PSYCHOLOGY 311 – PSYCHOLOGY DIALOGUE SERIES: DIVERSITY

Section: 001
When: Mondays, 12:05 - 12:55 p.m.
Duration: 8/28/17 - 12/4/17
Where: Darwin Hall, Room 37
Units: 1 semester unit

Instructor: Dr. David F. Sowerby

Note:
1. The best way to reach me is during class or visit me in person during my office hours. To make myself available outside of class hours, I have scheduled office hours on several days. If it is urgent and you need to reach me outside of class, please send me a voice-mail message rather than an e-mail message, for the quickest response.
2. If you miss a class, you will need to get notes from another student; do not ask the instructor to go over material already covered in class when you were absent.

Voice Mail: (707) 588-0725 (I will return calls as soon as possible)
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Office Hours: Mondays, 1 - 3 p.m., 4:45 - 5:45 p.m.
               Tuesdays, 5:45 - 6:45 p.m.
               Thursdays, 5:45 - 6:45 p.m.
Note: Office hours begin on 8/29/17 and end on 12/7/17

Catalog Description: A lecture series that explores current topics of interest to psychologists. Topics include research, diversity, social justice, clinical, developmental, professional and academic fields in psychology. CR/NC only. Upper Division Elective.

Course Description: This course will explore current issues regarding diversity, which is currently one of the most pressing issues for the United States and the larger world. We will examine various topics related to diversity, including discrimination, racism, and oppression, and the need for unity with diversity, respect for and valuing diversity, and equality. Guest speakers from various disciplines will talk about different facets of identity, such as race, ethnicity, culture, age, disability, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status, and how these can affect one’s life. The impact of belonging to or identifying with certain groups will be explored (e.g., privileges or challenges people experience as a member of a certain group). Students will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with the guest speakers and explore their own experiences related to diversity during class discussions. The ideas in this course have direct application to students’ personal and professional lives and relationships.

Course Objectives:
1. To explore current issues regarding diversity.
2. To understand diverse perspectives and experiences of others, in order to promote equality, respectful, harmonious personal and professional relationships.
3. To be able to reflect on personal experience and social systems in light of psychological knowledge.
4. To be able to recognize and understand the complexity of cultural diversity, in light of psychological knowledge.
5. To engage in dialogue with guest speakers from different disciplines in order to further one’s knowledge of issues related to diversity.

**Topics and Speakers:** In keeping with the principles of respect and collaboration, this course will be designed, as much as possible, around the interests of the students. I will ask for your specific areas of interest and then try to find guest speakers to address these. I will try my best to meet your needs in this way, but I cannot guarantee that the speakers will cover all of the interests of the students in the class. **Please inform me as soon as possible about specific speakers whom you would like me to invite, along with their contact and background information. I will try to fit them into the course plan.** I have already scheduled several guest speakers who I think will be especially interesting and informative. If I do not receive specific requests for speakers from the students, I will make every effort to find experts regarding diversity to fill in the open dates in the course calendar. I will let you know who will be visiting our class as soon as a speaker is confirmed.

**Format:** Classes will include visits by guest speakers, exercises, and group and class discussions. After the guest speaker completes her/his talk, please be ready to ask the speaker questions, so there is meaningful dialogue and discussion. There will likely be a few classes when we will not have a guest speaker; during these classes, you will have the chance to explore your own experiences related to diversity in more depth.

**Speakers, Topics, Assignments, Dates so far (as of 8/27/17)**
8/28 – Introduction and interests of students
9/4 – **Labor Day – no class**
9/11 – Pam Abbott-Enz – Late Adulthood
9/18 – Christa Durand – Adults on the Autism Spectrum
10/2 – Brent Boyer – Disability Awareness and Diversity
10/23 – Shepherd Bliss – Military Families, Racism
11/6 – Juan Hernandez – Multicultural Services, **Paper due**
12/4 – last class
12/15 – (Friday 11 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.) **no final exam and no class**

**Evaluation:**
1. **Attendance and Participation** - Students are required to attend class, participate during group discussions and exercises, and give the guest speakers respectful attention. Please ask the speakers questions and show your appreciation for their visits. The grade for attendance and participation will be based on the percentage of classes attended; each class, you will be asked to sign an attendance sheet (as proof of attendance). There are 14 classes for this course. (Example: 12/14 classes attended = 51.4/60 participation score)
Weight: 60% of the final grade

Note: If a student attends classes before being officially registered in the course and he/she signs in, then this student will receive attendance credit for these classes. However, if a student does not attend classes before being officially registered, then he/she will not receive attendance credit for these classes.

2. Paper: Write a paper that addresses one key issue related to diversity that you are especially interested in.

Your paper will only be accepted if the following criteria are met:
Include the following sections in your paper (use subtitles):
   i) The Issue/Problem. Briefly describe the issue/problem related to diversity.
   ii) Who is Affected and how? Briefly describe who is affected (e.g., you, certain groups) and in what specific ways.
   iii) Effective/Potential Solutions. Briefly describe any solutions that have worked in the past and potential solutions that could be implemented in the future.

Length (Minimum and Maximum): Two full pages (typed, double-spaced)
Writing Style: Essay style. Your writing should be clear and free from grammatical errors.
Font Size: 12
Margins: 1 inch

You are free to cite sources if you wish, but this is not required. If you refer to the works or ideas of others, please cite them within your paper (author, year), and include the source in a Reference List.

Weight: Students will receive 40% for this paper, if the above criteria are met. If the above criteria are not met, students will be asked to resubmit the paper until they are met. If a paper does not meet the criteria mentioned above, the student will receive 0/40 until the criteria are met.

This paper will give you the opportunity to explore a topic related to diversity of particular interest to you, so that you are able to increase your understanding of the issue, appreciate who is affected by it, and what might be done in order to promote respect for diversity and more harmonious relationships. This assignment will also help you improve your writing skills.

Grading:
Cr = credit
NC = no credit

In order to receive credit, your final grade must be at least 70%

Summary of Grading System:
60% - Attendance and Participation
40% - Paper

Note: If a student does not sign in for a particular class, then s/he will not receive attendance credit for that date. Also, late papers will not be accepted. Exceptions to these would occur only if formal documentation (e.g., doctor’s note) is submitted to the instructor (if you are absent from a class or if you submit a paper late); otherwise, you will receive an absence or zero. Resubmitted papers should be turned in within 2 days after they are returned to the student, and must be received by 11/20/17 or else they will receive a zero.

Grading:
A = 91.1 – 100%
A- = 90 – 91%
B+ = 89 – 89.9%
B = 81.1 – 88.9%
B- = 80 – 81%
C+ = 79 – 79.9%
C = 71.1 – 78.9%
C- = 70 – 71%
D+ = 69 – 69.9%
D = 61.1 – 68.9%
D- = 60 – 61%
F = 0 – 59.9%

Special Needs:
If you are having trouble in the course or if you have special academic needs, please see me immediately, so I can assist you. I will do my best to facilitate your learning and work with you to create an enjoyable educational experience. If you are a student with special learning needs and you think that you may require accommodations, your first step is to register with the campus office of Disabled Student Services (DSS), Salazar 1049 (phone number: 664-2677). DSS will provide you with written confirmation of your verified disability and authorize recommended accommodations. You then present this recommendation to the instructor, who will discuss the accommodations with you.

University Policies URL (Disability, Plagiarism, etc.):
http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/studentinfo.shtml