

FCAS CC Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2015

GHH Room 300, 2-3:30PM.

Present: Christine Fagan, Erin Tooley, Adria Updike, Lauren Rossi, Renee Soto, Kate Mele, June Speakman,

Visitor: Judith Platania (to discuss BA Psychology petitions)

1. Committee Business

a. Minutes of September 9, 2015

Attached file to email

<http://www.rwu.edu/academics/academic-affairs/curriculum-process/agendas-minutes>

Motion to approve: KM, ET 6-0-0

A. Psychology, BA

The minor course changes and new courses will move with the program change petition.

1. Minor course changes:

Sent as an eballot

Minor course change: PSYCH 280 PSYCH.280 - Intro to Abnormal Psychology

Minor course change: PSYCH 313 PSYCH.313 - Psychology of Infancy

Minor course change: PSYCH 315 PSYCH.315 - Intro to Clinical Psych

Minor course change: PSYCH 318 PSYCH.318 - Psychological Testing

Minor course change: PSYCH 365 PSYCH.365 - Sensation & Perception

Minor course change: PSYCH 369 PSYCH.369 - Advanced Legal Psychology

Minor course change: PSYCH 395 PSYCH.395 - Themes in Cultural Psychology

Minor course change: PSYCH 435 PSYCH.435 - Advanced Abnormal Psych

Eballot 09-10-2015 results

1. Minor course change: PSYCH 280 PSYCH.280 - Intro to Abnormal Psychology Approve: 4;

Bring to Committee:1

- recommend modification of course description to
 - adding “PSYCH435” to course description when referencing upper level related course, or deleting the reference to ‘Advanced Abnormal Psychology’ in this separate course description name of that course
 - current version of DSM-IV I think is V—if this is so, recommend change from IV to V.

- Platania : *May 7 meeting review of this course indicated changes to be made to the course description. Requested changes were made and recorded in Curricunet on 6/16/2015. Eballot review of this course reveals more changes to be made to the course description which reads as follows:*

Fulfills a course requirement in the Psychology Core Concentration

Prerequisite: PSYCH 100

Introduction to Psychopathology is a foundation course for Advanced Abnormal Psychology, providing the student with an introductory-level examination of the concept of abnormal behaviors and the methods by which they are classified in psychology and psychiatry.

Students will become familiar with the DSM-IV classification system and the relevant criteria for a number of the most salient forms of mental illness. (3 credits) Fall, Spring

- *The following course description reflects the requested changes by the Committee.*

Fulfills a course requirement in the Psychology Core Concentration

Prerequisite: PSYCH 100

Introduction to Psychopathology is a foundation course for **PSYCH 435 Advanced Abnormal Psychology, providing the student with an introductory-level examination of the concept of abnormal behaviors and the methods by which they are classified in psychology and psychiatry. Students will become familiar with the DSM-**V** classification system and the relevant criteria for a number of the most salient forms of mental illness. (3 credits) Fall,**

Spring

2. Minor course change: PSYCH 313 PSYCH.313 - Psychology of Infancy Approve: 4; Bring to Committee:0

3. Minor course change: PSYCH 315 PSYCH.315 - Intro to Clinical Psych Approve: 5; Bring to Committee:0

4. Minor course change: PSYCH 318 PSYCH.318 - Psychological Testing Approve: 3; Bring to Committee:2

- Description suggests to me that quantitative analysis with statistical packages may be necessary (look at 240 and 318 descriptions against each other).

- Course description still includes PSYCH 240 as pre-req

- Platania: *Course description does not include PSYCH 240 as a pre-requisite (not the version of Curricunet that I am working with), however the Requisite page still lists QA as a pre-requisite. This will be removed after the petition is returned to the originator.*

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- The course description contains reference to “familiarity with statistical packages”, which is content from PSYCH240. Is a student who does not take PSCYH240 equipped with this “familiarity”?

- Platania: *The following is the catalog description of PSYCH 240:*

PSYCH 240 – Quantitative Analysis

Prerequisite: PSYCH 100, MATH 124 or higher and Sophomore standing

Discussion of inferential and descriptive statistics. Provides some computer experience with statistical packages and a comprehensive study of methodological models, and presentation of outcomes in the professional journals. (3 credits) Fall, Spring

○ *PSYCH 240 states 'some' computer experience w/ statistical packages – this language is in place as core faculty responsible for delivering this course differ in how SPSS (statistical package) is utilized in their class. As a result, SPSS would not be a course requirement. With that said, the following description is modified to address the Committee's concerns that students need PSYCH 240 prior to PSYCH 318 and will be edited when returned to me as originator.*

○ **Fulfills a course requirement in the Psychology Core Concentration**

Prerequisites: PSYCH 100, and at least junior standing.

General introduction and orientation to the area of psychometrics and evaluation, with emphasis on understanding of fundamental concepts of test construction and utilization. Familiarity with statistical packages such as SPSS, which are used to assess the reliability of various types of tests, is helpful although not required. (3 credits)

Alternate Spring

5. **Minor course change: PSYCH 365 PSYCH.365 - Sensation & Perception** Approve: 4; Bring to Committee:1

- PSYCH240 remains in course description as pre-req
- Requisite tab includes PSYCH 100 as prerequisite but not junior standing (as indicated to remain as part of course prereq)

○ *Platania: The following information was taken directly from Curricunet Course Description for PSYCH 365. A review of changes requested from May 7 meeting indicate that PSYCH 240 was removed from the course description as requested on June 14 as detailed below. I'm not sure if there is a version of this course petition that is different from the one that I am viewing, if so please note and I will remove the pre-requisite again.*

Fulfills a course requirement in the Psychology Core Concentration

Prerequisite: PSYCH 100 and at least junior standing.

Emphasizes the construction of reality from sensations arising from stimulation by changes in environmental energy. Some consideration is given to biofeedback, meditation, yoga, and other factors that modulate perceptual process. (3 credits)

Spring

○ *Platania: Once returned to me, I will include language regarding junior standing in the requisite tab.*

6. **Minor course change: PSYCH 369 PSYCH.369 - Advanced Legal Psychology** Approve: 4; Bring to Committee:1

- Course description removes pre-reqs PSYCH 240 and PSYCH 340 without justification—maybe this happened in an earlier petition I'm not tracking?
- They removed prereqs but didn't include this in "brief description of proposal"

○ *Platania: The following is offered as a rationale for removing the pre-requisites of PSYCH 240 QA and PSYCH 340 Research Methods from Contemporary Issues in Psychology and Law. I will elaborate on the current 'Brief Description of the Proposal':*

The psychology department is proposing that the course title be changed to Contemporary Issues in Psychology and Law. We are also proposing that two pre-requisites PSYCH 240 and PSYCH 340 be removed. This is an advanced survey course and as such, while students will be reviewing empirical studies, the emphasis will be on how varying methodologies impact the field of psychology and law (e.g., quantitative v. qualitative studies in eyewitness testimony in general) rather than on how specific methodologies yield specific differences in interpretation of results and findings in the field. In the latter instance, students would need a background in statistics and methods; in the former they will not. Also, as fulfilling a course requirement in the Core Concentration, removing the two pre-requisites allows students to add this course to their Psychology Core Concentration without having to complete PSYCH 240 and PSYCH 340, which are not recommended for Psychology Core Concentration.

7. Minor course change: PSYCH 395 PSYCH.395 - Themes in Cultural Psychology Approve: 3;
Bring to Committee:2

- Remove pre-reqs from course description
- Removing the pre-req of PSYCH295 also removes ANTH/SOC pre-req, but the content seems very sequentially related; the only real difference between descriptions seems to be the naming of regions.
 - Platania: *As indicated in Proposal History on June 23 to reflect the concerns of the Committee as a result of discussion of May 7 meeting, it was the intent of the petitioner to offer the same pre-requisites for both PSYCH 295 and PSYCH 395. I am not seeing how removing PSYCH 295 as a pre-requisite for this course also removes the other pre-requisites.*
 - *In order to eliminate any concerns that the course material is “sequentially related” the course description has been modified such that emphasis will be on the regions indicated.*
- “brief description” says remove prereqs but they also added PSYCH 100, ANTH 100 or SOC 100 as a new pre-req
 - Platania: *The Brief Description should read “Remove prerequisite of PSYCH 295”. The petitioner will make this change when the petition is returned.*
- Prereq in description is PSYCH 100, ANTH 100 or SOC 100, but Requisite tab is PSCH 295-not consistent. With dropping prerequisite, faculty/ programs notified?
 - Platania: *Review of the Proposal Impact Report in Curricunet (and also a search of the current catalog) finds that this course is not being used as a requisite for any course.*
 - *Current catalog course descriptions of PSYCH 295 and PSYCH 395*
 - **PSYCH 295 – Intro to Cross-Cultural Psychology**
Prerequisites: PSYCH 100, SOC 100, or ANTH 100
Critical review of cultural differences and similarities across various psychological constructs, such as emotions, cognition, intelligence, mental illness, among others, are explored. (3 credits) Fall
 - **PSYCH 395 – Themes in Cultural Psychology.**
Prerequisites: Psych 295 or consent of the instructor.
The course examines psychology from a cultural perspective. Students are exposed to psychological theories, research, and therapeutic approaches from various non-European regions of the world. Particular attention is paid to unique cultural influences on

development, intelligence, conceptualization and treatment of mental illness, and other influences, such as religion and political climate. The course will rotate among the following regions: East Asia, North Africa/Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. The course may be repeated but not the topic. (3 credits) Spring

○ *Course description in petition:*

○ Pre-requisites: PSYCH 100, SOC 100 or ANTH 100 or consent of the instructor. The course examines psychology from a cultural perspective. Students are exposed to psychological theories, research, and therapeutic approaches from various non-European regions of the world. Particular attention is paid to unique cultural influences on development, intelligence, conceptualization and treatment of mental illness, and other influences, such as religion and political climate. The course will rotate among the following regions: East Asia, North Africa/Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. The course may be repeated but not the topic. (3 credits) Spring

○ *Course description changes to be made in petition:*

○ Pre-requisites: PSYCH 100, SOC 100 or ANTH 100 or consent of the instructor.

This course will focus on unique cultural influences on development, intelligence, conceptualization and treatment of mental illness, and other influences, such as religion and political climate in specific non-European regions of the world. The course will rotate among the following regions: East Asia, North Africa/Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. The course may be repeated but not the topic. (3 credits) Spring

○

8. **Minor course change: PSYCH 435 PSYCH.435 - Advanced Abnormal Psych** Approve: 3; Bring to Committee:2

• drops PSYCH330 as pre-req without justification (the course does not exist in the catalog)

○ Platania: *Mistakenly listed in the catalog – no such course*

• Change the name of the course to “Advanced Study of Psychopathology” in course description

○ Platania: *Change will be made when the petition is returned to me.*

• “brief description” does not include removal of PSYCH 330 pre-req

• Not just course description changing in petition-Course description tab has PSYCH 100, 280 and junior standing, but requisite tab has PSYCH 100, 280 or 330-not consistent

○ Platania: *Change will be made when the petition is returned to me.*

Proposer Judy Platania has responded to each change. (PDF of comments were distributed to CC members before meeting.)

Motion to approve all PSYCH minor course change petitions pending suggested changes: JS, KM, 6-0-0

New Business

First Readings:

1. **Program changes:**

Major Program Change: PSYCH B.A. in Psychology, BA 3/22/2015

Discussion: Under ‘alternate courses’ Curricunet does not reflect the course these are alternates for in the summary because it is not in the petition itself.

Note that on Curricunet site not all information given is available everywhere, leading to confusion about what has been included and what has not been included. (Program sequence pdf differs from program sequence in CurricUNET).

In program description, after PSYCH 446, say '499 and 451 or 498' to clarify requirements.

Discussion of how independent studies/senior theses are handled across departments.

Committee requests changes to petition: clarification of alternate courses, pending clarification of the seminar, adding 'applied' as the first category. Attached program description does not match the petition in Curricunet. No motions were made.

2. New courses:

New Course: PSYCH 311 Psychology of the Family 3/22/2015

Student learning outcomes need to be copied from syllabus into Curricunet field. Under 'units/hours' need to pick a semester for course offering. Motion to approve upon first meeting pending updates to petition fields: AU, ET, 6-0-0.

New Course: PSYCH 446 Seminar in Psychology 3/22/2015

The question was raised as to how the seminar will be handled among the faculty given the fact that many are already on overloads and a full time faculty member must offer this course. KM - Why did the department decide to make a seminar required when they recognize the impact on the department? Possible heavy upper level course load on students and faculty. If the course is dropped, what will be picked up instead to meet the major credit requirements?

- Nothing measurable listed as student learning outcomes.
- Sample syllabus is requested (level of materials, etc.).
- Other courses with the title 'seminar' already exist – how is this one different? Or will those go away and be done as PSYCH 446 instead?
- Need to have Frank Eyetsemitan, Laura Turner, and Erin Tooley on sign off sheet, add date to sign-off sheet.
- Under 'units/hours' need to pick a semester.
- Rationale: sounds more like an introductory psych class. Need to make more explicit that it's a specialty area of the professor's choice.
- Course justification is only a description of the course, not how it will be handled or why it needs to exist or how it is tied into the discipline.
- Will this course be more of a special topics course? How is it different? Will the students need to produce something, or will they get that out of experimental psych course?

Committee cites multiple issues to be addressed by the department before a vote can be taken on this proposal. Platania will communicate these issues to the department. No motions were made.

History: 37 classes are currently at the FCAS CC tier and are involved in a program change. This program change petition is not on Curricunet and needs to be updated from WordPress. No business plan is given. History 100 and 103 are listed as prerequisites for many of the courses (new and change petitions) but no petition for these courses is found. The Chair of the History Department, Dr. Meriwether, and/ or History representatives will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the proposed History changes.

KM left 3:40 pm.

Motion to adjourn at 3:45: LR, RS, 5-0-0.