

# Psychology 445 - Psychology Practicum Spring 2013 Cheryl M. Ramos, Ph.D.

**Class Time:** Mondays, 3:00-4:45pm  
10 hours field work/week  
**Office Location:** UCB Room #272  
**Office Phone:** 808-974-7438  
**Office Hours:** MWF 11-12n; WF 2-4pm  
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## **TEXTBOOK:**

Matthews, J.R, & Walker, C.E. (2006) *Your Practicum in Psychology: A guide for maximizing knowledge and Competence*, Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides students the opportunity to 1) learn about critical issues related to the helping profession and 2) gain experience working in the “field” of psychology. The student will work at a community site and attend class weekly.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Obtain hands-on work experience in a Psychology-related field for 10 hours each week.
2. Gain experience negotiating entry and working in a community and human service setting.
3. Acquire and improve skills for working in community and human service settings.
4. Promote partnerships between the university and community settings.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Field Placement**  
You will be given a choice of a field placement site. Once the site placement is secured and mutually acceptable, you will be required to work **a minimum of ten (10) hours per week** at the site throughout the semester. You will work under the primary supervision of the agency supervisor as well as under the secondary supervision of the course instructor. At all times, your work at the agency will be conducted as though you are a regular member of the agency staff, and thus you will adhere to the agency’s policies, procedures, and practices. Be sure to call your agency supervisor in the event of illness (or other reasons for absence) as well as to make up any missed hours.

**2. Field Placement Contract**

To clarify your work at the community site, you will develop a contract with your field supervisor that specifies your activities at the site as well as the nature of the supervision. A model for the contract, as well as a sample contract will be provided to you.

**3. Class Attendance**

In addition to the work at your placement site, we will meet as a group weekly. Class sessions will focus on: 1) sharing of practicum experiences (while maintaining confidentiality of personal and private information); 2) developing helping and intervention skills and techniques; 3) and professional and ethical issues. Due to the nature of the course, regular class attendance is required. You will receive five points for each class attended.

**4. Weekly Topics**

The topics to be covered each week are attached.

**5. Practicum Journal**

Your practicum journal will be a weekly record of your experiences at the work site during the semester. It should include a progress report on a particular person, group, or project that you are following and working with during the semester. It should also include: 1) a critical analysis of your experiences at the agency; 2) your personal observations, thoughts, feelings and impressions; 3) discussion of how your experiences relates to psychological theory and research, 4) reflection of your understanding of the intervention process; and 5) self-analysis of your skills, effectiveness, etc. In addition, each entry should have at least one reference to the readings which demonstrates the application of some concept to your work at the practicum site that week. Each entry is worth 5 points and may be rewritten for additional points (for a maximum of 5 points for each entry). Please include the original entry with any revisions submitted. Points will be deducted for late entries. No points will be given for journal entries submitted later than 1 week after its original due date.

**6. Paper**

The paper for the course will be in an area related to the work you do at your placement site. The paper should include a review of relevant literature and current trends related to the work done at the placement site. In addition, the paper should include a discussion and critique of the services you provided at the in relation to the current trends. Finally, a discussion of lessons you learned and a reflection on your practicum experience.

**7. Practicum Performance**

Your performance at the placement site will be evaluated by your agency supervisor at the middle and end of the semester. Feedback based on these evaluations will be provided to you for self-improvement purposes and will contribute to your final course grade.

## **8. Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**

Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Student Code of Conduct for UH Hilo, which can be found at [http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/student_conduct.php)

I expect you to behave with integrity and hold both yourself and your peers to the highest standards of ethical behavior. Academic dishonesty encompasses, but is not limited to: (1) plagiarism (i.e., copying another individual's words or ideas without appropriately citing the source); (2) turning in assignments that somebody else has completed; (3) referring to notes or other written/electronic materials, collaborating with others, copying someone else's work, or providing answers to others in any fashion during an examination. Please note that knowledge of others' cheating and failure to report this to me can also be construed as complicity in academic dishonesty.

Should I have reason to suspect that academic dishonesty has occurred, I will conduct a thorough investigation or may refer the matter to the Dean of Students for investigation. Possible sanctions should you be found responsible for academic dishonesty could include a failing grade for the course, suspension or even expulsion from the University. Such consequences could negatively affect your candidacy for graduate/professional programs or for some jobs.

Provisions of the Student Conduct Code, including those related to cheating and plagiarism, are incorporated into this course and may be viewed at the following website:

[http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/student_conduct.php)

- 9.** Any student with a documented disability who would like to request accommodations should contact the University Disability Services Office - Hale Kuanoe A Wing Lounge, 933-0816 (V), 933-3334 (TTY), [shirachi@hawaii.edu](mailto:shirachi@hawaii.edu) - as early in the semester as possible.
- 10.** Advising is a very important resource designed to help students complete the requirements of the University and their individual majors. Students should consult with their advisor at least once a semester to decide on courses, check progress towards graduation, and discuss career options and other educational opportunities provided by UH-Hilo. Advising is a shared responsibility, but students have final responsibility for meeting degree requirements.

1/03/2013