

PSY 428: Professional Seminar in Developmental Psychology
Department of Psychology, Illinois State University
Fall 2017

Catalog Description

This course will provide the developmental graduate students and faculty an opportunity to exchange programmatic information, present research, examine professional issues, and explore professional practice opportunities. The overall goals are to facilitate first-year students' transition from undergraduate to graduate school, and to disseminate important programmatic and professional information. In addition, this course will provide second-year students with a forum for discussing professional practice issues and thesis research questions. All students will be exposed to current research and practice in the field of Developmental Psychology.

Course Objectives/ Specific Student Outcomes

1. Illustrate the scientific nature of the field and understand how developmental designs and methods capture developmental processes.
2. Understand and appreciate the multidisciplinary nature of the discipline.
3. Possess the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue an applied career or garner placement in a doctoral program.
4. Present research findings both from the literature and from one's own research.
5. Identify important legal and ethical considerations in the practice of psychology.

Overview of the Course

Professional Seminar will meet on alternate weeks, starting the second week of the semester. Discussions will center on current issues and challenges students have faced in professional practice placements, research work, and in the classroom.

Prerequisites

Graduate standing in Developmental Psychology and consent of the instructor.

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to attend all meetings, read any assigned materials, complete any writing assignments, ask fruitful questions, initiate discussions, and actively participate by sharing personal experiences and professional judgments.

Each member of the seminar will be expected to attend departmental colloquia, thesis proposals and/or defenses within the Department of Psychology and to make a presentation during the year (primarily Spring semesters). This presentation may be about research, teaching or a professional practice issue.

Summary of Requirements

Participation: Participation based on active involvement in seminar discussions will make up 33% of your grade.

Attendance: Regular class attendance and attending departmental colloquia, thesis proposals and/or thesis defenses will make up 33% of your grade.

Presentation: Presentation of a research, teaching or professional practice issue will constitute 33% of your grade.

Grading Scale

A = 90% or more of the total points

B = 80% - 89% of the total points

C = 70%- 79% of the total points

D = 60% to 69% of the total points

F= below 60% of the total points

Tentative Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Aug 29	Organizational Meeting
3	Sept 12	What It's Like to Work in Different Labs
5	Sept 26	Student Topic: Registration and Plan of Study
7	Oct 10	Student Topic: Writing a Thesis
9	Oct 24	Student Presentation: Ju
11	Nov 7	Student Presentation: Cody
13	Nov 28	Brandon McDaniel guest presentation or chapter discussion