**PSY 490**  
*Psychology Practicum*  
*Winter, 2015*

**Instructor:** Bryan Bolea, Ph.D.  
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**Phone:** 331-2932  
**Office:** ASH 2128

**Office Hours:**  
Mondays at 1pm  
Wednesdays 2pm.  
Other times by arrangement.

**Course Description:**

Practicum experiences provide unique opportunities for students to examine professional practice through the lens of discipline knowledge gleaned through academic coursework and research. As such, practicum courses are especially well positioned to help facilitate the sort of personal and professional exploration necessary for students to smoothly transition from undergraduate school to the arenas of work or graduate studies.

This course is designed to foster this progress in three ways. First, students will take part in field and classroom based activities that will help them better understand their own interests and motivations, as well as their strengths and weaknesses, for pursuing a career in psychology (broadly defined).

Second, students will have experiences and conversations in the field, and will be exposed to classroom lectures, that will present information about specific “next steps” including entry-level positions, master degree options, and doctoral level programs.

Finally, through fieldwork, classroom activities, and course assignments, students will have multiple opportunities to begin to develop and practice the skills and sense of professional identity necessary to achieve the best ideals incorporated in The Boulder Model.

**Required Texts:**

No specific text is required for this course. However, several contemporary reading assignments will be given. I will present these assignments through a twitter and tumblr account I use only for this purpose. I suggest that you check these sites on a
regular basis as I post several new articles each week. These articles are culled from respected newspapers, magazines, professional websites, and academic journals. Each is, in some way, related to the study and practice of psychology – some related to contemporary policy, some illuminate how our field is presented in popular media and how it factors into our broad cultural dialogues, and some link to specific studies or professional writings of general or specific interest. Throughout the course, I will, in class or via email, identify specific “required readings” from these postings.

The Tumblr account is:

http://www.tumblr.com/blog/alligatorintheaquarium

**Course Pre-requisites and Requirements:**

A) Prior review and acceptance by instructor.
B) Regular class attendance as defined by no more than one unexcused absence.
C) Satisfactory compliance with all site expectations – as negotiated with, and evaluated by, site supervisor and course instructor. *(As specified on University site agreement form.)*
D) Completion of all written assignments and tests.
E) Active involvement in class discussions.

**Evaluation/Grading:**

This course is designed on a “Credit” or “No Credit” model. It is expected that each student will, by completing the requirements listed above, earn credit for this course. The instructor will notify any student who, for any reason, is at risk of earning no credit.

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/7</td>
<td>Individual Appointments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/14</td>
<td>Need for Research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/28</td>
<td>Philosophy, diagnosis, and medication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/12</td>
<td>Does therapy work?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/25</td>
<td>After GVSU.</td>
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3/11  Ethics
3/25  TBT
4/8   TBT
4/22  *Final Exam is on Wed. @ 6pm*

**Note:** Additional dates for site and/or individual meetings will be scheduled throughout the semester.

**Additional Notes:**

All electronic communication will be through GVSU email. Remember, you are interacting with individuals from whom you may be requesting letters of recommendation or formal employment. Present yourself accordingly.