

PSYC 5320-001 Special Graduate Topics in Psychology
CRN 12088 F 2-4:45 PM
STEM 179



Professor	Hector Garcia, Psy.D.	Phone	210-784-2657
Office	Stem 249A	E-mail	Hgarcia2@tamusa.edu
Student Hrs	Thurs 3:00-5:00 PM		
	You may set up meeting times in 15 min increments:		
	https://doodle.com/bp/hectoragarcia/office-hours		

NOTE: *This syllabus is subject to revision as needed.*

Course Description:

From the catalog: This course is designed to allow the program to add a specialized course that fits the needs and requirements of the cohort of graduate students but will not be a permanent elective course topic. Special topics courses allow the students and faculty to explore current new topics in the scientific field, to focus specialized training on a particular psychological subfield, and/or provide specialized training in a unique subfield/topic that is currently not an elective.

Contact Guidelines:

I make every effort to be available to aid you in your learning process. There are several ways in which you can contact me.

- **Email:** Only use official university e-mail through Blackboard and include course and section (e.g., PSYC 5320) and full name in subject line. This is my primary and preferred point of contact outside of the classroom. I check my messages regularly on Monday – Friday from 8 to 5. Within that timeframe, I will generally respond within 24 hours. If you don't hear back from me, email again in the event your message went to my Junk email box. On the weekends, I am generally not available by email, but will reply on the subsequent Monday. If you need to contact me, plan ahead. In all communications, be specific. Your correspondence MUST include information as specified above. If you send an email without sufficient information, I likely won't reply. Additionally, begin a new email thread in lieu of responding back to one of my emails if you are beginning a new conversation unrelated to the previous email. Professional language and formatting is expected (i.e., avoid informal correspondence styles like text messaging).
- **Office:** I will be available to meet during office hours and by appointments. Students can book appointments in 15 minute increments at <https://doodle.com/bp/dawnweatherford/dr-dawns-office-hours>

Assessment and Evaluation: * indicates group work

Unless otherwise specified, quizzes and exams will be administered from and turned in through Blackboard. No paper copies will be accepted. All work is to be completed independently unless indicated by the *.

Faculty Section Reflections

At the end of each faculty section, you will submit a reflection that covers a) a general, short overview of what you learned about the faculty member's research area (no longer than 1 paragraph), b) a possible research question that could be pursued within that research area, and, 3) how you see your relationship with this faculty member progressing over the course of your graduate career and beyond (e.g., thesis advisor, thesis committee member, capstone advisor, course professor)

Course Experience Reflections

At the end of the semester, you will submit a reflection that includes a) a general description of a research area in which you take most interest, b) one or two possible research questions that you would like to pursue, and c) the individuals (and their roles) who you will ask to serve on your thesis committee or capstone experience.

A: 850 and above **B:** 849.99-750 **C:** 749.99 – 650 **D:** 649.99 – 550 **F:** below 550

See policies and procedures addendum for more university-wide guidance.

Course Schedule:

Caveat: Although I will do my best to abide by this schedule, some topics may carry over and others may end earlier than expected and we will transition to the next topic in the schedule. Any topic changes will be announced by any one or a combination of lecture, e-mail and/or Blackboard. You are responsible for keeping up with any possible changes to the course schedule.

No Final Exam will be administered for this course.

Week	Dates	Instructor/Topic	Assignments Due
1	Aug 30	Navigating Grad School/Preparing for your future career Hector, Dawn	Due R of following week
2	Sep 6	Facial Processing Dawn	
2	Sept 13	Applied Cognition across Different Contexts Dawn	
3	Sept 20	PTSD and Depression: Disorders or Survival Adaptations? Hector	
4	Sept 27	Adventures in Meta-Science Brett	
5	October 4	Social Psych/Relationships Amy	
6	Oct 11	Political Psychology Amy	
7	Oct 18	Inclusion of Other in the Self Jaqueline	

9	Oct 25	Dark Triad Jaqueline	
10	Nov 1	Issues related to missing persons Blake	
11	Nov 8	Pop Culture and Psychology Blake	
12	Nov 15	Grant-work in Relationships & Empathy Brett	
13	Nov 22	Alan—Evolution of Opioid Receptors	
14	Dec 6	Alan—Evolution of Opioid Receptors	

Navigating Graduate School

- Degree Plan
- Course expectations
- Academic resources
- Campus resources
- Professionalism
- Time Management
- Growth Mindset
- Research Resources
- Networking

Preparing for Your Future Career

- Areas of psychology
- Career options with an MS Psychology degree
- Doctoral degree options with an MS Psychology Degree
- Career Services Resources
- Building your skills, experiences, and resume/CV
- How to make the most of your grad school experience in preparation for your career

Looking Forward

- MS Courses
- Preparing for doctoral programs

- Preparing for job market
- Preparing to teach
- Review of campus and academic resources