

Tennessee State University
College of Education
Department of Psychology
Senior Seminar
PSYC4820-02
Fall 2023

Instructor

Lisa de la Mothe, PhD

Pronouns: she/her

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Class Days/Times: MW 11:10am – 12:35pm CST

Location: Clay Hall Room 315

*This is a hybrid course, so while we will be meeting on campus a majority of the time, we will have some online asynchronous days as well where we do not meet, but you will have recorded material and activities.

Please make sure to schedule appointments whether meeting with me on campus or virtually via zoom.

Schedule appointments with me at: <https://calendly.com/ldelamot>

On-campus Tutoring Hours:

Mon. 9:15-11am and 12:45-1:45pm

Wed. 9:15-11am and 12:45-1:15pm

Virtual Tutoring Hours:

Mon. 2:15-2:45pm

Tues. 10:30am – 3pm

**Virtual office hours available via zoom meetings through calendly appointments or by email.*

Welcome to the class! We will be using **eLearn** for the course and to communicate with each other.

Please be sure to log onto **eLearn** to access lecture slides, submit assignments, take quizzes and exams, and all other course materials. Since this is a hybrid course there will be some days where we will not meet on campus, but will complete materials asynchronously (watching recorded lectures and videos for example), and we will be using eLearn for completion and submission of assignments (quizzes, exams, article summaries, etc.). In order to be successful in this course make sure to have access to the Internet as well as a computer/laptop/device that will allow the ability to access and interact/utilize the **eLearn** platform.

Rationale and Course Objectives

Senior Seminar (Psyc 4820) is the capstone course option in psychology for students who are not able to or do not wish to complete an original research project requiring them to collect and analyze their own empirical data. Senior Project (Psyc 4500) is the recommended capstone course for those students who know for sure that they plan to attend graduate school in psychology; however, no student who is successful in Senior Seminar should consider themselves unprepared for graduate school. Successful completion of Senior Seminar requires that students continue development of their critical reasoning abilities, improve their research skills, and produce a comprehensive review paper on a topic of their choice.

Course Overview

As a psychology major at TSU, you will take at least 11 psychology courses, including core courses in research methods and statistics, physiology or sensation and perception, learning or cognitive processes, and abnormal, developmental, or social psychology. The capstone course is typically one of the last courses you take in your major. Its purpose is to help you to integrate and apply all that you have learned.

TSU Baccalaureate Learning Outcomes (TSU-LO)

1. Specialized knowledge and skills
2. Broad Knowledge of the Human and Natural World
3. Inquiry and Reasoning
4. Communication
5. Applied Knowledge and Skills

B.S in Psychology Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

1. Psychology majors apply key concepts learned in nine content areas (TSU-LO-1,2,5)
2. Psychology majors describe psychological research in APA-style paper (TSU-LO-1,3,4)
3. Psychology majors identify and apply research concepts (TSU-LO-1,3,4,5)

Student Learning Objectives/Competencies (SLO)

1. The ability to develop a properly narrowed research topic and research question. (PLO-2,4)
2. An understanding of the relevant scholarly literature on the issue, problem, or controversy being investigated. (PLO-1,2,4)
3. An understanding of the theoretical issues relative to their topic. (PLO-1)
4. A thorough knowledge of APA publication guidelines. (PLO-2, 4)
5. An ability to identify major problems in published research. (PLO-3)
6. An improvement in critical reasoning skills by study, discussion, and illustration of several major biases and reasoning errors common in everyday decision making and often found in published research. (PLO-3)
7. Use of current research tools to review the relevant literature. (PLO-2,4)
8. Critical analysis of research rationales and methodologies. (PLO-2,3,4)
9. The ability to identify appropriate research conclusions and implications. (PLO-2,4)
10. The ability to identify limitations in research projects. (PLO-2,4)
11. The ability to summarize, interpret, and integrate research results. (PLO-2,4)
12. The ability to prepare and present finished product as an APA-style paper. (PLO-2,4)

Prerequisites

Descriptive Statistics (Psyc 2180/5), Research Methods (Psyc 2125), and Inferential Statistics (Psyc 3185)

REQUIRED TEXT:

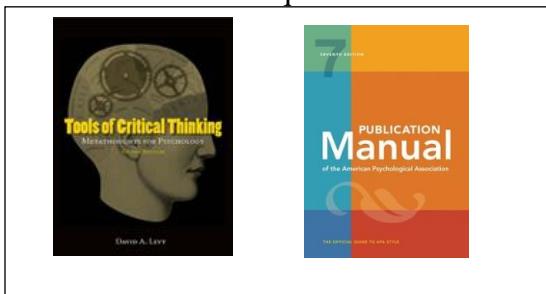
Levy, D. (2010). *Tools of Critical Thinking: Metathoughts for Psychology* (2nd ed.) Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press. ISBN: 978-1-57766-629-5.

Using the short chapters and practice examples in the book will make a difference in your understanding and your quiz scores.

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TEXT: American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN-13: 9781433805615.

You can access most of this material online, but this puts it all in one place. Rental and paperback versions are both available for about \$19

Pictured below: Covers of the required text and recommended text.



Attendance

Daily attendance is expected and, given the large amount of material, students are strongly urged not to miss class. While no formal grade will be based on attendance, those students who have exemplary attendance records and are close to a grade cut off will be considered for elevation of their grade.

Ex: 89.6 normally B

No absences the grade becomes an A

In addition, in-class assignments will be randomly given throughout the term (worth 10% of the final grade) and these will not be allowed to be made up for absences. These in-class assignments are designed to help you, both with course material and career preparation so make sure to attend for the important material.

Exams (20% final grade) (SLO 6)

There will be 2 non-cumulative exams throughout the term, each worth 10% of the final grade. The format of Exams will be multiple choice and/or short answer. Exam dates are:

Wed. Sept. 27	Exam #1
Mon. Nov. 27	Exam #2

Re-grade requests of exams must be submitted to me in writing within one week of returned exams.

Students are expected to take the exam during the scheduled time. If there is a valid conflict (e.g. family emergency, medical) with one of the scheduled exams students should contact me in **advance** of the exam to see if they may be excused and alternate arrangements made. Those students who will be absent due to university business should give me their schedules at the beginning of the semester to determine any potential conflicts.

Quizzes (10% final grade) (SLO 6)

There will be 5 non-cumulative quizzes throughout the term each worth 2% of the final grade. Please make sure you are present for class on time so as not miss the opportunity to take the quiz. Re-grade requests of quizzes must be submitted to me in writing within one week of returned quizzes.

In-class assignments (10% final grade) (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)

As mentioned earlier, in-class assignments will be given randomly ten times throughout the term. Each assignment will be worth 1% of the final grade. These will be important and helpful for your success in the course so please make sure to come to class.

Writing Assignments (10% final grade) (SLO 4, 6, 12)

There will be 4 writing assignments given throughout the term (each assignment is worth 2.5% of your grade). Instructions for assignments and rubrics will be posted on eLearn.

Major Field Test (5%)

This is a required test for all psychology majors. You will have the opportunity to take a practice exam early in the semester and receive feedback prior to taking the Major Field Test towards the end of the semester. Please know that this test is important, and provides us valuable information about the program and major as a whole. Please prepare to do your best and let me know if you have any questions.

Presentations (10%) (SLO 3, 4, 6)

There will be multiple presentations assigned throughout the semester. Additional information will be provided separately and will be made available on the elearn.tnstate.edu website.

Paper (25% final grade) (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12)

Specific instructions for assignments and rubrics will be posted on eLearn.
This assignment will be a total of 25% of your final grade

Wed. Sept. 6	Outline due
Wed. Sept. 20	Title page, introduction, and sources due (5%)
Mon. Oct. 9	First paper submission due (10%)
Wed. Nov. 13	Final paper due (10%)

Final Exam (10%) (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11)

The final exam will consist of an in-class presentation based on the submitted paper of the literature review of your topic. Additional information will be provided separately and will be made available on the elearn.tnstate.edu website.

Plagiarism-Academic Honesty

Being able to communicate your individual and original ideas is important for your academic and skill development. Learning to paraphrase from other sources and providing proper citations to attribute sources of information is a fundamental skill, and one that I want to be sure to help you develop through this course. If you are not sure if you are unintentionally plagiarizing, please come and see me, I am happy to help! All documents will be reviewed and checked for plagiarism through turnitin.com, but please also use this as a resource to check your own work. For clarification, material taken from another work must be documented, and in no case should one represent another's work as one's own, this includes information received from others during examinations or submitting another's assignments, papers, etc. as one's own. If you are doing collaborative work, please check in with me if you have questions related to this. Again, if you are unsure please come and see me for clarification, I am happy to help.

Tentative Grading Scale

90% -100%	A	Final grades will be based on:
80% - 89.9%	B	20% - Exams
70% - 79.9%	C	10% - Quizzes
60% - 69.9%	D	10% - In-class Assignments
0% - 59.9%	F	10% - Writing Assignments
		10% - Presentations
		5% - Major Field Test
		25% - Paper
		10% - Final Exam presentation

Changes to Course Syllabus – The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this syllabus. Any modifications to the syllabus must be clearly communicated to students.

The TSU student code of conduct governs all aspects of this course including, personal conduct, plagiarism and academic dishonesty. If you have any questions about the university's policy please direct them to Dr. de la Mothe

Course and Instructor Evaluations

Please make sure to complete evaluations for the course and the instructor. Your input is extremely valuable and provides essential feedback for the instructor and the university.

In order to complete the evaluations go to myTSU:

- Enter Username and Password
- Click Banner Services Tab
- Click the Student Tab
- Click Student Records
- Click MyClassEvaluation

Disability Accommodation Statement

TSU is committed to creating inclusive learning environments and providing all students with opportunities to learn and excel in their course of study. Any student with a disability or condition which might interfere with his/her class performance or attendance may arrange for reasonable accommodations by visiting the Office of Disability Services (ODS). ODS is located in Kean Hall, room 131 and can be reached at 963-7400 or www.tnstate.edu/disabilityservices . You will be required to speak with ODS staff and provide documentation of the need for an accommodation. If you qualify for an accommodation you will be provided with a document stating what type of classroom accommodations are to be made by the instructor. It is your responsibility to give a copy of this document to the instructor **as soon as you receive it**. Accommodations will only be provided **AFTER** the instructor receives the accommodation instructions from ODS; accommodations are not retroactive. You must follow this process for each semester that you require accommodations.

Sexual Misconduct, Domestic/Dating Violence, Stalking

TSU recognizes the importance of providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or is experiencing any of these incidents, there are resources to assist you in the areas of accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and making referrals for assistance with legal protective orders and more.

Please be aware that most TSU employees, including faculty and instructors, are “responsible employees”, meaning that they are required to report incidents of sexual violence, domestic/dating violence or stalking. **This means that if you tell me about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, I must report the information to the Title IX Coordinator.** Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your situation will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need.

You are encouraged to contact TSU’s Title IX Coordinator to report any incidents of sexual harassment, sexual violence, domestic/dating violence or stalking. The Title IX coordinator is located in the Office of Equity and Inclusion, McWherter Administration Building, Ste. 260 and can be reached at 963-7494 or 963-7438. For more information about Title IX and TSU’s SART or policies and procedures regarding sexual, domestic/dating violence and stalking please visit: www.tnstate.edu/equity.

If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, who is not required to report, you can contact the TSU Counseling Center, located in the basement of Wilson Hall, at 963-5611 or TSU Student Health Services, located in the Floyd Payne Campus Center room 304, at 963-5084. You may also contact the following off campus resources: Sexual Assault Center of Nashville at 1-800-879-1999 or www.sacenter.org or the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence at 615-386-9406 or www.tncoalition.org .

Harassment & Discrimination

Tennessee State University is firmly committed to compliance with all federal, state and local laws that prohibit harassment and discrimination based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, religion, retaliation,

veteran status and other protected categories. TSU will not subject any student to discrimination or harassment and no student shall be excluded from participation in nor denied the benefits of any educational program based on their protected class. If a student believes they have been discriminated against or harassed because of a protected class, they are encouraged to contact the Office of Equity and Inclusion at McWherter Administration Building, Ste. 260, 615-963-7494 or 963-7438, www.tnstate.edu/equity.

Senior Seminar Tentative Schedule Fall 2023

August	Activities/Assignments	Readings
21 Monday		
23 Wednesday		Chapters 1, 2, and 3
28 Monday	Quiz #1 (syllabus)	
30 Wednesday		Chapters 4, 5, 6
September		
4 Monday	Holiday-Labor Day	
6 Wednesday	Outline of literature review due 9am CST	
11 Monday	Quiz #2 (Ch. 1-6)	Chapters 7, 8, 9
13 Wednesday	Major Field Practice Test	
18 Monday		Chapters 10, 11, 12
20 Wednesday	Quiz #3 (Ch. 7-12) – Title page/intro/sources due 10pm CST	
25 Monday	Peer Review	Chapters 13, 14
27 Wednesday	Exam #1 – Online Asynchronous (Ch. 1-15)	
October		
2 Monday		Chapters 15, 16, 18
4 Wednesday		
9 Monday	Asynchronous class - First paper submission due 10pm CST	Chapters 19, 20, 21
11 Wednesday	Peer Review	
16 Monday	Fall Break	
18 Wednesday	Quiz #4 (Ch. 16-21)	Chapters 22, 23, 24
23 Monday		
25 Wednesday		Chapters 25, 26, 27
30 Monday	Quiz #5 (Ch. 22-27)	
November		
1 Wednesday	MFT Presentations	Chapters 28, 29, 30
6 Monday	MFT Presentations	
8 Wednesday	Major Field Test	
13 Monday	Final Paper submission due 9am CST-Peer Review	
15 Wednesday	Asynchronous class-follow-up submission	
20 Monday	<i>Paper Questions/Review</i>	
22 Wednesday	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class	
27 Monday	Exam #2 – Online Asynchronous (Ch. 16-30)	
29 Wednesday	<i>Wrap-up review</i>	
Dec. 4-8	Final Exams	