

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

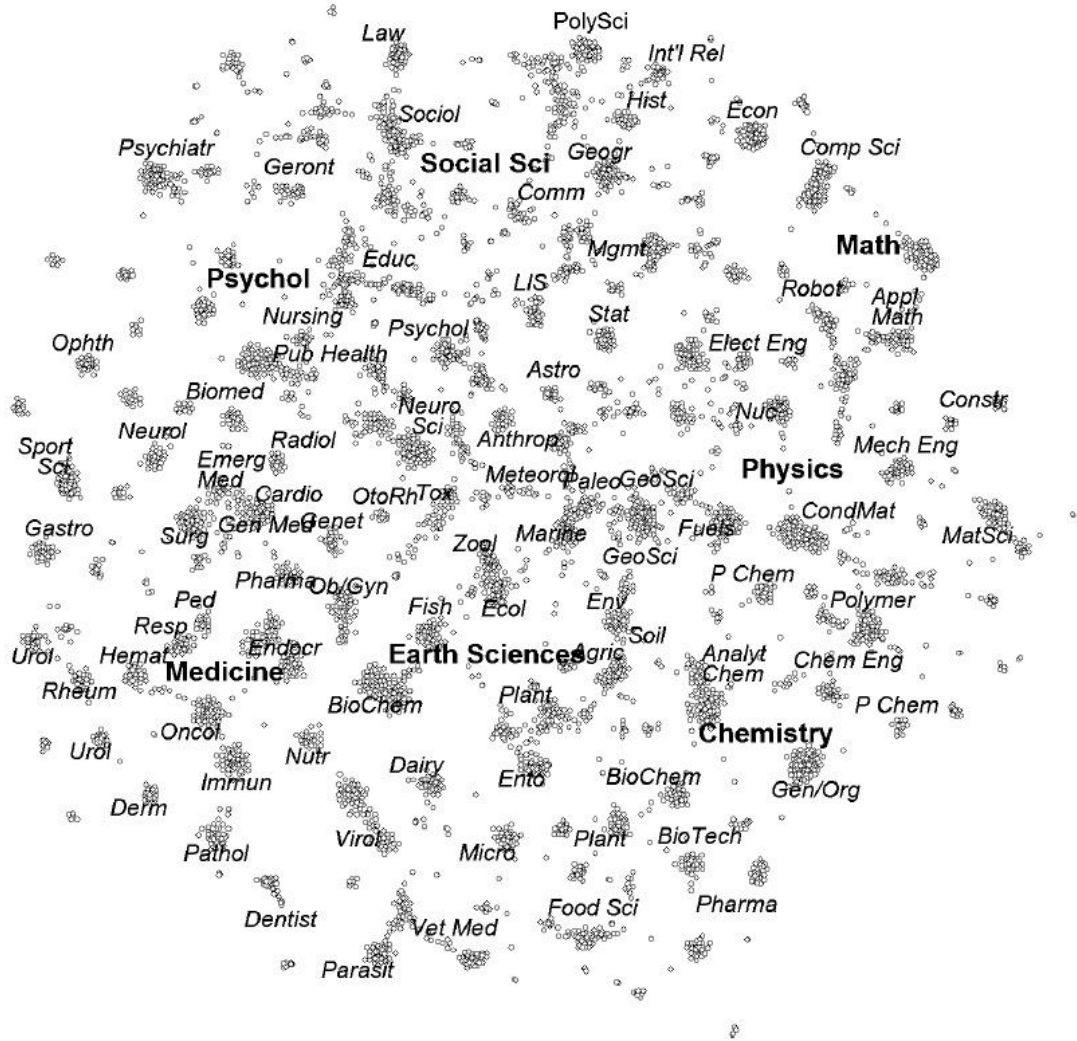
Enhancing the Online Experience

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

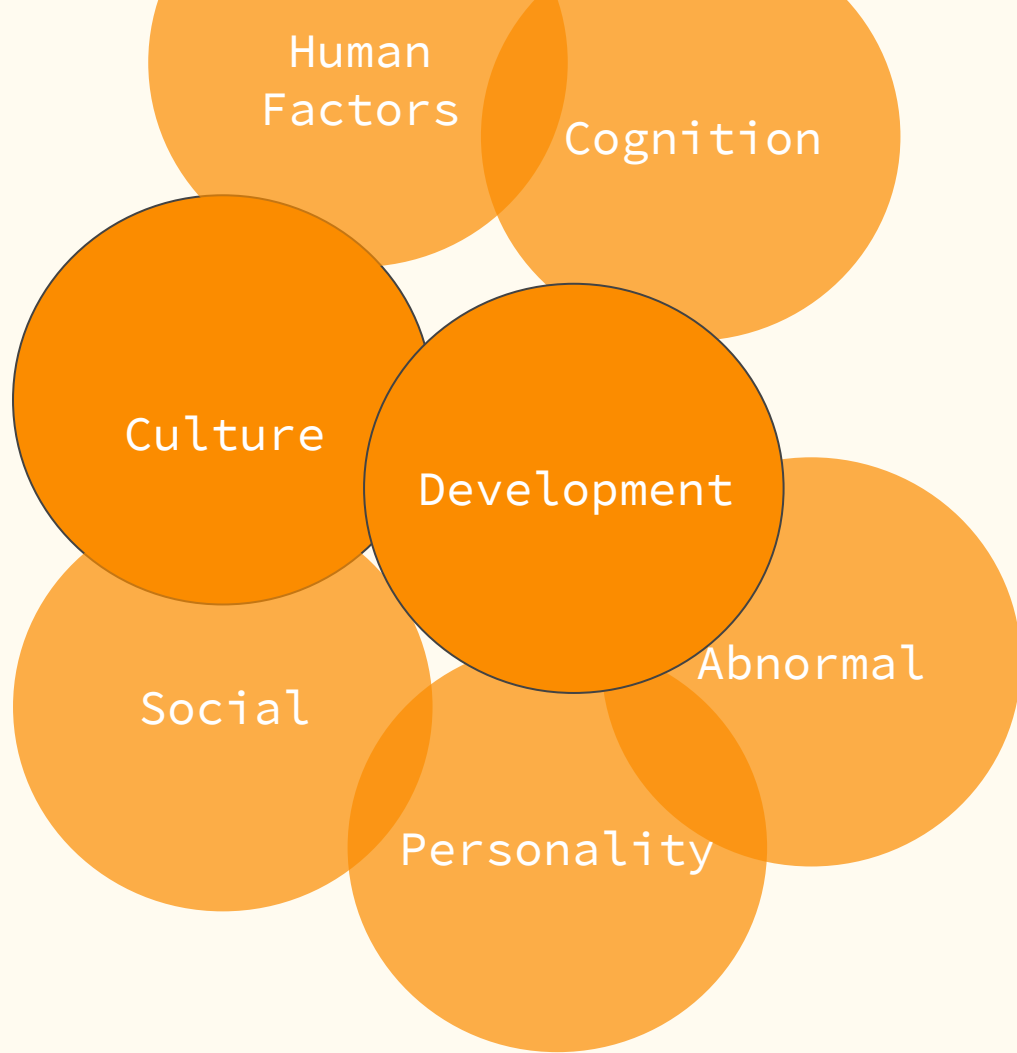
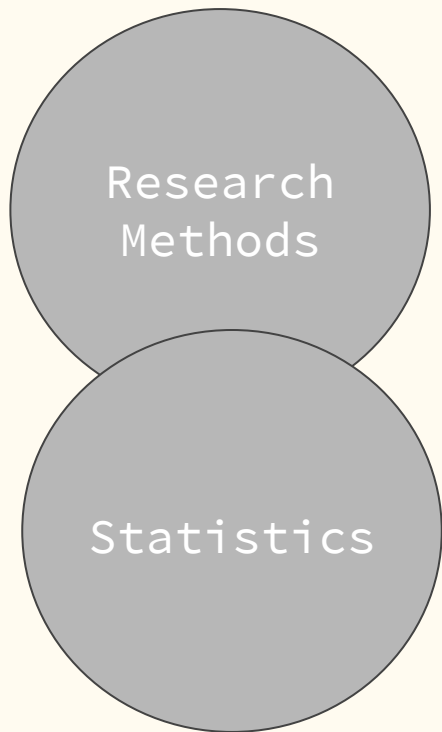
Project Origins

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

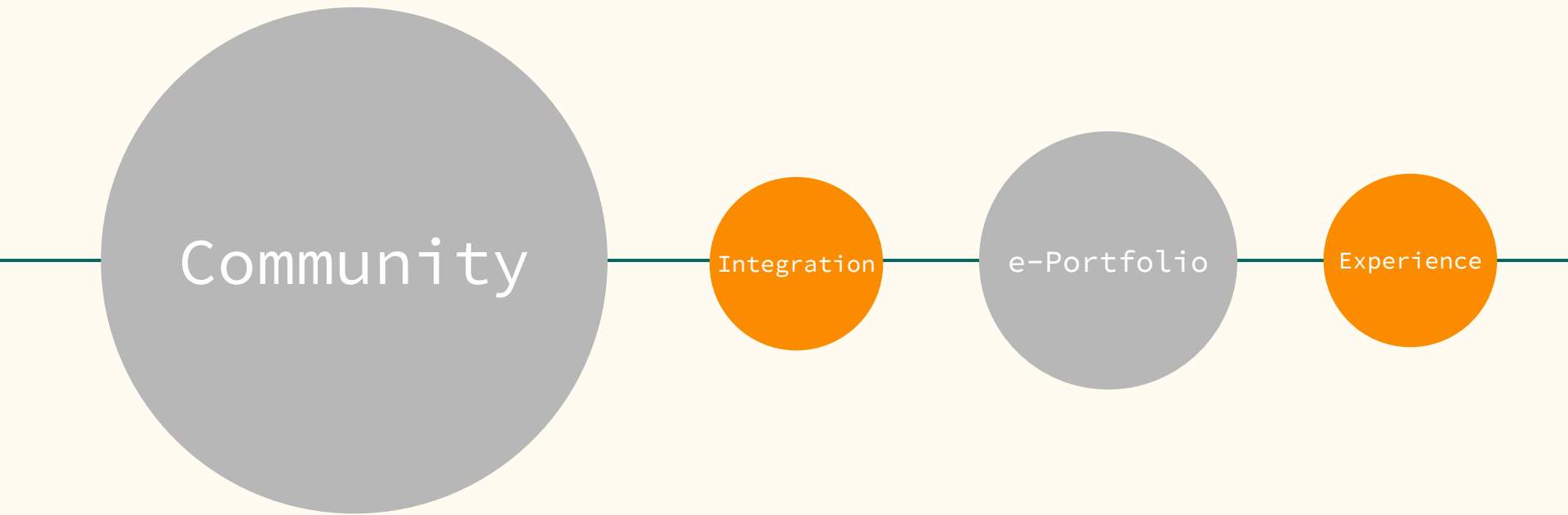
Low stakes writing, integration, reflection

Experiential Learning

Scaffolded written work

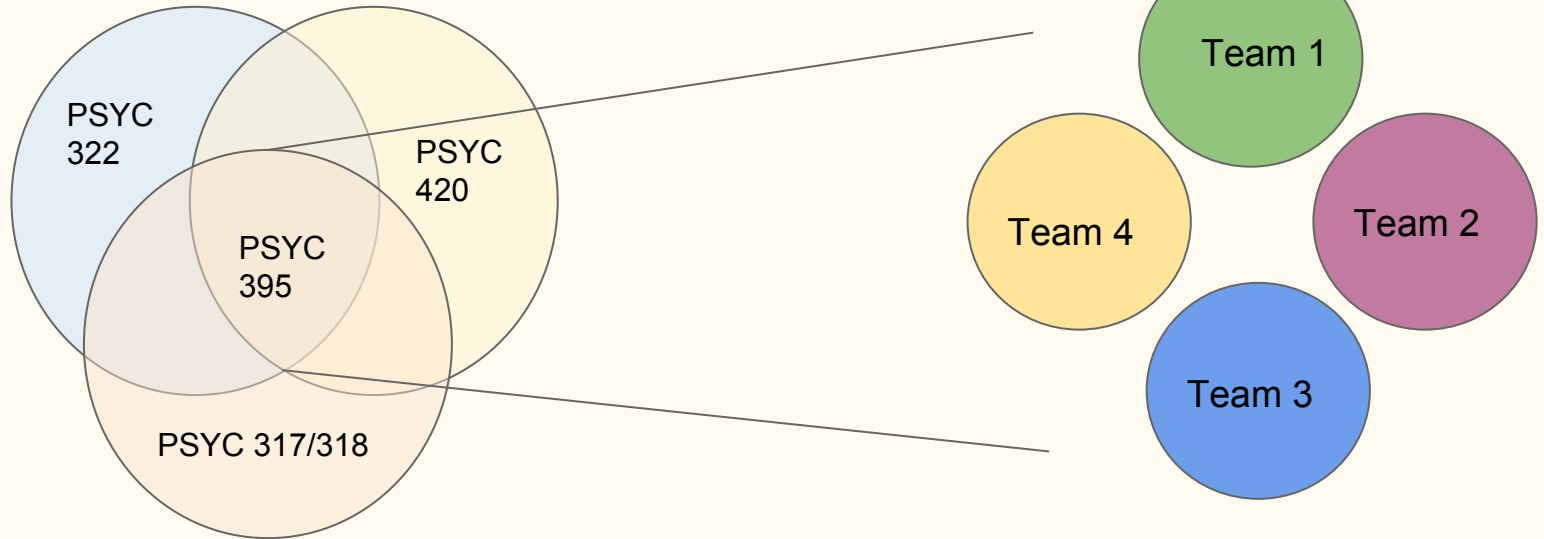
Poster presentation

HIPs



Building the Community

The AAC&U (2008) identified learning communities as a HIP as a way to “integrate learning across courses.”



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.”

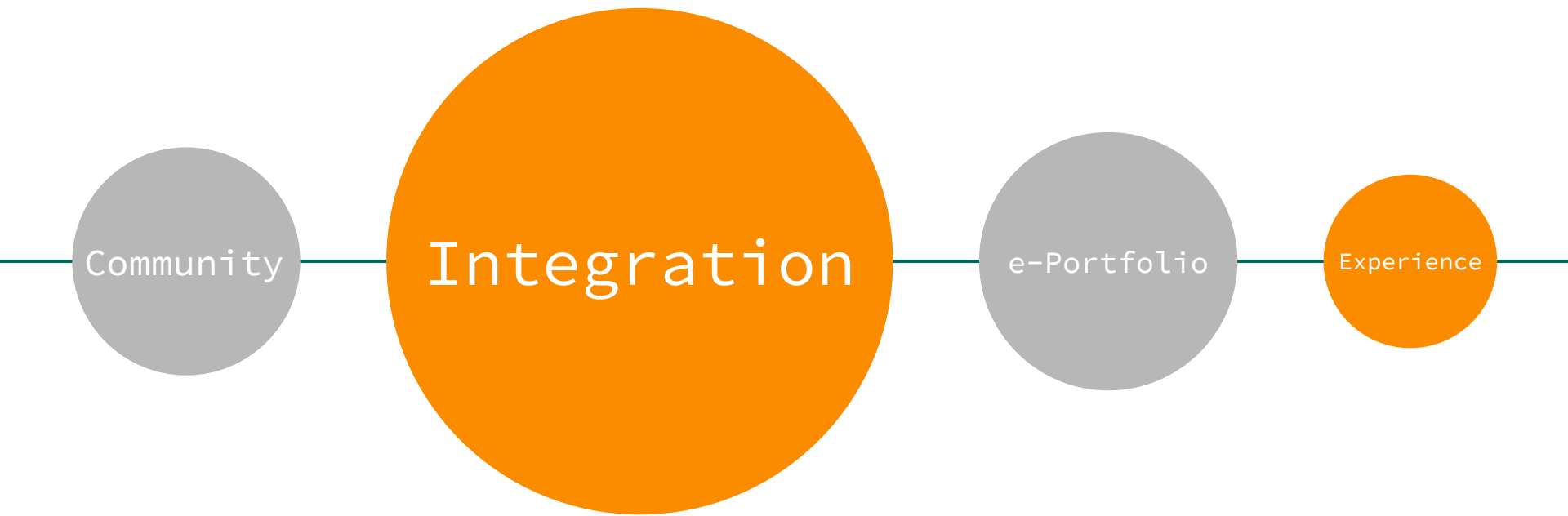
“One plus from this course, is the relatedness of the students, we all were in the same courses and we learned to use each other as help and guidance. If I had a question about an assignment in one of the courses, I would just post a message in the group chat and one of my colleagues would respond within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

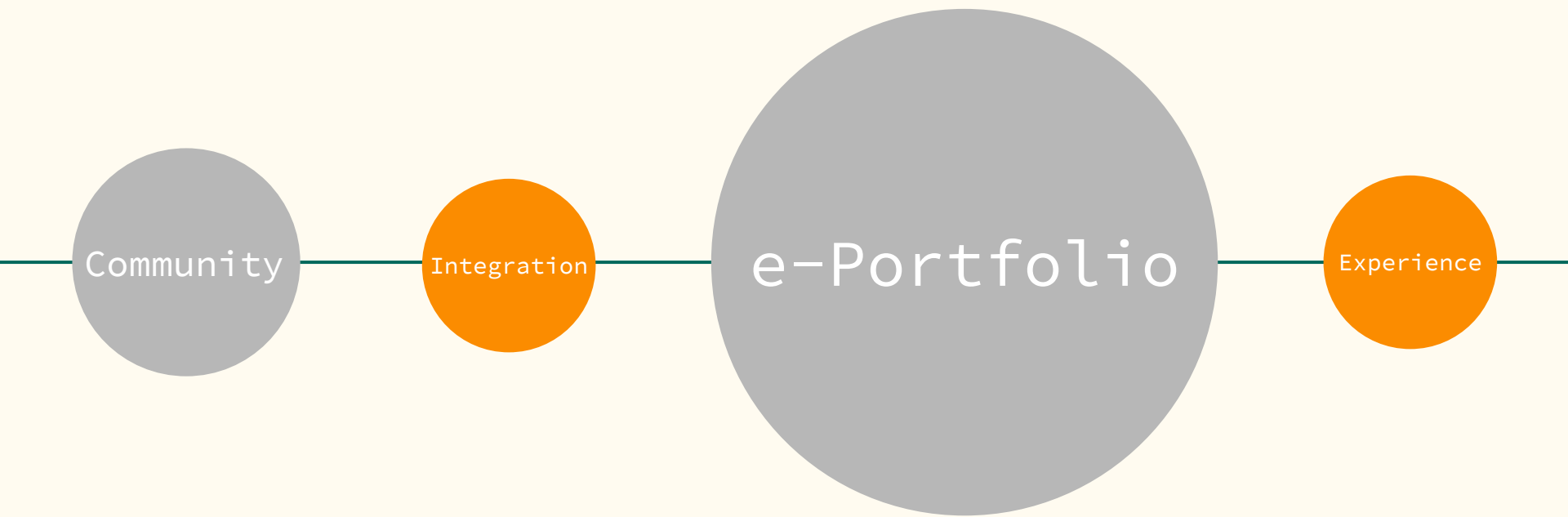
- Course expectations
- Write a letter to the editor about using FB poll to determine library hours
- APA style advice
- Article critique re: ethics
- Social media influence on body image (AXC)
- Evaluate how FB use varies by personality trait (AXC)
- Take BSRI & discuss impact of social media on gender 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

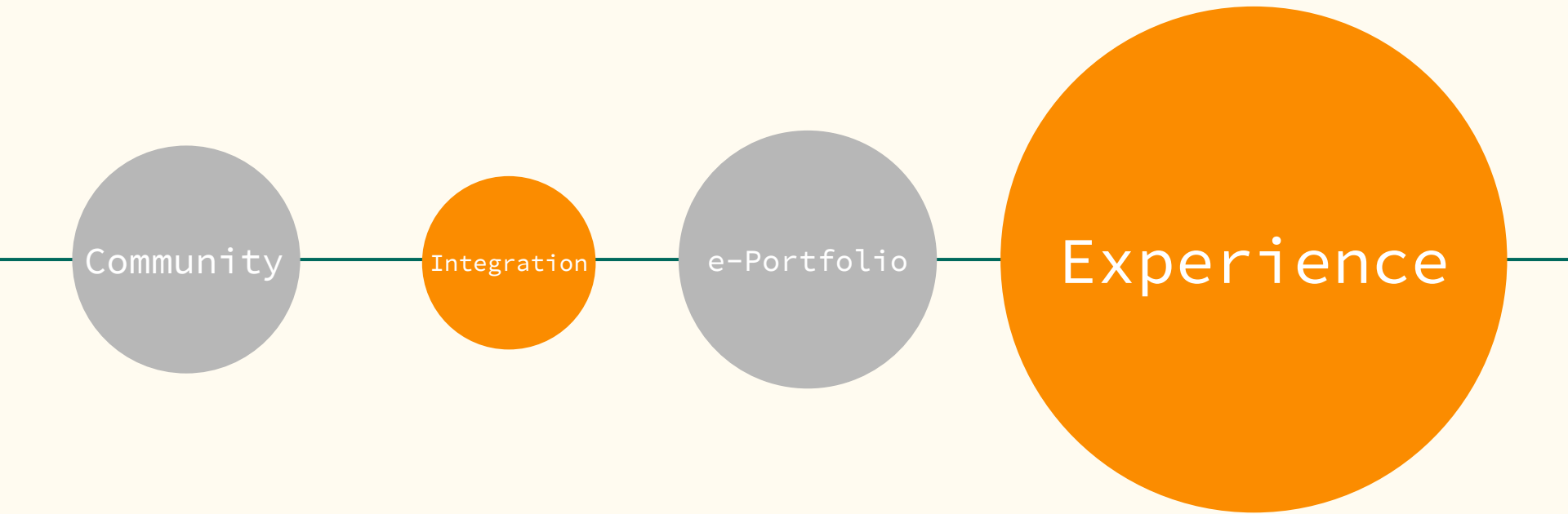


Initially I was thrilled to be a part of such a program and the program absolutely delivered. All of my professors were outstanding and very helpful, I feel that I have learned so much this semester. The material was integrated throughout, for example the information we learned in our Quantitative Methods 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.

HIPs



Research Project

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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

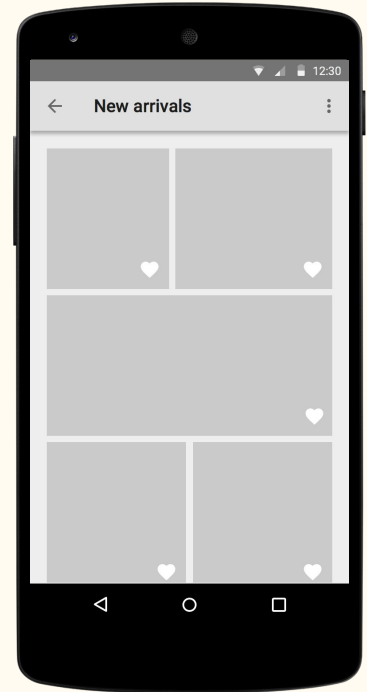
Project topics

The Correlation between Time Spent on Instagram and Self-Esteem

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

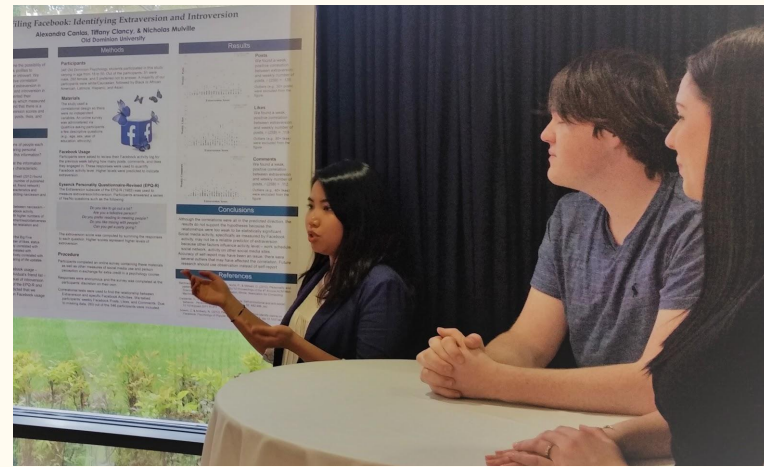
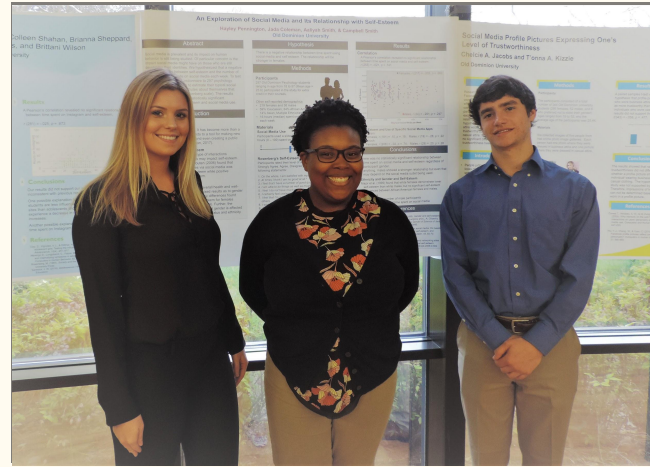
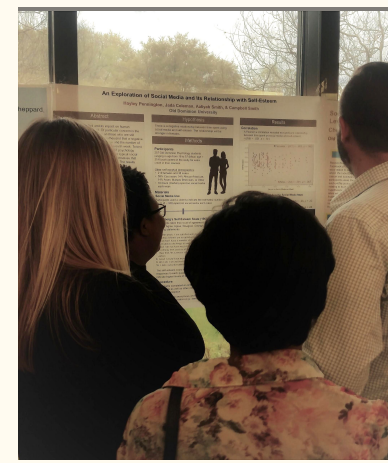
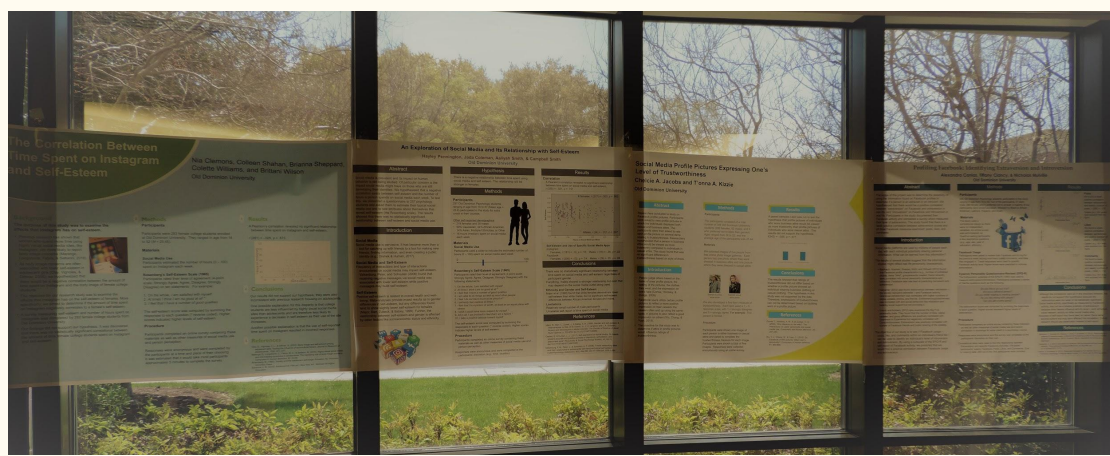
Social Media Profile Pictures Expressing One's Level of Trustworthiness

Profiling Facebook! Identifying Extraversion and Introversion



Research Project

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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-req'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



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