

## PSU Psychology 403: Outreach By Arrangement

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**You must have instructor permission to enroll in PSY 403.**

*Interdisciplinary neuroscience explores the relationship between our brains and behavior from multiple perspectives, including psychology, biology, speech and hearing sciences, social science, systems science, direct community engagement and the arts. Memory, attention, perception, language, feeling, and decision making in social contexts all depend on brain structure and function. People in this field examine how the underlying physiology of the nervous system relates to individuals' psychological and behavioral processes.*

Students enrolled in the PSY 403 by arrangement commit to joining *multiple* outreach visits to schools, houseless youth organizations, correctional facilities and other public settings, and are also expected to write up detailed posts about their experiences and the research they discussed. For more information:

<https://www.pdx.edu/psychology/neuroscience-minor>



### COURSE OBJECTIVES

To gain interdisciplinary outreach experience in public settings. To go places and listen to what people already know - and/or want to know about brains and behavior, and discover where your own stories from classrooms and labs might intersect. To participate in and/or develop your own art projects/other materials to encourage further engagement. To write about your own experiences in accessible public blog posts explaining the research you discussed, or interdisciplinary materials you created, and/or describing salient or personally motivating aspects of outreach to a broader audience.

### COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Students enrolled in PSY 403 must meet the following requirements:

1. Attend at least FIVE (preferably more) off-campus outreach visits during the term. Outreach participation is required and essential, particularly early in the term, to help develop your skills and identify topics for public posts.
2. Check in at least once/month with the PSY 403 instructor. Students must reach out to schedule monthly meetings, and should be prepared to discuss outreach progress, and their ideas for interdisciplinary projects and public posts.
3. Write at least one well-researched, illustrated (with images, graphics, and other visual aids), accessible post for public viewing on [nwnoggin.org](https://nwnoggin.org) about the outreach experience. This post (or posts) can focus on the outreach itself, specific visits, what outreach taught you about science communication, the impact of interdisciplinary approaches, or any other aspect of the experience that struck or intrigued you. To see past examples, check here: <https://nwnoggin.org/outreach-opportunities/>

## Hope through Change

Bill Griesar May 21, 2022 Opportunities

Post by Tira Gaston and Britta Harbury, undergraduates in [Psychology](#) and [Interdisciplinary Neuroscience](#) at [Portland State University](#), and Bill Griesar. Tira and Britta have participated in multiple outreach visits through [nwnoggin.org](https://nwnoggin.org).



### GRADING

Students are graded based on their outreach efforts, regular monthly meetings, and posts.

## PSY 403 Outreach By Arrangement Posting Requirements

A key requirement for the PSY 403: Outreach by arrangement is publishing a publicly accessible online post during the term. This post must be in your own words (not those of others, or AI), and include a significant number of creative, self-made images aimed at informing and engaging a broader public about your outreach topic. *This in-depth, well-researched, published post is required for a passing grade in PSY 403.*

### WHAT AM I WRITING ABOUT?

That's up to you! What are you discovering about outreach? What strikes you about it, interests you, motivates you, engages you, surprises you, shocks you? What have you learned? What do you wish you knew more about before introducing yourself to the public, discussing neuroscience topics, considering questions, making art?

Are there specific topics that you're excited to explore further? Questions from K12 and the public often suggest good ideas for post topics, particularly if they are personally relevant. Do you have any interests or skills that relate in some way to outreach, or education, or art? Might new materials or art projects help communicate important concepts?

Successful posts by past PSY 401 participants are found here:

<https://nwnoggin.org/what-is-outreach-like/>

### WHEN IS MY POST DUE?

WEEK ONE: REACH OUT to schedule a Zoom session to go over by arrangement expectations for the term. You will spend the term in outreach participating, observing, learning and considering potential topics for your post.

WEEK FIVE: REACH OUT again to schedule a Zoom session. By Week Five you should have a clearly articulated idea of your topic, and thoughts on how you will organize your public post. We'll discuss this topic at the session.

WEEK SEVEN: SUBMIT your substantially completed draft post by email. You are welcome to submit your post as a Word doc, or a Google doc (please do not send a pdf). Your post should include a title, a short bio (name, major, minor), text, section headings, illustrations (most of them your own), and research links in this format:

LEARN MORE: [Hyperlinked NIH article](#).

WEEKS SEVEN – TEN: EDITING. I'll read through your post, and offer suggestions, and share these, and you will make changes and updates until we both agree that your post is ready for publication. *Again, publication is required to pass PSY 403.*