

Getting Students Psyched: Designing an Online 'Orientation to the Major' Course

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Why Did We Create This Innovation?

Inspiration

❖ We heard a number of challenges with the required 1-unit PSY 301 course, which is required of all 2800 Psychology majors, and we aimed to create an engaging online course to address these challenges.

Goals

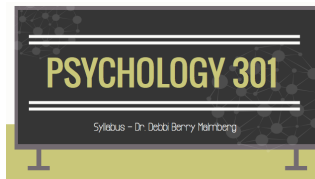
- ❖ The goals of this project were:
 - To **reduce the bottleneck** for this course -- to offer enough seats for juniors in our large major each semester by bringing the course fully online
 - To **design a highly engaging online class** delivered by tenure-track faculty at an earlier stage in students' education.
 - To **provide updated, relevant, and standardized content** to all students entering the Psychology major to facilitate their progress through and achievement in the Psychology major.

Closing the Achievement Gap

- ❖ Allowing students to take the course **earlier**, when it is most beneficial to their education plan
- ❖ Revised content includes proactive instruction on how to complete the major, including sections focusing on advisement, curriculum options, and planning for graduate school
 - ◆ The Tips For Success section of the course includes tips from CSUN Psych faculty on various topics such as good communication (e.g., how to email your professors), how to get into a research lab, how to write a thank you note, etc.)
- ❖ **Providing access** to most of the tenure-track Psychology faculty through videos and course resources, regardless of instructor of record for the course
- ❖ Designing an engaging way to deliver the content of this course is particularly **valuable to our least prepared students, thus reducing the achievement gap**



What is the Innovation?



Hello hello. Welcome to the course.

Welcome to Psy 301! Pre-Professional Development in Psychology Online course - Spring 2016

In this course, we will explore 5 major areas: (1) The Psych Major at CSUN, (2) The Field of Psychology, (3) Tips for Success, (4) Graduate Study, and (5) Careers in Psychology. The schedule for the course is posted and updated on Moodle.

The Details

- ❖ **WHO?** Dr. Malmberg & Dr. Fahmic, Department of Psychology
 - ◆ Support from Faculty Technology Center, CSBS Dean Theodoulou, Dr. Razani, Chair of Psychology Dept.
- ❖ **WHAT?** PSY 301 is a 1-unit, junior-level course. The three primary goals of the course are: 1) to introduce students to Psychology major requirements and how to best navigate their options in the major, 2) to describe various career options at the Bachelor's, Masters, and doctoral levels in psychology and related fields, and 3) to prepare students to apply for graduate programs and jobs in related fields.
- ❖ **HOW?** We polled faculty on the content to address in the course, recruited their participation in the videos, and designed an online course unique to the Psych major.

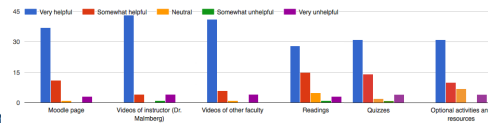
What Impact Does the Innovation Have on the Achievement Gap?

Real Student Impact

- ❖ Reduction of the bottleneck: Students are taking this course earlier in their CSUN career, with the availability of additional seats, and are learning content from faculty across the Psychology department.
- ❖ One student reports:

*This is my favorite online course I have ever taken! Other online courses require you to post and reply to others opinions and I personally dislike that aspect of it. Thankfully this course did not do that and focused on the important things like **learning the content**. I loved the videos as I found them to be very funny and insightful. I really liked seeing the professors outside of the classroom and learning what their outside interests were. Keep this class exactly as it is, it is wonderful! Also, the level of organization of the course was very nice!*

7. How helpful were the following features of PSY 301 to your mastery of course material:



Markers of Positive Impact

❖ Positive impact apparent in informal student evaluations:

After taking this class, how likely are you to approach psych professors highlighted in the videos? (10 responses)



How would you rate your overall experience with this online course? (10 responses)

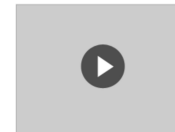


8. Would you recommend the online version of the PSY 301 class to other CSUN students? (10 responses)



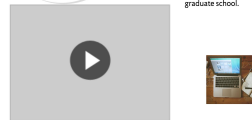
1 HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL?

Great question! You have so many options after CSUN. Let's hear from your Psych faculty about graduate school options.



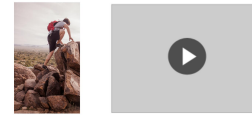
2 HOW DO I GET INTO GRADUATE SCHOOL?

Applying to grad school can be stressful. We're here to make it easier. The first step is to plan for it. Let's hear what your faculty have to say about planning to apply for graduate school.



3 HOW DO I SURVIVE GRADUATE SCHOOL?

So you got into graduate school! How do you survive all the demands on your time? We've found some great tips for you.



How Could This Impact More CSUN Students?

How Could This Be Scaled?

- ❖ **Full scale** use in the Psychology Department starting Fall 2016 (100% of Psych Majors will take this course)
- ❖ Other departments could offer a 1-unit credit/no credit course to their majors with the goal of facilitating progress through the major and general information about graduate education and career opportunities.

Future Partners

- ❖ Faculty who have addressed similar challenges, demonstrated success in teaching online courses, or complete
- ❖ Faculty or students who have expertise in evaluation and advanced tech skills
- ❖ Identifying future partners in the:
 - Development of new content to supplement the current course (based on student requests and additional faculty input)
 - Full evaluation of the project in Fall '16- Spring '17

HOW TO GET THE INFO YOU NEED TO LAUNCH YOUR CAREER.

with this cool technique we call the **INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW.**

WHAT IS AN INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW ANYWAY?
WHY SHOULD I DO IT?
WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

LET'S LET THIS GUY TELL YOU.

ALSO, A FEW TIPS ON WHAT NOT TO DO.

#CSUNPSY301