FALL SYLLABUS

PSY 5198: Graduate Seminar

Tuesday/Thursday, 8:30 – 9:20, UAC 205

**Instructor info:**

Dr. Reiko Graham, PhD.

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Email: rg30@txstate.edu

Office hours: T, Th 9:30 - 11:00 am, 2:00 – 3:30 pm, or by appointment

**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.

Prerequisites: Graduate Standing

**Course Goals and Objectives:**

* Provide an orientation to the Masters program in Psychological Research that focuses on the following topics:

1. Competence in research/thesis development

* Identification of research interests; identify, find and summarize extant research relevant to a particular hypothesis under investigation
* Understanding the appropriate uses, strengths and limitations of various research designs
* Choosing the appropriate technologies for research implementation; determining the appropriate methods and procedures to develop a program of research
* Fostering effective oral and written communication and critical thinking
* Thesis proposal development

1. Research Management Skills

* Developing a research protocol and manual of operations for a particular study
* Preparing and submitting applications to the Institutional Review Board; understanding procedures for scheduling and recruitment
* Understanding and practicing principles of responsible and ethical conduct in research
* Fostering professionalism and career development.

**Required reading:**

Graduate Handbook

Selected readings (to be posted on TRACS)

**Course requirements and attendance policy:**

Attendance is expected; however, in the event of an absence, students are responsible for acquiring materials and information supplied in class on their own. Final grades will depend on performance on different class elements, which are listed below. Details regarding these elements are available on TRACS:

Class participation 20%

Presentations/Written assignments 50%

Final paper (literature review for thesis) 30%

**Due Friday, Dec. 16 by 9 pm**

**EXTENSIONS/DEFERRALS:** Exam and paper deferrals will be made by the instructor only under extenuating circumstances on a case by case basis. If you are planning to request a deferral, it must be done either before the due date of the paper/exam, or within 48 hours after the paper/exam due date. The discretion of the instructor is final.

**Academic Honesty:**  Examples of academic dishonesty include cheating on a test, collusion to evade academic rules, and plagiarism—i.e., turning in work that is in any way not your own. Any cases of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and will lead to additional disciplinary actions.

**Special Needs:** Students who require accommodations for the completion of this course must notify the Office of Disability Services and the instructor in the first week of the semester.

**Learning Outcomes:** 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/assessment/>.

**Class schedule:**

Aug. 30/Sept. 1 Introduction: Courses and program requirements

Sept. 6/8 Thesis/program timeline; Creating a CV

Sept. 13/15 Identification/development of research interests

***CV due in class***

Sept. 20/22 Selecting a thesis chair and committee

Sept. 27/29 Conducting literature reviews and critiquing research

Oct. 4/6 ***No class meetings***

Oct. 11/13 Research interest presentations

Oct. 18/20 Research interest presentations

***References list for 3 articles relevant to your field: one article, one book, one chapter in edited volume – due in class***

Oct. 25/27 Research interest presentations/Research design and methodology

Nov. 1/3 Writing an outline for your literature review

***Summary of research interests (200 words max) – due in class***

Nov. 8/10 Resources for thesis research

Nov. 15/17 Outline presentations

Nov. 22/24 ***Thanksgiving – no class meeting***

Nov. 29/Dec. 1 Outline presentations

Dec. 6/8 Outline presentations/Progress reports

***Thesis committee form due in class***

Friday,

December 16 **[Final Paper due by 9 pm – lit review for thesis] – no class meeting**