the first few weeks of the semester, these questions will all have a submission deadline of 11:59 p.m. on Friday, 11/17. However, earlier target deadlines for each question can be found on the final page of this syllabus that includes the semester calendar.

Assignment Title: Discussion question responses

Due Date: 11:59 p.m., Friday, 11/17

Grade Value: 10 points (2 per question)

Packback Deep Dives/Essays

Deep Dives/Essays Requirements:

Packback Deep Dives will be used to assess independent research skills and improve academic communication through long-form writing assignments such as essays, papers, and case studies. While completing the summative writing prompts on Deep Dives, you will interact with a Research Assistant that will help you gather your notes and cite your sources, and Digital Writing Assistant for in-the-moment feedback and guidance on your writing. There will be 3 essays required for this course, each worth 12.5 points. The questions can be found under “Deep Dives” in the “Assignments” section of Packback. You will also find two sets of reflection questions under “Deep Dives,” each set worth 5 points.

Deep Dives Requirements:

Here are your Deep Dives assignments for this course:

Assignment Title 1: Responsibilities & Learning Objectives

Due Date: 11:59 p.m., Friday, 10/6

Grade Value: 12.5 points

Assignment Title 2: Research Article & Specialization Topic

Due Date: 11:59 p.m., Friday, 11/17

Grade Value: 12.5 points

Assignment Title 3: Reflection Questions – Set 1

Due Date: 11:59 p.m., Monday, 10/9

Grade Value: 5 points

Assignment Title 4: Reflection Questions – Set 2

Due Date: 11:59 p.m., Monday, 11/20

Grade Value: 5 points

Assignment Title 5: Final Essay – Learning Objectives and Learning Integration

Due Date: 11:59 p.m., Friday, 12/1

Grade Value: 5 points

How to Register on Packback:

An email invitation will be sent to you from help@packback.co prompting you to finish registration. If you don't receive an email (be sure to check your spam), you may register by following the instructions below:

1. Create an account by navigating to <https://app.packback.co> and clicking "Sign up for an Account"

Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can log in with your credentials.

2. Then enter our class community's lookup key into the "Looking to join a community you don't see here?" section in Packback at the bottom of the homepage.

Community Lookup Key: **27550f1d-388e-496e-a556-fd7cb42b03d0**

3. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

Packback may require a paid subscription. Refer to www.packback.co/product/pricing for more information.

How to Get Help from the Packback Team:

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at help.packback.co. If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at help@packback.co.

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV7QmigrD68>