Capstone Descriptions Spring 2019

*Note: Prerequisite for all Capstone courses: grade of C or better in Psychology PSYCH 3020.

**Psych 4010W.4 The Science of Intergroup Relations Capstone (Dr. Ann Bettencourt)**
Intergroup relations refers to perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors that humans think or express when they think of themselves and others as members of different social groups. This course is designed so that students develop breadth and depth in their understanding empirical research on stereotyping, prejudice, intergroup cooperation, and social categorization. Students will master the substantive and methodological content of reading peer-reviewed research journal articles, will gain experience with APA-style of writing, will participate in peer reviewing exercises, and develop presentation skills.

**Psych 4010W.5 Pain and the Brain Capstone (Dr. Jason Craggs)**
Pain is a common problem that impairs people’s daily activities and quality of life and costs millions of dollars annually. This course focuses on the various factors that influence endogenous pain modulation, especially among individuals with chronic pain. Toward that end, students, taking this course will identify a chronic pain condition of their choice and research, write about, and report on specific factors that are associated with various dimensions of the pain experience. By the end of the term each student will have produced a paper in APA format detailing their research findings.

**Psych 4973W Human Cognition Capstone (Dr. Moshe Naveh-Benjamin)**
This course has four principal objectives. First, it is designed to introduce the student to the conceptual structure of psychological research in cognitive psychology. Second, the course will provide students with practical experience in all phases of answering questions in cognitive psychology by experimental methods: the formulation of hypotheses and research problems, the choice of a plan, the collection of data, the reduction and analysis of the data, and the interpretation of the results. Third, the course will provide training in the writing of research reports. Fourth, students will gain knowledge about selected aspects of the broad field of cognition (especially memory and learning).

**Psych 4980W: Human Relationships Capstone (Dr. Melanie Sheldon)**
Students taking this course will conduct empirical research on some aspect of human relationships and produce an APA format paper detailing their research. Each student is responsible for designing a study, producing an instrument to collect data, collecting and analyzing data, and describing the outcomes. Attention will be focused on writing the individual components of an empirical article including the background or introduction, the methods, the statistical results, the conclusions, and the discussion. Class sessions guide and assist students in conducting their study and writing their paper.
Psych 4984W: Promoting Social Justice, Diversity, & Inclusion Capstone  
(Dr. Etti Naveh-Benjamin)  
This course is an advanced exploration of diversity and social justice in the United States and provides students with a framework for understanding specific forms and the interlocking systems of oppression; a process to explore how oppression affects our lives; a pedagogical framework for teaching and training about concepts of oppression and diversity; and an application of these ideologies and skills in community settings.  
Learning Goals  
* Broadening and deepening the understanding of social justice and inclusion issues.  
* Working with community partners on facilitation project.  
* Researching and learning about social justice and facilitation techniques and opportunities  
* Critiquing civic involvement and engagement process and reflect on activities and learning  

4987W: Cross-Cultural Psychology Capstone (Dr. Etti Naveh-Benjamin)  
This course aims to explore relationships between cultural variables and human behavior, and to look at recent attempts by cross-cultural psychologists to devise theories that reflect the cultural, social and developmental perspectives on behavior. The course include a cross-cultural perspective on topics related to social-justice, diversity, and inclusion, and will emphasize practical approaches for being actively engaged in exploring cross-cultural endeavors.  

4988W Medical Decision Making Capstone (Dr. Victoria Shaffer)  
In this course, students will learn how patients make decisions about their own healthcare and how doctors make diagnostic and treatment decisions for their patients. We will read two books written by prominent physicians who study decision making along with a set of primary research articles that will be available on Canvas. Topics include: Shared Decision Making, the influence of negative emotions on communication and decision making, affective forecasting errors, numeracy and literacy, cognitive biases, and risk communication.