PSY 490
Practicum in Psychology
Winter, 2016

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Office Hours: Monday, 2-3pm
           Wednesday, 2-3pm
           Other times available by request

Course Description:

This elective course is designed to afford students with opportunities to expand their awareness and understanding of the various fields of work and study that are impacted by our discipline and in which psychologists and psychology students often develop careers.

Typically, enrolled students fall into one of three broad categories: 1) those who plan to seek doctoral degrees, 2) those who plan to pursue a practice-related master degree, and 3) those who plan to enter the job market immediately upon graduation.

In each instance, efforts will be directed toward making sure students understand the implications of their decisions – what those decisions entail, what they will and won’t allow in terms of work, career movement, flexibility, stability, income, advancement, etc. Efforts will also be made to ensure that students are aware of related opportunities and to make sure that they are making fully informed decisions.
Efforts will also be made to ensure that students understand, have planned for, and, where and to the extent possible, have begun taking initial steps toward their goals. For some, this may mean selecting a group of graduate schools to which they will apply. For others, this may entail talking to potential references, preparing drafts of personal statements for application to masters programs, etc. And, for others, this might include meeting with career counselors, developing a resume, or exploring geographical options.

These efforts will culminate in a final presentation to the class, and the submission of a portfolio to the instructor consistent with stated plans and goals. In this way, it is hoped that the course will not only provide opportunity for exploration, but concrete assistance in planning for and initiating “the next step.”

**Assignments and requirements:**

Students will complete 140 “on site” hours. What these hours include will be determined through conversation with site supervisor(s) and course instructor. The nature of this course guarantees that there will be considerable variability from one student and placement to the next.

**Students will attend each scheduled class session.** Students will be allowed on unexcused absence. All other absences should be negotiated before the scheduled course.

**Students will complete all class assignments.** These will include assigned readings, but also individually constructed activities designed to meet the unique needs of each student.
**Tentative Schedule:**

**Week of:**

1/13   Introduction

1/27   Theory blindness, the Boulder Model, thinking like a scientist, and the importance of seeing questions.

2/10   After GVSU: Graduate school or other...

2/24   Does therapy work?

3/2    Research into action: Reports from the field.

3/23   APA ethical guidelines

4/6    Personal characteristics, biases, and preferences...

4/20   Summation and discussion of Final Project.