

Course Descriptions

A listing of required courses follows, listed numerically by program year, that is, in the order in which students would be most likely to take them. Elective courses are listed last; students will determine independently when to take these courses.

Year One

PSY 601 Clinical/Community/Cross-Cultural Integration Seminar (1credit)

Introduces current trends in community, clinical, and cross-cultural psychology. Students are encouraged to explore how these three fields complement each other to bring about positive change in community and clinical settings. Special emphasis is on ways to conceptualize mental health and community issues in culturally appropriate ways. (Note that this is a yearlong course that will meet every other week for two semesters. Students will register in the fall but complete the course in the spring. The course must be taken for 3 years for a total of 3 credits).

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Psychology

PSY 602 Native Ways of Knowing (3credits)

Covers the appropriate and valid ways of describing and explaining human behavior by using the social context, culture, and history of indigenous groups. Includes indigenous approaches to values, health, the interconnection of family and community; the nature of spirituality and indigenous healing; and the importance of elders and spiritual healers.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Psychology

PSY 603 Alaskan & Rural Psychology (3credits)

Introduces rural community psychology, including the diversity of rural communities with emphasis on Alaska, and the rural circumpolar north. Provides an introduction to rural health promotion, prevention, and behavioral health care and a basis for understanding many of the issues of services planning and delivery in rural areas.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Psychology, PSY 632 Community Psychology Across Cultures

PSY 611 Ethics and Professional Practice

Provides a comprehensive overview of ethical principles and legal statutes involved in clinical and community practice and research. Designed as a forum for discussion of ethical issues and other concerns relevant to professionals in psychology, with particular emphasis given to ethical issues in cross cultural and rural contexts in Alaska.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Psychology

PSY 622 Multicultural Psychopathology (3credits)

An overview of contemporary views on child and adult psychopathology from a multicultural perspective. Reviews the fundamentals of clinical interviewing and diagnosis. Includes training in the DSM-IV diagnostic system. The role of culture, ethnicity, gender and social class in symptom formation and the experience of psychological disorders will be examined.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Psychology

PSY 623 Intervention I (3credits)

Increases knowledge and skills related to traditional and nontraditional therapeutic interventions. Students are provided with a range of theoretical perspectives, a conceptual understanding of, and an opportunity to practice a wide range of culturally relevant and appropriate techniques that are applicable in traditional and non-traditional community mental health settings.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Psychology

PSY 629 Intervention II (3credits)

Deepens understanding of the variety and application of intervention techniques in diverse settings. Directs students to explore the efficacy of specific interventions in a range of settings and with a variety of populations. Shapes critical thinking and basic intervention evaluation skills. Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Psychology, PSY 623 Intervention I

PSY 632 Community Psychology Across Cultures (3 credits)

An overview of theory, research, and practice of community psychology with particular emphasis on cross-cultural themes, the design and evaluation of interventions in remote and rural community settings, prevention and health promotion, and social change. Particular emphasis will be on issues relevant to Alaska Native communities.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Psychology

PSY 639 Research Methods (3 credits)

Presents methods used for research in community, clinical, and cross-cultural settings. Introduces epistemologies and ethics relevant to research with rural and indigenous people. Includes a variety of designs and data gathering methods for improving understanding of behavior in social settings. Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method approaches will be presented.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Psychology

Year Two

PSY 633 Tests & Measurement in Multicultural Context (3credits)

Surveys principles of construction, analysis and evaluation of psychological tests in a multicultural context. Emphasizes culturally sensitive application of psychological tests and measurements. Focuses on the history, theory and methods of psychological testing by examining the areas of intelligence, personality, and vocation. Discusses widely-used intelligence and personality tests and procedures.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Psychology

PSY 616 Program Evaluation and Community Consultation I (3 credits)

The first in a two-course series, providing an overview of theories, methods, and applications of program evaluation and community consultation as tools for facilitating systemic and programmatic changes in community and clinical settings. Seminar covers techniques of entry into various settings and designing program evaluations in collaboration with various community organizations.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Psychology, PSY 639 Research Methods

PSY 617 Program Evaluation and Community Consultation II (3 credits)

The second in a two-course series, introducing the principles and dynamics involved in various types of consultative relationships in community and clinical settings, with a focus on cross-cultural and ethical issues. Covers methods of program evaluation implementation and use of program evaluation findings for consulting with relevant stakeholders.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Psychology, PSY 616 Program Evaluation and Community Consultation I

PSY 652 Practicum Placement – Clinical I (3 credits)

Provides a supervised clinical practicum experience in psychological interviewing, diagnosis, and psychotherapy. Applied techniques focusing on delivery of clinical services in traditional or non-traditional clinical settings. Cultural factors are considered in each of these areas.

Prerequisites: Admission to the Ph.D. Program in Clinical-Community Psychology; PSY 623 & 629 Intervention I & II, PSY 611 Ethics; PSY 622 Multicultural Psychopathology

PSY 653 Practicum Placement – Clinical II (3credits)

Provides an advanced clinical practicum experience designed to provide increased depth in applying theory to the practice and improving skills as a clinician. Covers application of psychological assessment principles. Impact of cultural factors continues as a major aspect of the practicum experience.

Prerequisites: Admission to the Ph.D. Program in Clinical-Community Psychology; PSY 652 Practicum Placement-Clinical I

PSY 657 Quantitative Analysis (3credits)

Examines the underlying principles of statistics, including the logic of statistical inference, probability, power, effect size, and Type 1 and 2 errors. Uses statistics for designs including the description of groups, correlation, predictive model, inferential statistics, analysis of mixed-method designs, and common nonparametric techniques.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Psychology, PSY 639 Research Methods

PSY 679 Multicultural Psychological Assessment I (3 credits)

Introduces administration, scoring, and interpretation of various intellectual and objective personality assessment instruments, as well as their psychometric properties, for children and adults. Emphasis on the meaningful integration of test results into a culturally sensitive assessment report. Highlights professional and ethical issues related to multicultural assessment practices emphasizing Alaska Natives.

Prerequisites: Admission to the Ph.D. Program in Clinical-Community Psychology, PSY 633 Tests and Measurement in Multicultural Context

Year Three

PSY 604 Biological and Pharmacological Bases of Behavior (3 credits)

Covers biological underpinnings of behavior and the basic principles of pharmacology. Deals with physiological causes and contributors to psychopathology and with the medical sequelae of psychiatric disorders. Topics will include issues such as differential diagnosis, referral for medical or psychiatric evaluation, the functional and structural characteristics of relevant physiological systems.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Psychology, PSY 622 Multicultural Psychopathology

PSY 605 History and Systems (1 credit)

Provides a brief philosophically-oriented overview of the history of psychology. Compares Western psychology in the 19th and 20th centuries and selected indigenous psychologies of Asia and North America. Special attention is given to systems of thought that have emerged since the founding of psychology as an empirical science.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Psychology

PSY 607 Cognition, Affect, and Culture (3 credits)

Presents an overview of attention, memory, appraisal, and emotion with applications to clinical psychology in a cultural context. Cultural influences on emotional experience and cognition are explored. The etiology and treatment of psychological disorders with significant cognitive and affective disturbance are explored.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Psychology

PSY 612 Human Development in a Cultural Context (3 credits)

Study of developmental theory, research, and substantive applied issues across the life span. Particular emphasis is placed on understanding how culture and sociocultural context impact the interplay of biology and environment in the development of essential qualities and characteristics of individuals.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Psychology

PSY 658 Qualitative Analysis (3 credits)

Provides an in depth study of the theory of qualitative inquiry, qualitative methodologies, and techniques of qualitative research. Special emphasis on using qualitative research methods in cross-cultural settings and in the broader context of community-based participatory research (CBPR). Uses of qualitative research methods in community and clinical psychology.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Psychology, PSY 639 Research Methods

PSY 672 Practicum Placement – Community I (3 credits)

Community practicum experience that provides increased depth in applying theory to practice and improving skills as a community psychologist. Impact of cultural factors will be a major aspect of the practicum experience.

Prerequisite: Admission to the Ph.D. Program in Clinical-Community Psychology

PSY 673 Practicum Placement – Community II (3credits)

Advanced community practicum experience that provides hands-on opportunities to create depth and breadth in designing creative applications of theory to practice and independently applying and honing skills as a community psychologist. Impact of cultural factors will be a major aspect of the practicum experience.

Prerequisites: Admission to the Ph.D. Program in Clinical-Community Psychology, PSY 672 Practicum Placement-Community I

PSY 681 Substances of Abuse in Alaska (1credit)

Presents an overview of the most prevalent substances of abuse in Alaska including physical, psychological, social, and medical consequences of use and abuse.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Psychology

PSY 682 Substance of Abuse Assessment and Treatment Planning (1 credit)

Specialized tests, measurement, and treatment planning for substance abuse are reviewed. Emphasis on the integration of results into culturally relevant treatment plans following the American Society for Addiction Medicine (ASAM) dimensional criteria.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Psychology

PSY 683 Clinical Interventions in Substance Abuse (1 credit)

Emphasis is on conceptualizing substance abuse as a continuum from intervention to after-care. Relevant evidence-based interventions and therapeutic communities are addressed within the context of rural Alaska Native Communities.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Psychology

Year Four

PSY 699D Dissertation (3 – 6 credits)

Involves independent empirical research under the supervision of an individual dissertation committee. Culminates in a document prepared to publication standards and a public presentation.

Prerequisites: Admission to the Ph.D. Program in Clinical-Community Psychology Passage of Research Competency, approval from Director of Clinical Training

Year Five

PSY 686 Internship (6 credits)

Deepens understanding and application of assessment and intervention techniques in diverse settings. Students are placed in clinical or community settings for 40 hours per week to apply and sharpen skills. Students work under a local supervisor who manages student caseloads and

assignments in collaboration with the course instructor.

Prerequisite: Admission to Ph.D. Program in Clinical-Community Psychology; approval of dissertation proposal; approval by the Director of Clinical Training

Elective Courses

PSY 606 Native Ways of Healing (3credits)

Explores healing from a variety of Native perspectives, particularly from Alaska Native perspectives. Emphasizes the preparation and education of healers, their roles and work, and integration within the community. Students will have the opportunity to examine the possible integration of clinical and community psychology with indigenous approaches to healing.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Psychology

PSY 659 Multivariate Methods in Psychology (3credits)

Provides a conceptual discussion of and statistical software training in advanced statistical analysis, including multivariate regression, canonical correlation, discriminant analysis, multivariate analysis of variance, principal component analysis, factor analysis, logistic regression, and cluster analysis.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Psychology, PSY 639 Research Methods, PSY 657 Quantitative Analysis

PSY 671 Grant Writing (1 or 3 credits)

Provides hands on training in developing, writing, and submitting grant proposals. Discusses components of the grant writing process with an emphasis on services grant writing for nonprofits and public agencies. Emphasizes research grant writing, with a focus on NIH grant application and review process, and secondary attention to NSF process.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Psychology, PSY 639 Research Methods

PSY 684 Clinical Supervision (3 credits)

Familiarizes students with the clinical, ethical, and cultural issues involved in supervision. Contemporary, empirically supported information regarding various approaches to supervision will be examined. Covers both the relationship inherent in clinical supervision, and training in leadership and supervision of employees in other work settings.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Psychology, PSY 653 Practicum Placement-Clinical II

PSY 687 Multicultural Psychological Assessment II (3 credits)

Presents advanced psychological assessment tools including interviews, projective techniques and neurocognitive assessment. Emphasis on the integration of cognitive, personality and other test results derived from an assessment battery into a meaningful and culturally sensitive psychological assessment report.

Prerequisites: Admission to Ph.D. Program in Clinical-Community Psychology; PSY 679 Multicultural Psychological Assessment I

PSY 698 Individual Research (1 – 4 credits)

Practical application of quantitative and qualitative research principles, under the supervision of a faculty member. Activities may include data collection, data entry, data cleaning, data analysis, data interpretation, and article-writing.

Prerequisite: PSY 639 Research Methods