This course will prepare students to be successful while in their graduate program by exposing them to information about graduate school, helping them to identify coping strategies for stressors during graduate school, and preparing them to engage in various activities that distinguish successful graduate students. Students will read from books that describe, from a psychological/social and a pragmatic perspective what it is like to be in graduate school. In addition, guest speakers will discuss their careers and research. PLEASE ATTEND ALL SPEAKERS! Bring your colleagues and friends. Students will write applications for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals for work with human or animal subjects and a fellowship application.

**Texts**


**Evaluation**

- Class Participation (16 weeks @ 10 points/week) 160
- Class Presentation/Seminar 150
- Speaker synopsis and evaluation (5 @ 10 points each) 50
- Fellowship application 150
- Human Subjects (IRB) Application 100
- Instructions to Authors 50
- Total Points 660

90%+ = A, 80%+ = B, 70%+ = C, 60%+ = D
Course Outline
Because guest speakers will appear occasionally in class, the syllabus is a guideline for sequence and content, but dates may move depending on the availability of guest speakers.

Week 1  Introductions, discussion of course, discussion of graduate school
January 22  All materials for class due April 30 in their final version

Week 2  Writing an Institutional Review Board Application
January 29
Read: Sample application, application materials
Assignment: Write an IRB application

Week 3  Writing a Fellowship Application
February 5
Read: Sample application, application materials
Assignment: Write a fellowship application (must be approved)

Week 4  Politics and Publishing
February 12
Assignment: Print out instructions to authors from 5 journals where you sometimes find literature in your area of research interest. Be prepared to discuss these in class. (You must be here with your author instructions and participate in the discussion to get your 50 points!)

Week 5  Education and Career Choices
February 19
STUDENT PRESENTATION
Read: Walfish & Hess (Chapter 1): Choosing a Career in Psychology
Read: Choose ONE of:
• Ware (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 2): Pursuing a Career with a Bachelor’s Degree
• Perlman (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 3): Choosing the Master’s Degree in Psychology
• Wiens & Hope (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 4): Choosing the PhD
• Peterson (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 5): Choosing the PsyD
Week 6    Politics and People in Graduate School  
February 26

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Read:  Choose ONE of:

- Sumprer & Walfish (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 7): The Politics of Graduate Programs
- Hess & Sauser, Jr (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 8): Students and Faculty: The Growth of Relationships
- O’Neil & Wrightsman (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 9): The Mentoring Relationship in Psychology Training Programs

Week 7    Managing Stress in Graduate School  
March 5

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Read:  Goplerud (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 10): Stress and Stress Mastery in Graduate School

Read:  Choose ONE of:

- Massey & Walfish (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 11): Stress and Strategies for Underrepresented Students: Gender, Sexual, and Racial Minorities
- Gulgoz (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 12): Stresses and Strategies for International Students
- Pedersen & Daniels (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 13): Stresses and Strategies for Graduate Student Couples

Week 8    Career Skills  
March 12

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Read:  Choose ONE of:

- Handelsman (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 14); Learning to Become Ethical
- Glenwick, Mroczak, & MacDonall (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 15): Learning Research as a Lifelong Skill
- Korn (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 16): Developing Teaching Skills
- Nickerson (Walfish & Hess, Chapter 21): Preparing for a Career in Psychology Outside the University
Week 9
March 19
The Real Thing: The Mechanics of Graduate School
STUDENT PRESENTATION
Read:
Rossman (Chapter 1): Can I Really Complete a Graduate Degree?
Read:
Rossman (Chapter 2): The Program of Study

Week 10
March 26
Guest Speaker, Bertha Nash, Current Graduate Student

Week 11
April 2
Constructing Your Committee, Comprehensive Examinations
STUDENT PRESENTATION
Read:
Rossman (Chapter 3): The Graduate Committee
Read:
Rossman (Chapter 4): The Comprehensive Examination

Week 12
April 9
Spring Break—no class

Week 13
April 16
Theses, Dissertations, Defense, and Then WHAT?
STUDENT PRESENTATION
Read:
Rossman (Chapter 5): The Proposal and Thesis/Dissertation
Read:
Rossman (Chapter 6): The Defense
Read:
Rossman (Chapter 7): Now What?

Weeks 13-17
Speakers 1-4 on March 26, April 30, May 7, and May 14
Students write a 1-page summary and reaction paper after each speaker. April 23rd will be a furlough day and we will not have class that day.