

Senior Thesis Seminar*

PSY 411

ID 2765

Spring 2013

Instructor: Dr. MakhinurAsanovnaMamatova

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Office Hours: T. 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (by previous appointment)

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Language of Instruction: English

Credits: Fall term – 1.5; Spring term – 1.5

Prerequisite: PSY 218, PSY 230 or SOC 324

Course Status: Required

Classes: T. 2:10 pm

Course Brief Description

Senior Thesis Seminar is two-semester upper-level course to use your knowledge of psychology to create and carry out a unique psychological study. This course is to gain an advanced understanding of research methodology, increase your written communication skills, and improve your presentation skills.

Teaching and Learning Style

The course will be interactive and student-centered. Students will be encouraged to think broadly and deeply about psychological research and its implementation in daily life.

Readings

1. Student's Guide designed by Psychology Department of AUCA
2. Goodwin, J.C. Research in Psychology: Methods and Design
3. Stevens, E. (ed) Handbook of Experimental Psychology
4. Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 6th ed. (2009)
5. Psychology Department Participant Pool Policies and Procedures (rev 08-01-2008)

Course Requirements

1. Every student is required to perform the tasks necessary for completion of the research project. This will include developing hypothesis, designing methodology, collecting the data, analyzing the data, writing up the research project, and submitting the abstract for presentation. Each student will give a weekly presentation to update the class concerning the progress of his/her research.

2. In order to assess your individual progress each student will maintain a Research Log. This log should contain a dated summary of your efforts – what you have done on the project to date. You will also record summaries of articles read for your research (at least 2 article summaries are required each week). The log will also include sections of the paper drafts. Create the log using a word processing program. The log may consist of a single file which contains a running account of your activities or a separate file for each week. The logs will be e-mailed to the instructor when due (see course schedule below). Your log will be scored using the following scale: 3 – very good; 2 – good list of activities with some detail; 1 – OK list of activities; 0 – incomplete/no log.

3. You will finalize section on methodology, report on SPSS test, write up results and discussion section, and reference section, figures and tables of your individual Senior Thesis Paper. This paper will be written in APA style. At least 20 sources must be referenced. To produce a quality research project and write a quality paper the student needs to do an extensive background literature search.

4. Attendance is mandatory. Since the class is a research group, your attendance and active participation is necessary for achievement of class goals. Each individual is expected to be prepared for class. Each week an update of each research project will be given by every student. Class members are encouraged to ask questions and make suggestions concerning the research project. Class sessions will be quality time to work on your research project. Each week your participation will be scored using the following scale: 3 – active participant; 2 – worked on research; 1 – present; 0 – not present.

5. Miscellaneous Information

Your instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus. E-course will be used for this course. Course handouts and other material are available from this source. Respect the rights of your fellow students. No cell phones, texting or use of the computer unrelated to the class will be allowed.

Course Grading Scale

Attendance and Weekly Presentation - 30 %; Research Log – 30%; Literature Review and Method Section – 40%

A 90-100%; A- 85-89%; B+ 80-84%; B 75-79%; B- 70-74%; C+ 65-69%; C 60-64%; C- 55-59%; D 50-54%; F below 50%

Course Schedule

01/08Introductory session. Course requirements and learning expectations

01/15Professional Ethics for Psychologists.Analysis of an ethical problem. The APA Code of Ethics

01/22Finalized section on methodology

01/29Report on planned use of SPSS test

02/05 Report on planned use of SPSS test

02/12Results section

02/19Results section

02/26Results section

03/12Discussion section

03/19Discussion section

03/26Discussion section

04/02Reference section, figures and tables

04/09Rough draft of Senior Thesis paper

04/16Rough draft of Senior Thesis paper

04/23Course Review

* This syllabus is developed on the basis of the syllabus for Seminar in Psychology designed and taught by Prof. Diane Wille of Indiana University Southeast.

** This syllabus is referred to Senior Thesis Seminar syllabus designed by AUCA Psychology Department faculty members.

*** Course content and instructions to writing research paper are referred to Jill M. Scott, Russell E. Koch, Gregory M. Scott, Stephen M. Garrison (1999). *The Psychology Student Writer's Manual*. Prentice Hall, Inc.