

Course Enhancement Rationale

Course Dept/Number: PSYC 481
 Instructor: Karl Maier
 Total Credits: 4

Course Name: Health Psychology/Behavioral Medicine
 Gen Ed Cr: Yes or No

Indicate which enhancement(s) will be used for this course by checking the appropriate box.

Enhancement	COMAR Requirements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased course content and/or collateral readings	Additional 45 hours per semester of supervised, documented learning.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Research and Information Literacy	Additional 45 hours per semester of supervised, documented learning and/or supervised instruction and documented learning through appropriate technology mediums.
<input type="checkbox"/> Technology	Supervised instruction and documented learning through appropriate technology mediums.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Higher Level Critical Thinking Exercises	Additional 45 hours per semester of supervised, documented learning and/or supervised instruction and documented learning through appropriate technology mediums.
<input type="checkbox"/> Service Learning/Civic Engagement	Additional 45 hours per semester of supervised, document learning.
<input type="checkbox"/> International Education/Cultural Enrichment	Additional 45 hours per semester of supervised, documented learning.
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional hour(s) in class	Additional 15 hours per semester of supervised, documented learning. (Complete only questions #1 below)
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional hour(s) in lab or studio	Additional 30 hours per semester of supervised, documented learning.

1. Describe the enhancement(s) for this course. Discuss how this enhanced course will differ from the current 3 credit course. Especially address what makes it a more rigorous, focused and engaging learning experience.

As currently taught, the course requires a presentation of literature research findings conducted by the student on a particular disease of interest to them. The enhanced version of this course will engage students in a more rigorous research project with considerably more guidance and feedback throughout. For the final product, students will complete a term paper in APA style reporting on the literature relating to the disease they have chosen from a biopsychosocial perspective. Given that this report will be on the scientific literature from diverse fields (psychology, medicine, nursing, public health, etc.) it is expected to take more time than most term papers to research and write given the technical nature of the literature. This paper is additional to the research outline and presentation that is currently required in the course. Students will engage in a more comprehensive writing process than presently required; in writing a cohesive paper rather than only outlining ideas, the student will better synthesize disparate bodies of literature in a coherent way and achieve a greater depth of understanding. It is expected that between 10 and 20 pages will be required to satisfactorily complete the assignment.

In addition to this primary enhancement, students will read three current journal articles (10-30 pages each) that I assign relevant to the topic material being covered for particular sections of the course. In writing, they will also summarize and critique these articles. In addition to earning credit for completing the assignment, this informal written assignment will provide a basis for classroom discussion on a key topic or research finding for that section of the course, and will encourage critical thinking.

2. Discuss what the faculty member will do to provide appropriate guidance and feedback for the enhancement activity.

Information literacy will be actively developed in order for students to effectively complete the research project. I will require students to complete an online tutorial from Blackwell Library on searching databases. This tutorial has pre- and post-tests and provides a certificate of completion. In addition, students will have an opportunity to meet with a librarian who specializes in psychological and medical research in order to address special research needs in this area of investigation. Students will also complete an APA citation style tutorial to assist in correctly citing sources in their papers. I will provide class time for open discussion about literature search approaches and problems, arrange for peer feedback on drafts of the paper, and provide individual feedback on drafts. Students will also receive feedback on their presentations from me and their peers. Finally, the informal writing assignments will be discussed in class.

3. Discuss the estimated time expected for students to complete the enhancement (COMAR requires approximately 45 hours per 1 credit):

In the enhanced course, to assist in properly researching and writing about their topic, students will first complete an online APA citation style tutorial (**1 hour**). Students will also complete an online database search tutorial and meet in person with a librarian specializing in research in the psychological and medical literatures for additional instruction (**3 hours**).

Students are currently required to submit a literature search log and an outline of their presentation for feedback. For the enhancement, students will additionally be required to submit a rough draft of the first half of the newly required paper (**12 hours**), a rough draft of the second half of the paper (this section additionally includes an integration section **15 hours**), and a final draft (**10 hours**).

The journal article analysis and the three accompanying writing assignments will take approximately **15-20 hours**. Because these will be scientific articles, this requirement will demand greater time and effort in reading/understanding the assigned material, generating meaningful written responses, and studying the readings for exams.

Total > 45 hrs.

4. Discuss how the enhancement will be assessed.

Although course enhancement material will partially be assessed in exams, the primary assessment will be in new graded assignments, which will include the research paper (and drafts) and the informal written papers. Collectively, these assessments will count for approximately 25% of the course grade.