# Developing an Integrative Learning Community with HIPS

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# Why do students take online classes?

## Why take an Online Class?

#### Flexibility!

- Accommodates work, family, and education (Buzwell, Farrugia & Williams, 2016)
- Work at own pace
- Tacit expectation that deadlines are also flexible (c.f., Mupinga, Nora, & Yaw, 2006)

What opportunities might online students miss?

### Project Origins

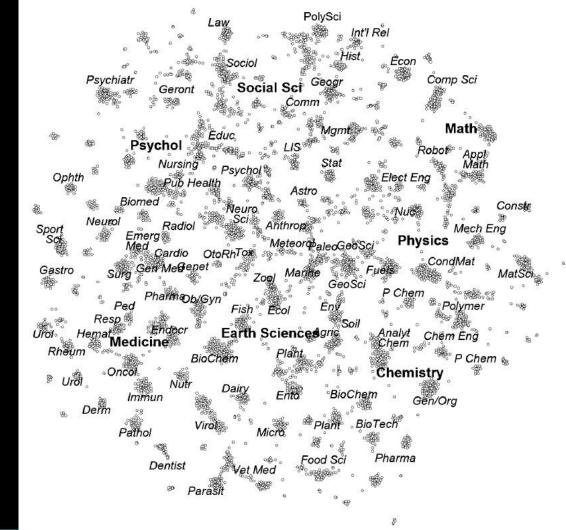
Enhancing the Online Experience

- Flexibility is essential, but community may require coordination
- Students want independence with support
- Expectations of rigor without overwhelming the student

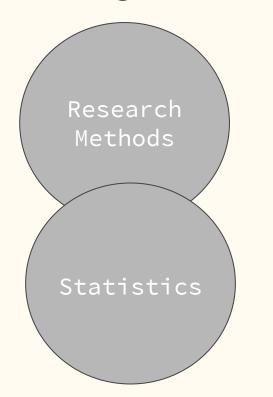
# Project Origins

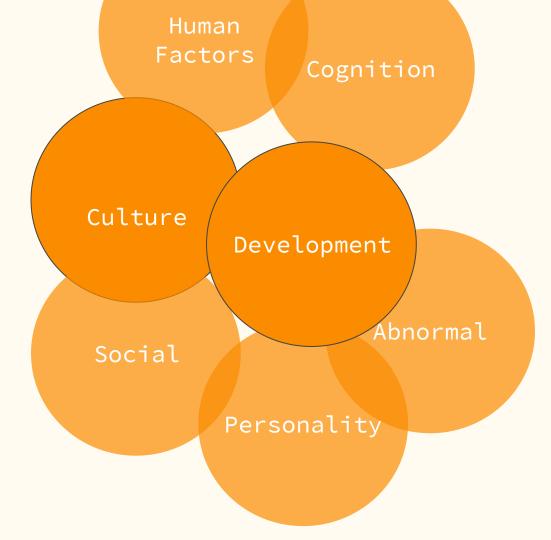
#### Teaching in a Hub Science

 Connections to education, psychiatry, gerontology, public health, nursing, neuroscience, anthropology



## A bridge too far?





#### Project Goals

Content Integration and Critical Thinking

• Written artifacts on cross-cutting themes

Authentic Research Experience

**Enhanced Online Experience** 

• Community and collaboration (e.g., Palloff & Pratt, 2013)



# HIPS (High Impact Practices)

#### **Learning Community**

Co-enroll in Methods or Statistics, Cross-Cultural, Adolescence, Integrative Learning

#### Integration

Social Media, cross-cutting themes

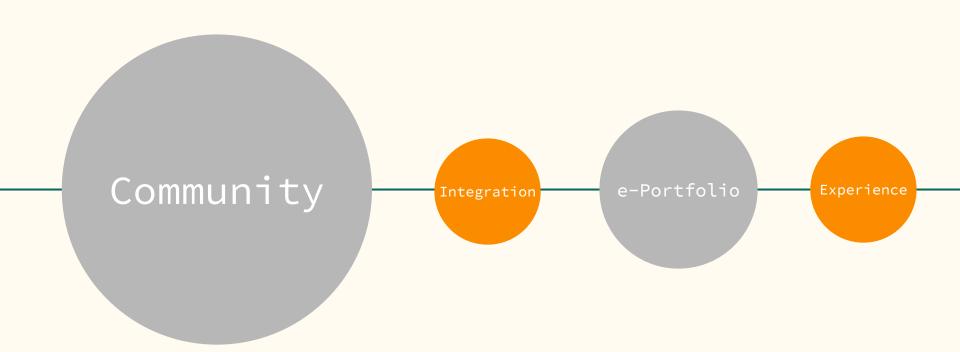
#### e-Portfolio

Low stakes writing, integration, reflection

#### **Experiential Learning**

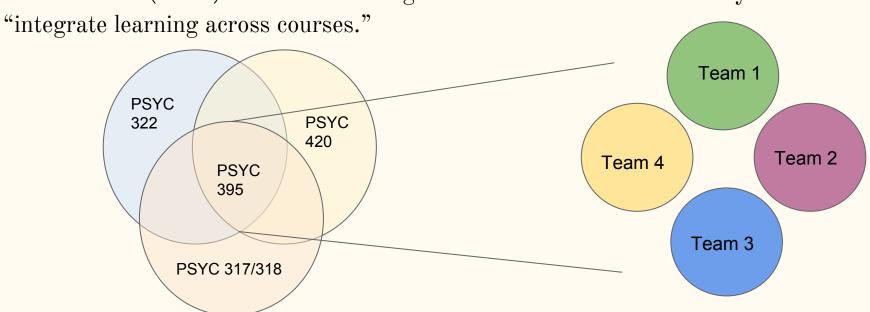
Scaffolded written work Poster presentation

#### HIPs



# Building the Community

The AAC&U (2008) identified learning communities as a HIP as a way to



# Building the Community

Everyone hates groups/teams, so how did we make it work?

- Formation of teams CatMe
- Direct instruction on how, when, where to meet
- Strong instructor involvement with gentle encouragement



#### Community Success?

#### Yes!!!

"The aspect of this course that I believe to be the strongest is the connection between the faculty in the psychology department and the students. The communication between the faculty and students is excellent and everyone just seems to be a family in this learning community."

"My partner for this class helped me with other classes that we both shared, we quizzed one another to prepare for test, we made sure each other kept up with our due dates for assignment and we became friends after conversing a lot throughout the week."

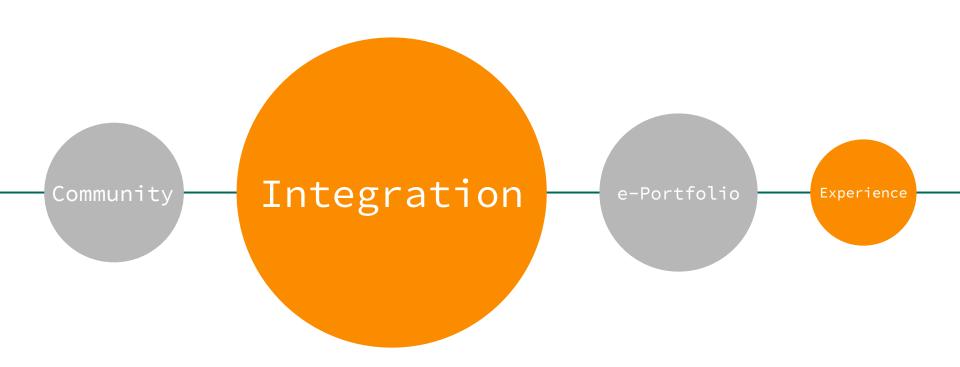
"One plus from this course, is the relatedness of the students, we all were in the same courses and we learned to use each other as help and guidance. If I had a question about an assignment in one of the courses, I would just post a message in the group chat and one of my colleagues would respond within minutes!"

#### Community Success?

It wasn't without its challenges:

- Consistent recommendation for some type of classroom face-to-face interaction with group
- Attrition was an issue
- Despite multiple methods of communication (even instant communication), communication and scheduling was still an issue

#### HIPs



You are stranded in a writing studio with three of your colleagues. In order to survive, you must integrate content from four courses and develop a fifth course. What would you take with you to the studio?



# Do Not Disturb!



## Faculty Integration: Our Process

Our Integrative Learning Community in Psychology idea was brainstormed in Jan. 2017

The theme: social media

What we took to the studio:

Syllabi; Table of Contents from texts; Personal Experiences; Ideas

What resulted: cross-cutting assignments incorporating a social media slant

Journals; eP Assignments; Research Paper & Poster Presentation

# Sample Journal Topics

- Course expectations
- Write a letter to the editor about using FB poll to determine library hours
- APA style advice
- Article critique re: ethics
- Social media influence on body image (AXC)

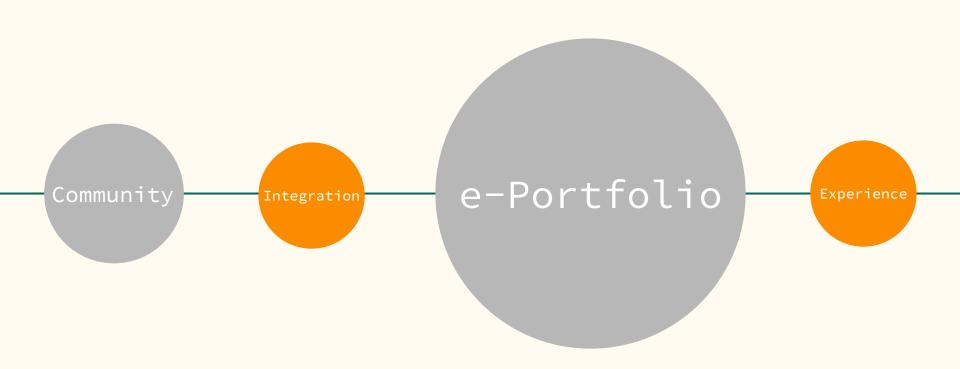
- Evaluate how FB use varies by personality trait (AXC)
- Take BSRI & discuss impact of social media on gender schemas (AXC)
- Discuss how Big 5 changes in Adolescence eP4
- Discuss impact of parenting style across cultures
- Emotion-regulation (AXC)
- Course reflection eP6

#### Student Integration of Information

#### Example from J5:

"As a young woman coming from a different culture, I really saw how important body image here is in the United States. In my opinion, however, Americans are starting to be more accepting towards different body sizes or shapes. In Asian countries, women go through more intensive ways to achieve body standards set by the society. For example, South Korea and their cosmetic surgery culture are rising; patients who undergo these surgeries are getting younger and younger. Even though United States is not completely there yet in terms of body acceptance, I would like for other countries to learn how Americans are starting to embrace people regardless of their physical appearance."

#### HIPs



# e-Portfolios

#### e-Portfolios: Our Process

Used WP to promote the Psyc IL LC

Created About Us page to foster increased faculty-student interaction

Utilized WP template for ease of use for ILE students: 5 pages

Each eP assignment housed under respective page/corresponding rubric

Served as additional opportunity for writing: application; reflection; connection; synthesis

Overall eP rubric; afternote for continued use of WP

Employed ePA for WP assistance & to serve as models with their WP sites

Showcased ePs at Poster Presentation



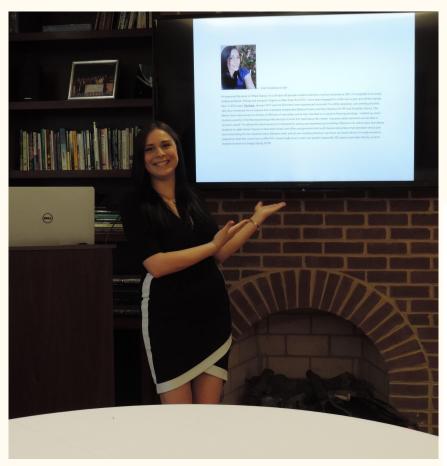
#### **Integrative Learning**



Initially I was thrilled to be a part of such a program and the program absolutely delivered. All of my professors were outstanding and very helpful, I feel that I have learned so much this semester. The material was integrated throughout, for example the information we learned in our Quantitative Methods course was the basis of how we were able to compute our correlations within our research project for IL using our empirical data and the SPSS platform. We learned how to properly write using APA format and that was integrated throughout all of our courses.

After taking the personality survey, I was grouped with 4 other classmates to create "Group 2" for our semester long research project. I enjoyed working with my classmates and creating a friendly relationship with people I otherwise would have never met. Our group became much closer as the semester progressed and we all worked very well together, we submitted our work on time every time and I feel that our research really came a long way. All of our writing skills have improved and I am grateful for that.

I feel that my best work, in regard to writing, this semester was my Exercise 3 assignment for Psychology of Adolescence. The piece was a discussion on child/parent conflict. I titled my work, The Adolescent Struggle; Conflicting Personalities of Parents Versus Their Developing Adolescent. (PDF link Exercise Three). I thoroughly enjoyed the sense of community and togetherness that was provided from this course. We were all working together to be successful and it worked. Our hard work has paid off and here we are nearing the end of our semester.





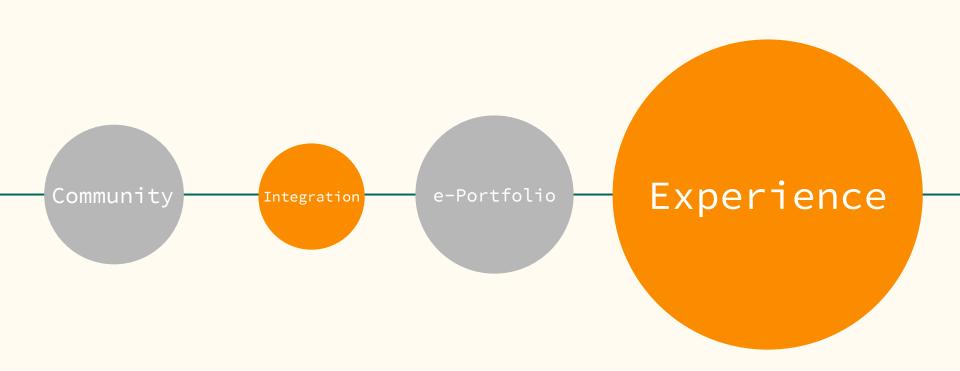


"Sensation seaking is a personality trait defined by the search for experiences and feetings, that are varied, newle, complex and intense, and by the readiness to keep hysical, social, legal, and financial risks for the sake of such experiences." —Marvin Zuckerman According to our Psychology of Adolescence book (page 187), there is a negative trend in young adolescents. Based on the reading provided, emotional stability, agreeableness and conscientiousness do increase from adolescence to adulthood. I don't think social media is a positive influence on personality changes because an individual can portray themselves as something other than their own personality traits, and it's essentially dishonest. There can be assumptions, but since everything on social media is up to the user, it's not necessarily factual. The factor that is associated with identity exploration is openness to experience. Sensation

seeking promotes identity exploration because this makes the individual more likely to try new things like travel or try new things although this can also lead to negative behavior like trying drugs or engaging in risky behavior.

It's important to consider the specific motivation underlying identity activities because if the individual is being forced to partake in certain activities or get into a specific career that, for example, parents have chosen for them, then they are less likely to be autonomously independent and reach identity achievement. Risky behaviors can be considered functional because they can also serve the purpose of a lesson learned. Sometimes curiosity gets the better of individuals, but doing those things and knowing that they don't like it or are not as interested than they thought, can make a huge difference in the direction they will choose to go in life. I personally have not really engaged in risky behavior and was often called a "goody two shoes" because any time I was offered something like drugs, or to go do something illegal or dangerous, I was very firm in my no. I do, however, consider myself an observer and definitely pay attention to the behaviors of others and the consequences. I knew a girl who went out drinking and decided to drive home with her friend. She ended up getting in a car accident and her friend died. I also have heard several stories of fellow high school classmates/friends who have gone out drinking and driving and the accidents have been catastrophic and even fatal. Because of this, I honestly, don't even drink period, but when I do, I refuse to get in the car with anyone or drive, and will call an uber or taxi. I'd say this has made me careful and even disciplined. This has contributed in me making responsible decisions and not being careless with my life and other's lives.

#### HIPs



# Research Project

# Scaffolded Research Project

Topic Generation and Selection

Literature Search and Review

Propose Study Design focus on hypothesis generation/justification

Create Materials

Conduct Analyses

Create Research Poster

Final APA-Style Research Report

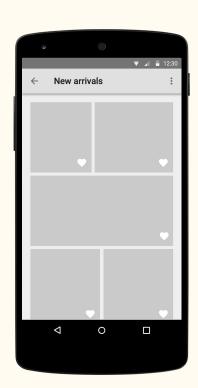
#### Project topics

The Correlation between Time Spent on Instagram and Self-Esteem

An Exploration of Social Media and its Relationship with Self-Esteem

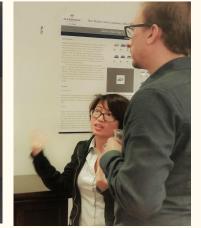
Social Media Profile Pictures Expressing One's Level of Trustworthiness

Profiling Facebook! Identifying Extraversion and Introversion



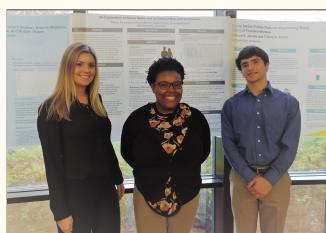
# Research Project













Psychology Poster Presentation p/b IDW Grant

# PSYC 395/ILE Feasibility and Replication

Getting student buy in is important

- Students had misperceptions about the amount of work
- Students had difficulty incorporating major aspects of the project
- Social loafing

University support to foster these projects

Need to establish a professional learning community

Deficits of online classes

- Have to add synchronous components
- Would be beneficial to have students who have experience with online learning

#### PSYC 395/ILE Lessons Learned

Recruitment process is an important consideration

- Pre-reg's???
- Make sure student is aware of workload, course assignments

Integrating policies from four instructors can be time consuming

Synchronous component is very important

Even instructors can fall prey to common group work problems



## Special thanks to ...

#### Interdisciplinary Writing

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