To: The UEPC  
From: The Department of Psychology  
Re: Course Revision Proposal for Psychology 195

The changes we request are the following:

To make changes to the existing course Psych 195 so that it may better meet its proposed role as one of three “senior experience” courses in the new Psychology major recently approved by the UEPC, meet the Goal 1 of the Academic Blueprint, and potentially meet General Education requirements.

Course Proposal—Revision to Psych 195

1. School, Department, and Title of the Course  
   School of Science, Department of Psychology – Psychology 195: Special Field Experience.

2. Justification for the Course, Including its Relationship to Departmental and College Goals as well as Course Objectives and Requirements.

   Justification for the Course and Its Relationship of the Course to Departmental and College Goals.

   Our goals in proposing this change to Psych 195 are three-fold:

   A. In 2006-07, the department decided to adopt-with revisions appropriate to our department- the learning goals suggested by the American Psychological Association. The following is a statement of Learning Goal #7 that appears in the SMC catalog:

   “Upon completion of the requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, graduates will be able to:

   Apply psychological theory and research to issues in your career, personal life, and problems of social justice in the world around you.”

   Psych 195, in its proposed format, will require the application of psychological theory and research in the internship setting. Papers in the course will also require career and personal exploration. Internship settings can often be expected to address issues of social justice.

   Therefore, this change in Psych 195 will allow us to better meet our departmental goal #7.
B. In summer 2009, a sub-group of department members began the process of examining our program relative to other psychology programs. As a result of this analysis, it was found that select comparison schools have more applied courses. These applied courses are especially important for preparing students well for the possibility of entry into graduate school and/or work in psychology.

Therefore, this change in Psych 195 will bring us in line with best practices from our comparison colleges.

C. By offering a “senior experience” with a choice of an off-campus internship, our new major brings us better into alignment with Goal 1 of the Academic Blueprint for the college which states, “Prepare students for ethical and effective engagement in a diverse and global environment.” This course could also potential meet the General Education requirement of Engaging the Community.

Therefore, this change in Psych 195 will allow us to better meet the Goal 1 of the Academic Blueprint as well as the General Education requirement of Engaging the Community.

Course Requirements. Students would be required to attend an information session in the semester prior to being enrolled in the course. Students would need to use the intervening time to work either on their own or through CILSA to establish an internship that will allow them to engage in at least 80 hours of psychologically-relevant off-campus work, sufficient to support a worksite project, 12 journal entries, 14 seminar discussions, and 5 additional papers.

3. Student Population

Students will be psychology majors. Due to the intensive nature of the course, it is expected that the course will be capped at 12 students when it is offered. The department intends to offer 1-2 sections a year, once they are needed.

4. Relationship to Other College Curriculum

Within the Department.

In summer 2009, a sub-group of department members began the process of examining our program relative to other psychology programs. As a result of this analysis, the decision was made to make the major more flexible and more applied. In keeping with these goals, the following revised major was proposed and then approved by the UEPC in November, 2012 and by the Senate in December 2012:
Major Requirements:
The curriculum of the Psychology Department is divided into four content areas: biological, developmental, personality, and social courses. The proposed major and proposed concentrations listed below will continue to reflect these.

Under the new major, psychology students, regardless of concentration, are required to take the following five courses:
- Psych 1: Introduction to Personal-Social Psychology
- Psych 2: Introduction to Brain and Behavior
- Psych 3: Psychological Methods and Analysis I
- Psych 103: Psychological Methods and Analysis II
- Psych 110: Psychobiology

In addition, students would choose two of the following courses:
- Psych 140: Human Development
- Psych 150: Personality Psychology
- Psych 160: Social Psychology

And one of the following courses:
- Psych 126: Sensation and Perception
- Psych 127: Cognitive Science
- Psych 128: Neuropsychology

And one of the following courses:**
- Psych 100: Seminar in Psychology
- Psych 106: Experimental Research
- Psych 195: Special Field Study

And select 5 additional Upper Division Psychology electives.
**These three courses represent a choice between three different kinds of advanced/senior experiences. Psychology majors will be expected to choose an advanced theory course (psych 100), an advanced research course (psych 106) or an intensive internship experience (psych 195). The students will be encouraged to choose the option that best fits their own individual academic interests and goals.

Within the new major, there are 5 core courses, which will ensure coverage of the breadth of psychology; sets of required courses and increased electives, to allow for depth; and a “senior experience” course to allow students to place their education into practice and/or into perspective.

The purpose of this course proposal is to refine the guidelines, requirements and academic components of the 195 Special Field Study course to allow it to better serve its role within this new major as one of the three “senior experience” courses.

Two tenured psychology faculty who are teaching full time in the department (Emily Hause and Mary True) have committed to offer sections of Psych 195. The design of the course is such that any interested members of the Department would be able to teach the course, however.
Outside of the Department.

There should be no impact on courses or programs outside of the department as the students in this course would be Psychology majors. The impact for students would be positive in that the course would allow them the opportunity to apply their knowledge of psychology, to engage in organized reflection, and to better meet the goals of the department and the college.

5. Extraordinary Implementation Costs

No extraordinary implementation costs are foreseen. We have been working with CILSA to develop this course proposal as well as an appropriate list of potential partner sites.

6. Library Resources

Provided by Patty Wade – See Attached.

7. Course Credit and Grading Options

Class meetings will be 1.5 hours/week for 14 weeks. Full course credit (1.0), upper division. Average time spent out of class in preparation per week: 4.5, average number of internship hours required per week: 6. The course will be primarily a seminar style course, with the occasional lecture used.

8. Prerequisites

Prerequisites include: Psychology 103, Instructor Approval, and Senior Standing.

9. Course Description Catalog Language

Psychology 195 Special Field Study
Students work 80 hours at an internship site of their choosing and attend weekly class sessions. A series of papers/assignments address career and personal goals as well as the relationship between the internship work and concepts learned in the psychology major. Prerequisites: Psychology 103, senior standing, and approval of the course instructor.

10. Course Content

See attached syllabus