

## Seminar Presentation for PSY 444

During the month of November we will move to a fuller seminar format. During those classes, there will be one student presentation per class, that is, each student will be allotted 35 minutes to both make a presentation and engage in questions and discussion (see below).

I have listed on the second page *possible* topics for your presentation. These are not the only topics you can study. Feel free to suggest a topic which is not on that list but which relates to narrative psychology. I think it is important that you choose a topic which interests YOU.

You will carry out a major research project about this topic and present a summary of your work to the class for its understanding, questions, and analysis. There are classes between Nov. 6 and Dec. 4 which have been reserved for student seminar presentations. Minimally each student will be expected...

- to make a 15-20-minute presentation of material to the class
- to hand out copies of her/his presentation in written summary form to the class
- to be ready to lead a discussion and to answer questions by the members of the class or the instructor

The form of your presentation can be varied. You might use multimedia, the chalk board, a planned discussion following a verbal report, or a demonstration and discussion of a particular issue in narrative psychology.

Try to decide upon your project as soon as possible. Note the following deadlines for the preparation of the course presentation:

- The last date for deciding and submitting the area of your project will be on **Monday, September 09**. If you decide upon a topic earlier than this date, let me know ASAP.
  - By Sept. 09, you must give me three possible topics (ranked as 1st choice, 2nd choice, and 3rd choice) and three possible dates in your order of preference from the open dates listed in the Schedule of Assignments and Classes. I will try to give each student their preferred topic and date.
- You will submit an **outline** of at least two pages regarding your presentation by **Monday, October 21**. I'll review these to suggest possible additions or alternations in what you plan to present.
- On **Wednesday, December 11**, during Final Exam week, you will be expected to submit your seminar presentation in the form of a paper prepared according to APA format to me at my office by 5 PM. I will give you later a fuller description of what I would like this paper to look like.

## Examples of Possible Topics for Narrative Seminar Presentation

- Anne Frank's Narrative and the Psychology of Adolescent Development
- Coming Out of the Closet: Life Narratives of Lesbians and Gay Men
- Gergen's "Saturated Self" as a Postmodern Theory of Personal Identity
- Giving Narrative Voice to Women: Psychological Findings
- Identity Development and Prejudice: Narratives of African-Americans
- Learning to Tell a Story: Narrative Development in Infancy and Childhood
- Legal Uses of Narratives: Influences on Juries' Decision Making
- Medicine and Narrative: The Experiences of [Specific Illness]
- Migration and Immigration: Narratives of Displacement from Home
- Narrative Competence of Learning-Disabled Students
- Narratives of the Holocaust and Self-Psychology
- Narrative Understanding of Medical Practice and Decision Making
- Neuropsychological Aspects of Narrative: Competence After Brain Injury
- Organizational Behavior and Narrative Approaches to Management
- Political Narratives: Dealing with Truth and Falsehood in Elections
- Psychohistory & Psychobiography: The Controversy over Reconstructing Individual Lives
- Psychotherapy as a Narrative Experience: Pros and Cons
- Qualitative Approaches to Understanding Life Histories
- Religious Conversion Experiences from a Psychological Perspective

In past versions of this course, students also presented on these topics:

- Autism (2)
- Battered Women (2)
- Body Image in Young Women
- Cerebral Palsy (3)
- Childhood Obesity
- Criminals after Incarceration
- Developmental Disabilities
- Drug Addiction in Teens and Adults
- Experience of Mothers on Welfare Assistance
- Identity Development and Prejudice: Narratives of African-Americans
- Inclusive Classrooms
- Life after Treatment for Young Adults with Cancer
- Living with Traumatic Brain Injury
- Narrative Development in Infancy & Childhood (2)
- Narrative in the Legal System, e.g., confessions, trial strategies, etc.
- Obesity within a Narrative Framework
- Psychological Impact of Americans' Perceptions of Foreigners after 9/11
- Psychosis and Serious Mental Health Issues
- Recovery from Trauma
- Religion and Narrative Identity in Contemporary America
- Self-Disgust & Autobiographical Narratives
- Social Media & Adolescent Life
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Suicide (2)
- Therapeutic Storytelling with Children
- Victims of Sex Crimes
- When Redemption Fails: Addictions, Criminality, etc.