

# **Seminar in Psychological and Cultural Studies**

**CPSY 590-41**

**Fall 2011**

Instructor: Mary M. Clare, Ph.D.

Students in the Psychological and Cultural Studies degree program have elected to fulfill a requirement that doubles as a powerful opportunity: To identify an individualized course of study and specialization. This type of enterprise has proven to be enriched significantly with the support of mentors and peers. The Seminar in Psychological and Cultural Studies is a one semester hour venue for obtaining the input and support of mentors and peers as you proceed in articulating and pursuing your scholarly/professional inquiry. While this course is required to be taken once by PCS students, it can serve as continued support and enhancement for advanced students. The course also provides students outside of PCS with an elective option for extending the scholarly process of any independent or thesis inquiry with which they are involved.

The seminar format of this course allows for the extension of individual understandings by bringing to bear the perspectives of many minds on the questions and analyses of one. Peer supervision, mentorship and the experience of collective intelligence in action are expressions of the conceptual and theoretical basis for this course.

## **Course Format**

Primary activities in each of the four monthly course meetings include the following, building in complexity through the semester.

1. Identifying PCS degree, Independent Study/Project and/or Thesis content and goals
2. Articulating and developing next questions and next steps
3. Expanding and clarifying projects in light of 1 and 2
4. Expanding intellectual scope and directions in discussion with peers and extended shared and individual reading.

## **Products for Evaluation of Student Progress**

Students will produce narrative (verbal and written) descriptions of scholarly program and/or refinements of existing program or projects. These descriptions will include resources (research and community) and identified next steps along with plans for future revisions and summative product(s).

The seminar process involves the use of collective intelligence toward the articulation and refinement of these course products. Thus the understanding of and capacity for participating in such interaction will also stand as a product of this course.

Evaluation will be based on self-, peer- and instructor assessment of the participant in two broad areas -- specific indicators of accomplishment in these areas will be articulated by the group as part of the initial class interaction.

1. Development of program of scholarship

- initial articulation of ideas for scholarly focus
- extension and/or refinement of that focus over the course of the term

2. Engagement with colleagues

- active engagement in support of peers' processes of developing their
- scholarly programs
- active pursuit of peers' input regarding her/his own program
- productive and creative consideration and incorporation of input

**Course Description from Graduate School Catalogue:**

As a part of at least the first two semesters of matriculation in the Psychological and Cultural Studies program, students will enroll in this 1 Semester Hour seminar. Given the individualized nature of inquiry engaged by PCS students, this seminar allows the opportunity for each student to articulate and refine her or his program in collaborative conversation and peer supervision with other PCS students and under the supervision of the program director.

**SCHEDULE**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READING</b>	<b>DUE</b>
Class 1	Introduction and course planning		
Class 2	Collective Inquiry Defined Theory and practice Participant Program Descriptions/ Questions and next steps [initial]	Hamilton [CI] TBA	Next Step Outlines [written & in class discussion]
Class 3	Science, Spirit and Evolution	Hamilton [sci/spirit] TBA	Focused Project Discussions
Class 4	Local/Global – How little and big pictures affect one another	Greenspan TBA	Focused Project Discussions Summative Reviews