

Research Seminar (PSY5198)
Course Syllabus
Spring 2018

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Office hours: F 9:30-11:30 and by appointment

Office phone: 512-245-8710

Class Location: UAC 206

Class Days and Time: M or W 11-11:50

Course website: <http://tracs.txstate.edu>

Course Description: Taken in two consecutive semesters, this seminar provides an orientation to the graduate program, and the steps required for thesis completion. Topics include the discussion of research interests, critiquing literature, and topic selection; developing and submitting a research proposal, selecting a thesis committee, and thesis completion and submission.

Course Objectives: Provide an orientation to the Master of Arts in Psychological Research program through a focus on the following topics:

1. **Thesis Project Development**, through:

- Identification of research interests; selection of an appropriate research design; determining the appropriate methods and procedures to carry out the proposed research; and, thesis proposal development – all completed in regular consultation with the student's mentor.
- Fostering effective oral and written communication skills and critical thinking.

2. **Research Management Skills**, through:

- Developing a research protocol and manual of operations for a particular study, including recruitment and running participant appointments.
- Submitting applications to the IRB and practicing principles of ethical conduct in research.
- Fostering professionalism and career development.

Required Reading: MAPR Graduate Handbook and selected readings to be posted on TRACS

Course Policies:

1. **Attendance:** Attendance is expected in class. In the event of illness or another emergency situation, students are expected to obtain notes and relevant materials from a classmate before contacting me regarding missed material. Assignments are due on the deadlines listed except in extenuating circumstances (e.g., serious personal illness or family emergency). In the instance that one of these rare events occurs around an assignment deadline, you must contact me prior to the deadline (or within 24 hours after) and written documentation must be provided (e.g., doctor's note).
2. **Mobile phone/laptop usage:** Please turn to vibrate all cell phones prior to the start of class. You may use laptops/tablets to take notes only during class (i.e., please refrain from surfing the internet, playing games, and other disruptive behaviors).
3. **Academic Honesty:** In accordance with Texas State University policies, academic dishonesty/plagiarism and cheating are unacceptable. Please take note of and abide by the Texas

State policy: “Violation of the Honor Code includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.” (UPPS 7.10.01) Academic dishonesty includes copying off another person on an exam, using outside sources signing another student’s name on an attendance record, or in written work, paraphrasing from a reference source without an appropriate citation or not using direct quotes and a citation for more than four words taken from an outside source. Appropriate penalties in accordance with university and department policy will be enforced for academic dishonesty (e.g., Grade of “F” on assignment/exam in question, Honor Code violation filed, etc.).

4. **Students with Disabilities:** Students with special needs (as documented by the Office of Disability Services) should identify themselves to me at the beginning of the semester. Texas State is dedicated to providing these students with necessary academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to facilitate their participation and performance in the classroom.
5. **Assessment:** The Department of Psychology has adopted expected student learning outcomes for the undergraduate major, the graduate major, and for PSY 1300, a general education course meeting a requirement for the social and behavioral science component. These expected student learning outcomes are available for your review at the following website:
<http://www.psych.txstate.edu/undergraduate/assessment.html>

Course Requirements:

****Please consult your mentor with each of these assignments. ****

1. IRB Proposal Assignment

- Complete a full IRB proposal for a project (thesis or another project), including the application, a consent form, and one advertisement/recruiting flyer – in regular consultation with your Thesis mentor.
- Forms and templates can be found here: http://www.txstate.edu/research/orc/IRB-Resources/IRB_Application.html
- The IRB proposal should cover your proposed thesis research or alternatively, a different project you are interested in potentially completing at Texas State.
- This assignment is due on April 16th (Monday section) or 18th (Wednesday section) via TRACS by 9 pm.

2. Presentation

- Create and deliver a PowerPoint presentation that covers your thesis hypotheses, methods and analytic strategy
- This presentation should be approximately 15-20 minutes long

3. Final Paper/Thesis Proposal Assignment

- Complete an Introduction and Methods section for your thesis – **in regular consultation with your Thesis mentor**. Some mentors may require additional components.

- Your proposal needs to conform to the Graduate College’s Thesis formatting guidelines (see here: http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/docs/Thesis_Diss_Guide.pdf)
- I will check in with your mentor during the semester, and I will ask him/her for final approval of your proposal. **Your mentor’s approval is required for submission.**
- This assignment is due on May 2nd (regardless of section) via TRACS by 9 pm.

Grading:

Class participation/Attendance	20%
IRB Proposal	25%
Presentation	25%
Final Paper (Thesis Proposal)	30%

This schedule may be subject to minor changes.

Week	Date	Topic
Week 1	Jan. 17 (Wed. section only)	Course overview
Week 2	Jan. 22 Jan. 24	Course Overview Thesis/program timeline IRB: Introduction and overview
Week 3	Jan. 29 Jan. 31	IRB: Consent Form
Week 4	Feb. 5 Feb. 7	IRB: Measures, Recruitment Materials, Other Materials and Revisions
Week 5	Feb. 12 Feb. 14	Guest Speaker – TBA
Week 6	Feb. 19 Feb. 21	Travel (regulations, applications, and funding)
Week 7	Feb. 26 Feb. 28	Scholarly writing: Quoting, paraphrasing and summarizing
Week 8	Mar. 5 Mar. 7	Writing abstracts and Conference submissions
Week 9	Mar. 12 Mar. 14	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS

Week 10	Mar. 19 Mar. 21	Presentations – thesis hypotheses, methods, analytic strategy
Week 11	Mar. 26 Mar. 28	Presentations – thesis hypotheses, methods, analytic strategy
Week 12	Apr. 2 Apr. 4	Presentations – thesis hypotheses, methods, analytic strategy
Week 13	Apr. 9 Apr. 11	PhD Application Process
Week 14	Apr. 16 Apr. 18	Guest Speaker – Career Services IRB PROPOSALS DUE
Week 15	Apr. 23 Apr. 25	Thesis Proposal Submission Process; Data Collection and Analysis; SONA Human Participant Pool; Second Year Milestones
Week 16	Apr. 30 (Mon. section only)	Make-up Day

Final Paper due May 2 via TRACS