Instructor: Angela M. Kurle, MA, LAPC
Office: Melson 219 (Front campus drive)
Physical Office Hours: M/W 8-9:20am (Carrollton campus); T/TH 9-10:20am (Newnan campus). By appointment only. Please schedule your appt via email- I reserve the right to change these hours.
Virtual Office Hours: M/W 8-9:20am; T/TH 9-10:20am, 12-2pm- Virtually done by email, either Gmail or Course Den. I respond to all emails within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends.
Phone: (678) 839-6510 (this is the main Psychology Dept. number)
Email: akurle@westga.edu (best way to contact me) or Course Den

Course Description

This gateway course has four major parts:

1. Personal exploration and preparation
2. Career exploration and preparation
3. Professional reading and writing in Psychology
4. Exploration of the major philosophical and methodological alternatives to psychology a natural science

This course will serve as preparation for more advanced study in the Psychology major.

Course Objectives

Students will:
- gain a firmer sense of career direction in Psychology
- take concrete steps in preparing for a career in Psychology
- learn more about self as it pertains to career, vocation, or other aspirations

Learning Outcomes

You will:
- learn the major career areas in Psychology
- learn more about yourself personally and professionally
- articulate a career vision
- articulate a further plan of study and a career development plan
- learn concrete ways to gain field relevant experience as an undergraduate major
- learn how to read, analyze, and critique empirical and theoretical work in Psychology
- gain mastery of the history and theoretical underpinnings of psychology as a “human” science
**Course Format and Your Role**

This course will be a mix of lecture, class discussions, projects, and online writing activities. Your performance in the course will be optimal if you prepare for class by doing assigned readings, carefully prepare and turn in all written work on time, have at least one discussion question on your mind before a class meeting begins, cooperate with other students, and demonstrate a professional attitude and demeanor in class. I would like you to think of the class as a supportive learning community that will guide you in a process of growth and discovery.

**Required Text**


**Grading, Requirements & Assignments**

Your grade will be based upon your performance on several assignments. I will discuss your assignments with you in much greater detail over the course of the semester. All written work should include your name, date, class, be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, and in 12-point font. We will also be doing several in class activities that cannot be made up.

Here is the breakdown of your grade out of **500 possible points**:

- Attendance- Note cards: 75 points
- Who Am I Statement: 25 points
- Career Vision Statement: 25 points
- Weekly Learning Discussions: 150 points
- Career Paths Project: 150 points
- Interview Analysis: 50 points
- Final Exam (May 2, 2018: 8-10am): 25 points

**Grading Scale:**

- 450-500 Points = A
- 400-449 Points = B
- 350-399 Points = C
- 300-349 Points = D
- 299 and below = F
Weekly “Learning” Discussion (150 possible points/ 15 entries total = 10 Points per entry)

DUE Fridays by 9PM—Course Den

Each week you are to reflect upon what you have learned from posted videos, lectures, other class mate’s comments, and assigned readings. Follow the given syllabus outline, make time for the class each week, and stay up on all assigned readings. Make yourself notes and spend some time contemplating what you are learning and how you are using it. I am looking for quality and quantity. Both matter! Feel free to comment on what others are posting in their weekly learnings.

How and What to Post:
During the week, you will go to the “Assessment” Tab, scroll down to “Discussion” Tab, and find the “Weekly Learning Discussion” thread. For full credit, your weekly entry is to include:

Write your name
Date

2 Full paragraphs (Hint: A full paragraph is at least 5-7 sentences)

Paragraph 1: What did content did you learn about specifically. Give examples.
Paragraph 2: How will you use this knowledge in your daily, weekly, monthly, yearly life? How might you apply the lessons you are learning? Give examples. (Be specific!)

**NOTE: If you forget to post one week on a Friday by 9pm, you will receive 0 points for that week. There are no makeup discussion posts. You have all week to post what you are learning so please make sure you stay on top of this.

Attendance- Note Cards (Possible 75 points = 25 class periods; 3 points per class)

You will purchase 3x5 notecards (any color) and bring them to class. Each class period you will write the following on the notecard:

Name
Date
Any question (yes, any question…)

I will collect them at the end of each class period. You are not to turn in your friends note card. Yes, I will notice. I will then tally them up at the end of the semester and award you the points you have earned for participating. These should be the easiest points to get!
**Career Paths Project** *(Possible 150 points: 50 points per section x 3 sections)*

You will open the book you purchased titled Career Paths in Psychology, by Sternberg and look at the table of contents. You will choose 1 chapter from each of the 3 sections (Academia, Clinical and Counseling Psychology, and Specialized Settings) to research and read through. You will then create a Power Point of your choice to create a presentation to share with the class. This presentation will be posted to Course Den and graded by your instructor and fellow classmates. This assignment will be due halfway through the semester. I strongly encourage you to start working on it now and not save it for later. More details will follow in a detailed rubric/instructional handout. This presentation is to be something that will help you better understand your professional goals and direction.

**DUE MARCH 7, 2018 by 9:30am (class time) — No Late Projects Accepted.** Plan Accordingly.

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**Interview Analysis** *(Possible 50 points)*

Throughout the semester, you will look for someone who you feel has your “dream job” whatever that may be. You will conduct an interview in person with them and write a paper about what you discuss and have learned. I will provide you with questions to ask and you may add on your own if you wish. You will turn this in at the end of the semester. More details to follow and a detailed rubric/instructional handout will be provided.

**DUE APRIL 18, 2018 by 9:30am (class time) — No Late Interviews Accepted.** Plan Accordingly.
Expectation, evaluation and grading policy:

Each student is expected to watch all lectures, read class materials, and complete all assignments given. The grading scale explained below outlines points awarded for each assignment. Likewise, students are expected to turn in assignments and journals by the deadline. For each day an WLD assignment is turned in late, one letter grade will be deducted. After 3 days, an F will be given for that assignment. All tests are to be completed on the assigned day. I will only accept documented emergencies as an excuse to take tests, mid-term or final on another day. No exceptions!

All assignments will be graded according to the following criteria: a) degree of understanding of relevant material to self and other, b) organization; c) due date adherence.

If you miss your final exam, and prior arrangements have not been made, you may receive a grade of F on that exam or paper and this may affect your final grade in the class. If you miss your exam due to an emergency, please contact the Psychology office at (678)839-6510 or go to Melson Room 123 as soon as possible to complete the application: “Missed Final Exam: Verification of Emergency”. This form will need to be approved by the chair for an incomplete grade which may allow you the time to make up your exam or complete your final assignments. This application will require documentation and authorization from you to verify your emergency.

Special Needs

If you have SARS paperwork through Accessibilities from the Counseling Center on campus that will require accommodation from me, please see me at the beginning of the semester. I will need to see it and briefly meet with you, so I can be of greater assistance in accommodating to your needs.

Prejudice/Discrimination:

I expect everyone is this class to practice tolerance, respect, and acceptance. This includes fostering a “safe” classroom space for the open expression of ideas. It also means striving to avoid all forms of discriminatory language and attitudes. I really want everyone to feel accepted and valued.
**Academic Integrity:**

All individual written work is expected to be your own, and plagiarism is highly unacceptable. Proper documentation and citation is required when attributing ideas/information. Please see the honor code in the student handbook if you have questions, or come see me. If you are caught cheating in any way, you will receive zero points for that assignment and up to possible failure in this course. These actions will be reported to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs for possible probation or suspension from the University. **Choose to be honorable** instead!

**Helpful Resources:**

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<th>CourseDen D2L Home Page</th>
<th>Student Services</th>
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<tr>
<th>D2L UWG Online Help (8 AM – 5 PM)</th>
<th>Center for Academic Success</th>
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<td><a href="http://uwgonline.westga.edu/students.php">http://uwgonline.westga.edu/students.php</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.westga.edu/cas/">http://www.westga.edu/cas/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Call: 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933-8946 or email: <a href="mailto:online@westga.edu">online@westga.edu</a></td>
<td>678-839-6280</td>
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<th>24/7/365 D2L Help Center</th>
<th>Distance Learning Library Services</th>
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<td>Call 1-855-772-0423 or search: <a href="https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/">https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/</a></td>
<td><a href="http://libguides.westga.edu/content.php?pid=194430">http://libguides.westga.edu/content.php?pid=194430</a></td>
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Please carefully review the information at [Common Language for Course Syllabi](http://www.westga.edu/). It contains important information related to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester. In addition to the above information the following policies apply to this course.
Student e-mail Policy

All formal e-mail communication between instructor and students (outside of Course Den) will be through campus e-mail (your my.westga.edu e-mail account through Gmail). This is a University policy, so it is imperative you check your my.westga.edu e-mail account regularly.

Class Schedule: 28 Days Total

Week 1

Jan 8: Welcome and Syllabus Orientation

Jan 10: Past/ Present/Future Discussion

https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/careers-in-psych/201712/considering-career-in-mental-health-counseling

✓ Weekly Learning Discussion (WLD) in Course Den due by Friday, Jan 12 by 9:00 pm

Week 2

Jan 15: MLK holiday- No Class

Jan 17: Kaplan, Introduction/ Ted Talk-- Who Am I Statement Due- Email to me at akurle@westga.edu -Due by class time- 9:30am

✓ WLD in Course Den due

Week 3

Jan 22: Kaplan, Ch.1; Sternberg overview/ Career Paths Project outline

Jan 24: Kaplan, Ch.1: What You’re Really Meant to Do

✓ WLD in Course Den due
**Week 4**
Jan 29: Kaplan, Ch.2; Assessing your Strengths and Weaknesses
Jan 31: Kaplan, Ch.2; Assessing your Strengths and Weaknesses
✓ WLD in Course Den due

**Week 5**
Feb 5: Kaplan, Ch.3; Finding your Passion
Feb 7: Kaplan, Ch.3; Finding your Passion
✓ WLD in Course Den due

**Week 6**
Feb 12: Kaplan, Ch.3; Sternberg: Career Paths--Career Vision Statement Due - Email to me at akurle@westga.edu - Due by class time - 9:30am
Feb 14: Group Discussion
✓ WLD in Course Den due

**Week 7**
Feb 19: Kaplan, Ch.4; Understanding Yourself
Feb 21: Kaplan, Ch.4; Understanding Yourself
✓ WLD in Course Den due

**Week 8**
Feb 26: Kaplan, Ch.5; Making the Most of Your Opportunities
Feb 28: Kaplan, Ch.5; Making the Most of Your Opportunities
✓ WLD in Course Den due
**Week 9**

Mar 5: Career Paths Project Review

Mar 7: Group Discussion

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Career Paths Project Due (in Course Den by 9:30am- class time)

✓ WLD in Course Den due

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**Week 10**

Mar 12: Class “online”- View and comment on 5 peer’s projects in Course Den for your WLD points.

Mar 14: Class “online”- View and comment on 5 peer’s projects in Course Den for your WLD points.

✓ WLD in Course Den due (1 point per comment for total of 10 points this week)

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**Week 11: Mar 19-23**

Spring Break- No class! Go enjoy! 😊

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**Week 12**

Mar 26: Kaplan, Ch.6; Good vs Great

Mar 28: Kaplan, Ch.6; Good vs Great

✓ WLD in Course Den due

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**Week 13**

Apr 2: Kaplan, Ch.7; The Importance of Relationships

Apr 4: Kaplan, Ch.7; The Importance of Relationships

✓ WLD in Course Den due
**Week 14**

Apr 9: Kaplan, Ch.8; The Road Map  
Apr 11: Kaplan, Ch.8; The Road Map  
✓ WLD in Course Den due

**Week 15**

Apr 16: Group Discussion  
Apr 18: Group Discussion--Interview Analysis Due- Email to me at akurle@westga.edu -Due by class time- 9:30am  
✓ WLD in Course Den due

**Week 16**

Apr 23: Interviews, Connections, Wisdom Learned  
Apr 25: “Study Day”—No Class Held (You may have other classes still meet this day…FYI)  
✓ WLD in Course Den due

**Week 17: Finals Week- Apr 30-May 4**

May 2: 8-10am Class Final  
**More about this later in the semester**

*Note: This syllabus is subject to change at any given time and will be communicated to you when such changes are made.*