

## Psychology 211: Internship Course in Psychology

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Instructor: Dr. Nicola Curtin

Office: 352 Jonas Clark Hall

Office hours: By appointment. I look forward to seeing you during office hours. Please email me to find a time to meet.

E-mail: [NCurtin@clarku.edu](mailto:NCurtin@clarku.edu)

Wednesday 9AM - 11:50 AM JC201

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**Course Description and Goals:** Welcome! The main goal of this course is to provide you with the opportunity to apply and further develop your psychological knowledge and skills through an internship in a non-academic setting, while discussing these experiences and sharing skills with an academic community in a weekly seminar setting. The course is also intended to serve as an opportunity for you to begin developing and exploring your own professional identity. This internship in applied psychology, and the community we will build in seminar presents an opportunity for you to learn about work life from firsthand experience, to interpret workplace events and client service through a psychological perspective, and to employ your unique psychological knowledge and skills toward solving practical problems and meeting the needs of your internship site.

Other goals include enhancing your skills in leadership and community engagement; communication and personal relationships with diverse people; learning how organizations are structured and function; expanding self-awareness and personal development; drawing connections among theory, research and practice; working collaboratively and under supervision on projects of interest to you and the organization; further developing intellectual skills such as problem analysis, reflection, critical thinking, and evaluation; exploring career options; and appreciating the role of values and ethics in promoting social justice relevant to the needs and problems of individuals and society.

These goals will be pursued through supervised internship, readings, class discussion, exercises, several written assignments, and the opportunity to teach the professional psychological skills you gain through your internship to your peers. The culmination and tangible product of your efforts in this course will be a portfolio containing evidence of what you have done and learned as a student and intern in the realm of applied psychology.

**Readings:** The required readings for this course will be made available on Moodle each week.

**Internship:** Part of the educational experience in this course is for you to be placed at an internship site with the advice and consent of the course instructor. The internship requires completion of minimum of **100 hours** of supervised work at the field site. At the beginning of the semester students will complete a Site Participation Agreement Form with their on-site supervisor, to be signed by Dr. Curtin. Near the middle and again at the end of the semester, both you and the on-site supervisor will be asked to complete an evaluation of how your internship is progressing.

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**Internship Site Journal:** The primary building blocks of the bridge you will be constructing between your internship and your academic learning consist of weekly journal entries, detailing your site experiences. You will write a total of 13 journal entries. Each entry should be about 500-750 words in length (~ 1 page), and should reflect on what you have learned at your internship that week. **Journal entries are due on Sunday evening at 5PM each week (emailed to Dr. Curtin- [ncurtin@clarku.edu](mailto:ncurtin@clarku.edu)), you should also keep a copy for yourself, to be submitted at both the mid-semester and with the final report.**

**Weekly Activities/Time Sheet:** You will prepare a chart that provides a very brief description of your main activities each week, total hours worked that week, and cumulative total hours. Include this chart in your preliminary and final portfolio. **This is required, but you receive no credit for it. It's just a log.**

**Internship Report:** As a way of integrating the different components of our internship course, you will be asked to prepare two 5-page reports (mid-semester, and as part of your final portfolio), linking seminar discussions to your internship experiences. These reports complement the weekly journal in building a bridge between academic learning and your internship experience. In contrast to the journals describe on-site events, each report should begin with 2-4 lessons learned in seminar about applied psychology and internships through our readings and seminar discussion and activities. In each section, you will describe how this lesson applies to your internship site, and also how you might use this knowledge in your future career. The first report will be due mid-semester (March 16), and the complete report submitted in your final portfolio (May 6<sup>th</sup>).

**Skill-share:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the semester will allow you the opportunity to work with a couple of colleagues to teach your seminar colleagues some skills that you have learned during your internship, which you will connect to some psychological principle or theory. You will work in teams of 2-3, and coordinate with me to find an appropriate principle and sources, but you can select any skill(s) you think would be useful to others in the class. Detailed guidelines will be provided in a separate handout. You will have 30- 45 minutes to present to your classmates, and all materials you use will be included in your final portfolio. **You will work in groups, but receive individual grades for this assignment.**

**Portfolio:** All of the evidence of your work and accomplishments in this internship course will be compiled into a portfolio. A three-ring notebook/binder with section dividers should be used to house and organize these materials. The portfolio should contain personal documents such as your current Resume and Site Participation Agreement Form, materials from and about your site, handouts from this class, weekly journals and activities/time log, the internship report, your skill-share teaching materials, and, when available, evaluations by your field supervisor and yourself. A portfolio checklist will be provided.

**Seminar participation:** Much of what you can learn in this course comes from our weekly seminar meetings. We will meet once per week, and your participation is required. Please come to our seminar meetings prepared to share your experiences at your internship site, to discuss issues from the reading assignment for that week, and to contribute to class activities. Class members serve as a peer learning and support group and thus are partly dependent on each other

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for what they gain from the course. If unplanned, unavoidable circumstances prevent you from attending class, you should contact or leave a message for me before class or as soon as possible afterwards.

**Accessibility:** Clark University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you have or think you have a disability and require academic accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS), which is located in room 430 on the fourth floor of the Goddard Library. If you have questions about the process, please contact The Director of Student Accessibility Services, Emily Tarconish, at [etarconish@clarku.edu](mailto:etarconish@clarku.edu) or (508)798-4368. If you are registered with SAS, and qualify for accommodations that you would like to utilize in this course, please request those accommodations through SAS in a timely manner.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** It is a central assumption of this course that you will attend your internship regularly and complete tasks in a satisfactory manner. Not meeting your minimum hours, or poor evaluations will significantly lower your grade, and may result in failure.

### **Tentative Seminar Schedule**

Week 1: Introduction – **January 20<sup>th</sup>**

Week 2: Ethics in psychology – **January 27<sup>th</sup>**

Week 3: Developing a professional identity – **February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Week 4: Conducting an evaluation – **February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Week 5: Thinking critically about “helping” – **February 17<sup>th</sup>**

Week 6: Thinking critically about power, privilege and difference – **February 24<sup>th</sup>**

Week 7: Thinking critically about power, privilege and difference – **March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Note: Dr. Curtin @ conference- class schedule TBD)**

Week 8: **No class – spring break**

Week 9: (virtual session) – **March 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Interim portfolio and self- and supervisor evaluations due electronically)**

Week 10: (virtual session) – **March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Week 11: Skill share team 1 – **March 30<sup>th</sup>**

Week 12: Skill share team 2 – **April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Week 13: Skill share team 3 – **April 13<sup>th</sup>**

Week 14: Skill share team 4 – **April 20<sup>th</sup>**

Week 15: Wrapping up and reflecting – **April 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>: Final portfolio and supervisors’ and self-evaluations due**

### **Grading**

Supervisor’s evaluation: 15% (15 points)

Class participation/attendance: 15% (15 points)

Internship Site Journal: 15% (15 points)

Internship report: 30% (15 % for each report; 30 points)

Skill-share: 15% (15 points)

Submission of final portfolio 10% (10 points)