

December 2015

❧ Introducing Erin N. Johnson, Our New Full-time Psychology Instructor ❧

What is your relationship with psychology? Why do you love it? How do you share your enthusiasm with your students?

My relationship with psychology was polyamorous for quite a while (smile). When I was in college, I was a double major in Psychology and Human Communication. I was very interested in studying how humans behave and also how they communicate. I think the duality of my studies has made me love psychology even more. I love psychology because I love the importance it has on everyday life and its relevance to almost everything. There are so many different areas where one can apply psychological concepts.

I share my enthusiasm by demonstrating to students how relevant the field is to everyday life. I like to re-enact or show videos of some of those very well-known studies in the field of psychology like the Asch experiment or the Stroop test.

Psychology is the second most popular college major in the country. Why? What are students seeking?

I think students are becoming more insightful. Students are intrigued about understanding others' behaviors, but most importantly they are intrigued about learning more about themselves. Hermann Hesse said it best, "We can understand one another, but each of us can only interpret himself."



Erin Johnson

How do you create a sense of community in online courses?

I create a sense of community through the Discussion Forums and group activities. I want students to stay connected to one another and to me through thought-provoking Discussion Forum posts.

Continued on next page ⇨