

Psychology 508 – Colloquium on the Teaching of Psychology - Fall 2010

Instructor: Steve N. Du Bois, M.A.

Class: Friday, Aug 20, 8:30am-12pm, 2019 BSB; Intermittent Mondays, 4-5pm, 1076 BSB

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Office Hours: Available to meet by appointment Monday and Wednesday afternoons

Colloquium: a conference at which scholars or other experts present papers on, analyze, and discuss a specific topic.

Overview:

Welcome to the Colloquium on the Teaching of Psychology! I hope you are as excited to take this course as I am to teach it. Throughout the semester, we – the scholars and experts – will be discussing, analyzing, and indeed, presenting papers on the topic of Teaching in Psychology. I hope to make this course enlightening, anxiety-relieving, entertaining, and not at all onerous.

Goals:

From my perspective, successful engagement and completion of the course will result in you doing the following:

- 1) Understand basic expectations of Teaching Assistants (TA) generally.
- 2) Understand how to complete TA-related responsibilities in our department specifically.
- 3) Navigate, at least minimally, UIC's Blackboard system.
- 4) State several empirically-based teaching tips.
- 5) Like teaching at least a little (and maybe a lot) more than you do now.

Additionally, I look forward to working with you to accomplish any personal goals you may have for yourself in this course.

Prerequisite Course and Required Text:

There is no prerequisite course for PSCH 508. All first year graduate students in the Psychology Department must complete this course. There is no required text for the course.

Evaluation and Grading:

This is a credit/no credit (i.e., pass/fail) course. You will earn a *credit/passing* grade if you successfully complete the following:

- 1) **Attendance:** Attendance is required at all class meetings. This includes our first meeting during Orientation and our four subsequent one-hour meetings.
- 2) **Teaching tip:** Each student is required to share with the class a one-paragraph summary (and *brief* oral presentation) of an empirically-based teaching tip found in the scientific literature.
- 3) **Homework:** You may be assigned several brief homework assignments throughout the semester, e.g. email the instructor for which you are TA'ing to introduce yourself.

Policies/Procedures:

- **Computers/Electronic Devices in class:** While I encourage students to take notes in class, I will not allow students to use a computer to take notes during class, unless the student provides documentation that demonstrates his/her need to use a computer in-class. Using mobile phones etc. to text and/or go online during class is also not allowed.
- **Class Participation:** I hope and expect you to participate in class by asking questions and sharing your own teaching experiences with the class.
- **Missing class:** Students who need to miss class for religious observation will not be penalized, but they must inform me of this absence in the first 2 weeks of class. Students who need to miss class due to circumstances outside of their control (i.e., serious illness, death in the family, etc.) will not be penalized but must bring appropriate documentation for this absence.
- **Empathy and Respect:** Please be mindful of word choice and be kind and respectful in our discussions about the teaching of psychology.
- **Cheating, plagiarism, etc:** Any plagiarism of your teaching tips will be met with a 'No credit' grade for the course, and the appropriate authorities within the university will be notified.
- **Correspondence:** I encourage students to correspond with me via e-mail. I will attempt to answer all emails within three business days. If I have not responded to your email in three business days, please send me the email again.
- **Disabilities/Special Needs:** I am happy to accommodate special needs for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities should inform me of any needed accommodations. Those who require accommodations for access to and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please contact ODS at 312-413-2103 or drc@uic.edu.
- **Extra Academic Support:** The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) is a multifaceted academic support program designed to help UIC students accomplish their academic goals. ACE is open to all UIC students, from freshman through graduate level. ACE can be reached at 312-413-0031 or visited at Suite 2900 in the Student Services Building.
- **Additional Clinical Resources:** If you feel you, or someone you know, needs counseling, please contact the Counseling Center at 312-996-3490. All services are completely confidential and free. UIC also offers an InTouch Crisis Hotline available every evening from 6:00pm to 10:30pm, at 312-996-5535.
- **Dropping the Course:** Only a student can initiate the dropping of a course. The student can drop a course, through Banner, through the 2nd week of the semester with no academic penalty and no 'W' appearing on his/her transcript. Dropping the course after this date will result in receiving a 'W' on his/her transcript.

Course Schedule:

Class #	Date	Topic
1	8.20	Class overview, student fears and expectations, faculty panel, Blackboard introduction
2	8.30	Leading discussion sections
3	9.13	Problem students
4	10.18	Check-in; group discussion on issues that have arisen while teaching
5	11.29	Wrap-up, reflections, and finals season