

BBH/PSY 502 Health: Biobehavioral Perspectives (Fall 2013)

Instructor: Dr. Laura Cousino Klein Office: 111 Biobehavioral Health Building

Time: Wednesdays 1:25-4:25 PM Location: TBA

Email: lcklein@psu.edu

Phone: 814-865-8813

Overview:

The course used a seminar format to critically evaluate the use of biobehavioral science and psychology to (a) promote and maintain health, (b) prevent and treat illness, and (c) describe interrelationships between biobehavioral and social factors that impact health status. Topics such as social neuroscience, biobehavioral aspects of stress, and addiction are discussed.

Objectives:

1. gain experience in the critical evaluation of empirical and conceptual articles in the field of biobehavioral health;
2. explore connections among key research articles and other issues in the scientific area presented in seminar; and
3. critically consider and examine important “next steps” in the research being conducted.

Grading:

In-Class Participation (20%): Students are expected to prepare and participate in each seminar, including answering and asking questions and taking part in discussion.

Completed Assignments (20%): To enhance discussion and the learning process, weekly seminars will be accompanied by required readings and written (or typed) assignments that should be completed prior to class. Students should bring an additional copy of their responses to hand in after class.

Term Paper Reference List DRAFT (5%): To start the thought process, students will conduct literature searches and select a tentative list of references for their term paper that will be discussed in class.

Term Paper Proposal (5%): Students will prepare and submit a proposal for their term paper that will be discussed, reviewed and critiqued extensively in class. The document should describe your proposed research topic.

Term Paper (45%): One 15-20 page, double-spaced, typed paper on a topic that must be pre-approved by the instructor.

Final In-Class Presentation (5%): Students will prepare and deliver a professional, scientific meeting-style 12-minute platform presentation of the term paper in class. The purpose of this exercise is to provide students with presentation experience and an opportunity receive feedback on their speaking style and presentation skills.

Readings:

Readings will be made available on ANGEL or as a hard copy at least 1 week prior to the class meeting.

Pre-requisites:

PSU graduate student or consent of instructor.