

PSY 0490 Career Issues in Psychology

2008-09, 1st Term

Department of Psychology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

1. Course Description: What is the course about?

This is a capstone course to consolidate the diverse knowledge students have learned in the Psychology curriculum. This course also prepares students with values and skills necessary to pursue a professional career in Psychology. Topics include unique values and contributions of Psychology to the society, professional prospects in Psychology, and practical skills in pursuing a Psychology profession upon graduation.

2. Learning Approach: How does the course help you learn about career issues?

Students will engage in active-learning through discussion and sharing with invited speakers and classmates, personal reflections and hands-on exercises to evaluate and integrate their psychology training and to reflect upon their future career in the psychology profession.

3. Prerequisites: What knowledge do you need before taking this course?

Psy 0290 and Psy 0390 are required. Final year psychology major students will find the course most beneficial to their reflection upon their psychology training and career planning.

4. Contact Information of Teaching Members

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Teaching Time & Venue:	Thur 10:30-11:15am; 11:30-12:15am Venue: Esther Lee Building 207	
Consultation Hours:	Mon 5pm to 6pm or by appointment	Tue 2pm to 4pm or by appointment
Website:	http://cuforum.cuhk.edu.hk/	

Teaching Assistants:

Name:	Zhiyi Qu	Tianyuan Li
Office Location:	Sino Bldg. Rm 348	Sino Bldg. Rm 351
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Consultation Hours:	Wed 14:30-16:30pm (or by appointment)	Mon 10:00-12:00 am (or by appointment)

5. Course Content

Topic	Content
Uniqueness of Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Exploring the unique contributions of Psychology to the society ❖ Identifying the aims/objectives/main themes covered in the field of Psychology, e.g., the 10 goals specified by the American Psychology Association ❖ Exploring how different streams of Psychology, e.g., cognitive psy, IO psy..., are tied with each other ❖ Exploring how Psychology is different from other Social Science disciplines
Professional prospect: diverse and intriguing career opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Knowing about future directions: <i>further studies</i> or <i>entering into the job market</i>? ❖ What is professionalism? What does it take to become a Psychology professional? What are the professional development opportunities?
Practical skills application: how we cope with the challenging world?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ What are the values, attitudes, and skills valued by graduate schools and employers? ❖ How to present oneself in a professional manner: e.g., preparing application to graduate schools, writing CV, preparing for interviews
Introduction	A general introduction to the Department of Psychology, its vision, mission and values, and the Psychology Program learning goals.
Excelling in Psychology Study	Study skills, balancing work and leisure, stress management, time management are essential to surviving college life.
Understanding Psychology as a Profession	Reflecting on how the coming years in the university shall be structured to prepare for a professional career in psychology.
Surveying the Vast Areas of Psychology	Invited speakers share their expertise and experience in the various fields of psychology like clinical, counseling, educational, developmental, cognitive, cultural, social and organizational psychology.

6. Expected Learning Goals

- A. Students will integrate their knowledge of various psychological disciplines to develop a wholesome understanding of the psychology undergraduate curriculum.
- B. Through course activities and personal reflection, students will acquire the values and attitudes essential to become a psychology professional upon graduation.
- C. Throughout this course, students will be given ample opportunities to develop effective oral and written communication and presentation skills in a professional manner.

7. Expected Learning Outcomes

- A. Consolidate their learning of the Psychology curriculum through reflection on the values and unique contributions of Psychology to the society.
- B. Have a clear understanding of their professional prospects upon graduation.
- C. Acquire essential skills to pursue postgraduate studies or a professional career in Psychology.

8. Learning Activities

	Interactive Lecture	Tutorials	Student Presentation	Self-directed Study
Time per meeting	3 hours in-class	2 hours in-class [alternate weeks]	15 minutes in-class	2 hours out-of-class
No. of sessions in total	13 lectures	7 tutorials	1 group presentation	--
Attendance	Optional	Mandatory	Mandatory	--
Teaching Member(s)	Instructors and Invited Speakers	Teaching assistants	Students	Self-initiated by students

I. Interactive Lectures

- Instructors and invited speakers introduce their expert areas and share their professional development, research and work experiences
- Students share and discuss their reflections to clarify their understanding, cultivate their values and appreciate the different aspects of psychology

II. Student Presentation

- Students present their own understanding of one aspect of psychology regarding its values, professional training and application.
- As an informed audience, students lead the question and answer period after the guest speaker presentation to stimulate further discussion and sharing.

III. Self-directed Studies

- Students take responsibility to explore and understand different areas of psychology and to reflect upon their own university life and career planning.

9. Assessment Scheme

Assessment Mode:	Matching of learning goals:				
<p>Students will be assessed in the form of:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>1. Formative assessment (measures what you have learnt at different stages during the course)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Authentic assessment (measures various abilities that you can apply to address real-life problems or fictional scenarios)</td> </tr> </table>	1. Formative assessment (measures what you have learnt at different stages during the course)	2. Authentic assessment (measures various abilities that you can apply to address real-life problems or fictional scenarios)	<p>Each assessment mode matches with the following learning goals:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Learning Goal 1 √ Learning Goal 2 √ Learning Goal 3 </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Learning Goal 3 </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Learning Goal 1 √ Learning Goal 2 √ Learning Goal 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Learning Goal 3
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Assessment Scheme	Description	Weight	Matching with assessment mode (AS)
Blog	<p>As a weekly journal, students share their comments on the materials discussed in class</p> <p>Out of the 12 topics, students can choose to comment on any three topics</p> <p>No word limit.</p>	3 x 3% = 9%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ AM 1 √ AM 2

	Will be graded on a 0/1/2 scale. A “2” will only be given to comments that show critical analysis or insightful thinking.		
Interview Performance	The interview questions that you have prepared, the mock interview, and the comments you give to other students.	10%	√ AM1 √ AM2
CV	Submit a well-written CV.	10%	√ AM1 √ AM2
Personal Statement	Prepare for a personal statement that is used for applying for graduate school.	10%	√ AM1 √ AM2
Reflection Paper	Three reflection papers on three topics: 1. Reflection on APA learning goals 2. Career interest reflection 3. Reflection on job vs. school	12% 12% 12%	√ AM1 √ AM2
Group Presentation and Question & Answer	The class will be divided several groups to make presentations. And the students should rate on the basis of presenter performance.	10% presentation 5% Q&A	√ AM 2
Peer Evaluation	Rate the contribution of each of your group members to the group project. Substantiate your rating with anonymous comments that help the ratee understand his or her performance, strengths and areas of improvement in teamwork.	5%	√ AM 2
Tutorial attendance and participation	Participation in presentations, discussions, debates, etc., will be assessed.	5%	√ AM 2

10. Learning resources

Journal articles, book chapters, or online articles will be assigned by different invited speakers.

11. Course Updates

CUForum (<http://cuforum.cuhk.edu.hk/>) will be adopted in this course for posting course notes, announcements, online Q&A, submitting on-line assignments, etc.

For students who are not familiar with the platform of CUForum, you are recommended to read the instructions and guidelines of how to use CUForum once you logged onto CUForum.

12. Feedback for evaluation

Students are welcome to give comments and feedback at any time during the class. Stop by to talk to the instructor or teaching assistants. You can also send us emails or post your comments on Moodle.

Around Week 5 of the course, we will ask you to give us comments and feedback through an open-ended questionnaire. Some questions will be like “things that you like and do not like about this course”, “suggestions on enhancing the course”, and etc.

13. Course and tutorial schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Activity
1	September 04, 2008	Lecture: APA learning goals [refresh] (No tutorial)	
2	September 11, 2008	Lecture: How different streams of psychology are related to each other (Tutorial: 8 Sep 2008)	Panel discussion of faculty members from different streams
3	September 18, 2008	Lecture: How psychology differs from other social science disciplines (No tutorial)	Employers comment on their experiences working with graduates in psychology and other disciplines
4	September 25, 2008	Lecture: Grad school application (research prog) Helene/derek and student (No tutorial)	Site visit at career center
5	October 02, 2008	Lecture: Managing relationship (Tutorial: 29 Sep 2008)	
6	October 09, 2008	Lecture: Career interest (Tutorial: 6 Oct 2008)	Career interest exploration through psychometric tools
7	October 16, 2008	Lecture: Competitive (dis) advantages of psychology students (No tutorial)	Student presentation
8	October 23, 2008	Lecture: Job application (Tutorial: 20 Oct 2008)	Workshop on revising CV
9	October 30, 2008	Lecture: Competencies requirement/preparing for interviewing for real jobs; mock interview (Tutorial: 27 Oct 2008)	Workshop on interviewing skills
10	November 06, 2008	Lecture: Professional ethics and work ethics (Tutorial: 3 Nov 2008)	
11	November 13, 2008	Lecture: Debate on psychology curriculum (No tutorial)	Student presentation
12	November 20, 2008	Lecture: Presentation on psych research and every life (Tutorial: 17 Nov 2008)	Student presentation
13	November 27, 2008	Lecture: Reflection on learning in the psychology curriculum (No tutorial)	Student presentation

14. Academic honesty and plagiarism

The University places very high importance on honesty in academic work, and has a policy of zero tolerance on plagiarism. Guidelines on academic honesty are on the website on "Honesty in Academic Work: A Guide for Students and Teachers"
<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

Guideline about plagiarism

Any assignment (i.e., project, essay, or paper) that shows evidence of plagiarism will be marked down severely. In simple terms, plagiarism is copying passages and/or ideas from other sources without referencing those sources. Moreover, when you report someone else's ideas/findings you must put it in your own words and not merely copy full sentences or parts of sentences from the source article. It is your responsibility as a scholar-in-training to cite the ideas and work of others correctly. Please visit the following websites for discussions of

how to recognize and avoid plagiarism.

<http://ec.hku.hk/plagiarism/introduction.htm>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

<http://www.hamilton.edu/writing/style/plagiarism/plagiarism.html>

If you commit plagiarism in an assignment, and it is your first offence in the course, the penalty will range from a minimum of a single letter grade reduction in score on the assignment to a maximum of failure on the assignment. A second offence within the same course will result in a minimum penalty of a single letter grade reduction in the course grade to a maximum penalty of course failure. The specific penalty applied is up to the discretion of the professor. In all cases of plagiarism, the student's name will be recorded in a central database maintained by the general office. If a student is referred for plagiarism in more than one course, or more than one instance in the same course, the student's case will be forwarded to the university administration for follow-up action.

Detecting plagiarism

The Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning requires that all student assignments in undergraduate programmes should be submitted via CUPIDE (the Chinese University Plagiarism IDentification Engine System). Obviously, this policy will only apply to assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based (i.e., excluding calculations in science, brief laboratory reports, drawings in fine arts and architecture, etc.).

- Each student must upload a soft copy of the completed assignment to the plagiarism detection engine CUPIDE, at the URL: <http://cupide.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/student>
- The system will issue a receipt which also contains a declaration of honesty, which is the same as that in <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p09.htm>
- The declaration should be signed, and the receipt stapled to a hard copy of the assignment, which should be handed in before the assignment due date.
- Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers.

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Plagiarism Statement

I promise that all assignments submitted to this course across the entire semester will be original except for source material explicitly acknowledged. I also acknowledge that I am aware of University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and of the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations as contained in the website <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

Signature

Date

Name

Student ID

PSY 0490
Course code

CAREER ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY
Course Title