

University of Toledo
PSY 3940-159: The Star Mentee Program (1-4 Credit Hours*)
Syllabus for Spring Semester 2015
(13th Year of the Program)

“You understand what it means to have an attitude of gratitude, and you’ll teach those who are younger, or those who are for some reason less aware of their blessings, how to show and feel appreciation.” ~ Mathis Holiday

"The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn." ~ John Lubbock

Professor:

Dr. M. Tiamiyu

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Ψ Blackboard course homepage (for syllabus, attendance vouchers, grades and other course-related information) through Blackboard 9.1 Login <http://utoledo.edu/dl>

Ψ My Personal Web site (for my CV, research interests, useful psychology-related links, etc.): <http://homepages.utoledo.edu/mtiamiy/>

P.S. You can leave notes or messages for me at my office (UH1063); slide them under my office door if you do not meet me.

Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, and by appointment. Please visit me during my office hours if you have any questions.

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to participate in implementing an academic mentoring and tutoring program for students at St. Pius X School in Toledo, Ohio. This will involve you working with one of the Department of Psychology’s community partners (i.e. the elementary school). You will be working with children that need academic mentoring and tutoring in the areas of Language Arts, including vocabulary, grammar, reading and writing, Math, Physical Education, Music, other subjects of interest, and the after-school program. As this is a service-learning course, you will be engaged in a process of experiential education. Service learning is a model for educational volunteers and some of its educational values include facilitating moral development, expanding students’ cultural awareness, providing a testing ground for classroom instruction, and contributing to career planning.

Student learning objectives are: 1) to gain program implementation skills, which are specific to the academic mentoring and tutoring of the target population; 2) to acquire knowledge of theories and empirical studies about youth mentoring and tutoring; and 3) to learn how to engage in university-community collaboration. Your service objectives are: to provide tutoring in Reading, Writing, Math, etc., and to provide academic mentoring and tutoring. Your service-learning objective is to work with Dr. Tiamiyu and our community partner (St. Pius X School) to learn

how to implement a successful academic mentoring and tutoring program for children in an elementary school.

You will receive individual and group supervision from the teacher of the students you will be mentoring and tutoring at St. Pius X School. You will keep a journal in which you describe your reactions to and processing of your training experiences throughout the semester. You will identify reading materials related to youth mentoring and tutoring, and integrate new knowledge acquired from these readings as well as materials from your journal into your **end-of-semester structured reflection paper**. Through these experiences, you will continue to build on your knowledge of youth mentoring and tutoring, your academic mentoring and tutoring skills, and experience of participating in university-community collaboration. You will also complete the following evaluation forms: a pre- and post-mentor's questionnaire, a student feedback form, and an online course evaluation form for the department. **The latter will be available for completion on our Blackboard course Web site from 5:00 PM on Monday, April 27 to 5:00 PM on Friday, May 1.**

Prerequisite:

Completion of PSY 1010 or equivalent

My Teaching Philosophy:

I am committed to facilitating students' understanding of the lived experiences of various groups in western and non-western societies from multiple perspectives. Thus, in sharing my understanding of the lived experiences of these groups with my students, the issue of diversity (as defined in its broadest sense), is always emphasized. I began teaching in a Nigerian university about 30 years ago (this is my 18th year at UT), and having pursued my undergraduate studies in Nigeria and my graduate studies in Canada, I have firsthand experience of the challenges we all face because of our multiple roles in society. Juggling academic schedules, work and family commitments build character and resilience. I expect students to take responsibility for their learning by engaging in outside the classroom reading related to the course, submitting assignments when they are due, and always attending mentoring and tutoring sessions, eager to participate in discussions and activities. These are indications of a positive attitude, which is a key ingredient to realizing our goals in this course. The mentoring and tutoring experience should be interactive and cooperative in nature. It should also be an "AHA!" experience (i.e., insightful). In summary, my teaching philosophy guides my expectations of students.

Electronics:

Please, as a matter of courtesy, always remember to silence cell phones and other gadgets that may ring / beep when at St. Pius X School and at other sessions, too. Also no texting ... thanks!

Orientation Session at UT

Dates: Thursday, **January 15**

Time: 12:15 - 1:45 PM

Place: FH 2640

Mentoring Sessions (**minimum 48 hours** spread relatively evenly throughout the semester and as

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arranged with the teacher)

Dates: Tuesday, January 20 – Friday, April 24**

Time: As arranged with teacher

Place: St. Pius X School, 2950 Ilger Avenue, Toledo, OH. 43606 [Directions: Drive west on Bancroft St. West to Middlesex Street, go north (turn right) past Central Street, get to a dead-end, go east (turn right) less than a block, school is to your right]

Orientation Session at St. Pius X School

Dates: Tuesday, **January 20**

Time: 12:15 - 1:45 PM

Place: St. Pius School

Mid-semester Meeting

Date: Thursday, **March 19**

Time: 12:15 - 1:45 PM

Place: FH 2640

Wrap-up Session

Dates: Tuesday, **April 28**

Time: 12:15 - 1:45 PM

Place: St. Pius X School

Attendance and Participation:

You should plan to attend all orientation, mentoring and wrap-up sessions. I will greatly appreciate promptness and active participation at these sessions. Absences do have a bearing on your grade (will lower your grade). You **must** complete the sign in and sign out log for parents and volunteers at St. Pius X School. Also, you **must** complete an attendance voucher for the Star Mentee Program and obtain your teacher's signature every time you are at a mentoring session. (I have provided you with a copy of the voucher on our Blackboard course Web site, and will collect all completed vouchers at the end of the semester wrap-up session, so as to include in your attendance score computation.) Students will lose two points for days/times that the provided attendance vouchers are not used. If you will be missing a mentoring session, you need to inform St. Pius X School general office staff at (419)535-7688 or the teacher of your mentees as soon as possible, and arrange your make-up mentoring hours. Program begins promptly at 12:15 pm or as arranged with the teacher – please be at St. Pius X School/other sessions on time. Thanks.

****Holidays:**

When St. Pius X School has a holiday, you will not have a mentoring session. Your teacher will also let you know ahead of time about other days that you would not come for a mentoring session because of a conflicting school event or other reasons. Kindly, inform your teacher about a forthcoming UT holiday ahead of time, if it falls on a day you were scheduled to be at the school and you will not be coming for the session.

DRESS CODE: There is a dress code for all mentors participating in the Star Mentee Program. Please dress professionally when going to St. Pius X School. Do **NOT** wear jeans, t-shirt, sweat

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pants/shirts, out-fits that expose chest, stomach, back, legs, arms, etc. No tennis shoes, please. Also, do not be overly dressed (as if you are going to a party). Kindly cover up tattoos, if possible and do not use nose/tongue/lip rings. Thanks for being a good role model to your mentees and representing UT in the best light that you can.

Evaluation:

There is no formal exam. Grading will be done by Dr. Tiamiyu, based on your structured reflection paper, attendance, and input from St. Pius X School staff as to whether student has attained the learning and service learning objectives at the completion of externship. Students must meet all course requirements in order not to earn an IN (incomplete) as a final grade.

P.S.: Attendance and input from school staff: 200 Points; End-of-semester structured reflection paper: 100 Points; **Total Points: 300.**

Grading: The final course grade will be determined in accordance with the grading system below, which lists category floors (**letter grade and applicable points; there will be no rounding off of points/percentages**):

	A 95% = 285	A- 90% = 270
B+ 85% = 255	B 80% = 240	B- 75% = 225
C+ 70% = 210	C 65% = 195	C- 60% = 180
D+ 55% = 165	D 50% = 150	D- 45% = 135
F 00% = 0		

P.S.: I reserve the right to discretionary grade adjustments.

THE END-OF-SEMESTER STRUCTURED REFLECTION PAPER

Reflection is the intentional consideration of an experience in the light of a particular learning objective (Bringle and Hatcher, 1999). To engage in critical reflection requires a moving beyond the acquisition of new knowledge and understanding, into questioning [of] existing assumptions, values, and perspectives (Cranton 1996, p. 76). Four elements are central to critical reflection: assumption analysis, contextual awareness, imaginative speculation, and reflective skepticism (Brookfield 1988, p. 325).

Structured reflection requires students to step back from their immediate experience to make sense of it in new ways (Colby, Beaumont, Ehrlich, and Corngold, 2007). Engaging regularly in structured reflection leads students to deeper understanding and better application of subject matter knowledge and increased knowledge of social agencies, increased complexity of problem and solution analysis, and greater use of subject matter knowledge in analyzing problems (Eyler and Giles, 1999). Reflective practices in the classroom have also been shown to help learners connect earlier experiences to new content in order to achieve better understanding of the new material (Lee and Sabatino, 1998).

Directions for the End-of-Semester Structured Reflection Paper

- 1) Paper must be a Microsoft Word typed document, double-spaced, font style Times New Roman, font size 12, with 1" margins, include page numbers.
- 2) Have a separate title/cover page with your name, complete course code, complete course title, **creative title for paper**, relevant picture/image, semester including year, and professor's name (Dr.

M. Tiamiyu). **Do not include any page number on this page; your page numbering (i.e., page 1) should begin on the page following your title page (i.e., the main body of your paper).**

3) Briefly reflect upon program participants (i.e., interactions with mentees, mentors, school staff, etc.) and program process. Keeping a journal could be useful here.

4) In your paper if need be, refer to your mentee by **first name** only (for confidentiality do not include last name).

5) Integrate brief relevant information from your journal entries (if kept), **AND** more importantly, findings from your self-identified readings pertaining to a **chosen research topic related to your mentoring and tutoring experience**, in your reflection paper. Remember to include your citations in the body of your paper.

6) Have one separate reference page (with the title, "References") to list your sources (**include the page number, e.g., 6, if the body of your paper consists of 5 pages**).

7) **Your final submission will be minimum seven pages (i.e., a title page, minimum five-page main body of submission, and a reference page). Note that the main body of submission can be more than five pages, depending on your topic.**

8) Your reflection paper will be graded on content (what you write, organization, logic, clarity, etc.) and creativity. (**Do not** just describe what you did with your mentees and your topic; look at the big picture -- interpret your experience, apply knowledge gained from the sources you read and your experience).

9) Your submission is due on Thursday, **April 23, 2015 at 5:00 PM** via our Blackboard course Web site (*Assignment* tool; as a Microsoft Word attachment). You can submit your paper as from **5:00 PM** on Monday, **April 20, 2015**. Emailed papers OR hardcopies of papers will NOT be accepted. **P.S.:** You **lose 4 points for each day** you make your submission after the due date with no acceptable reason, e.g., illness or death in the family (documentation must cover April 20 to the day before you make your submission; documentation must be scanned and emailed to me as an ATTACHMENT).

10) Submit **hardcopies of your attendance vouchers** (which should be stapled together with a stapler at the top left-hand corner) at the wrap-up session. The wrap-up session will be at St. Pius X School on **Tuesday, April 28**.

P.S.: You lose points for not following the above criteria. Without acceptable excuse documentation (scanned and emailed as an attachment), you also **lose 4 points** for each day that you do not submit your attendance vouchers at St. Pius X School on **Tuesday, April 28**.

Announcements:

Course news / announcements will be posted on our Blackboard (BB) course Web site, and an email via student's UT email address will inform students of the announcement and/or require you to login to Blackboard (click on Announcements link) for additional information (e.g., posted forms to be completed, etc.). Please be on the lookout for emails from our Blackboard course Website in your UT email inbox.

FLEXIBILITY CLAUSE: The aforementioned requirements, assignments, policies, evaluation procedures, etc. are subject to change. Students' experiences and needs, as well as emerging knowledge, will be considered in modifying this course syllabus.

Academic Honesty:

The Policy Statement on Academic Dishonesty in the UT Catalog is detailed and explicit. Consult catalog. Students involved in academic dishonesty should expect to receive a score of "0" on the specific assignment.

FINALLY, I will be sending students' final grades to the Registrar's office by 5:00 PM on Thursday, **May 7**.

P.S.: A student who does not complete all the course requirements (e.g., have satisfactory attendance at St. Pius School by Friday, **April 24**, adequately completed attendance vouchers, an end-of-semester structured reflection paper submitted, attends the wrap-up session, etc.) before I send final grades to the Registrar's office, *may* earn an IN (incomplete) as a final grade. An IN will be converted to another grade after all course requirements have been met (this may be the end of the following semester for instance, if the incomplete course requirement has to do with attendance).

References

- Bringle, R. G., and Hatcher, J. A. (1999). Reflection in service-learning: Making meaning of experience. *Educational Horizons*, 77(4), 179-185.
- Colby, A., Beaumont, E., Ehrlich, T., and Corngold, J. (2007). Learning through structured reflection. In A. Colby, E. Beaumont, T. Ehrlich, and J. Corngold (Eds.), *Educating for democracy: Preparing undergraduates for responsible political engagement*. (Chapter 12). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Cranton, P. (1996). *Professional development as transformative learning: New perspectives for teachers of adults*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Eyler, J., and Giles, D. (1999). *Where's the learning in service-learning?* San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Lee, D., and Sabatino, K. (1998). Evaluating guided reflections: A U.S. case study. *International Journal of Training and Development*, 2(3), 162-170.

* Course credit hours are flexible so that students can participate in the Program without exceeding the maximum hours for their majors and/or elective/related course requirements; however, Program requirements are the same for all students.

