

PSY 401: ADVANCED RESEARCH Fall 2022

Website: <http://psych.hanover.edu/classes/seniors/>

Meeting Time & Place: MWF, 10:40-11:50am SCC 147	Faculty contact information		
	Skip Dine Young	x7319	youngst@hanover.edu
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	*address general questions about the course to Dr. Dine Young		

Overview and Course Objectives

With your participation, we expect this course to:

1. engage you in advanced issues of research and design
2. provide practice in the art of collaboration via close interaction with your colleagues
3. develop critical thinking as applied to psychological research
4. prepare you for the empirical project you will conduct next semester

The Empirical Research Project

By the end of this academic year (winter term) you will have developed, conducted, analyzed and reported your own research project. This project will be conducted either individually or with one other person.

This fall you will develop and write a formal research proposal including an introduction, method section, proposed analyses section, and detailed (week-by-week) timeline for conducting the project during the next term. By the end of the Fall term, all the materials you will need to conduct your research in the Winter term should be collected and prepared. This project needs to be an advanced piece of research; by that we mean a project with more depth than the projects you have conducted as part of coursework in Research Methods or other classes. It should be equivalent in scale to an “Senior Thesis.”

Note: It is expected that you will work with a partner on your projects. **If you wish to work individually, you will need to justify your choice.** At the end of the first week, you will submit to the faculty the name of your partner (who should be in agreement) or write a justification for working alone. The department faculty will then decide the pairing. You will need compelling reasons to work alone.

Detailed Information about Graded Assignments and Course Activities

*Students working with a partner will turn in assignments as a group.

9/15: Advisor Preferences, Research Question, Method, 15 refs (10%): Upload to Moodle your top 2 preferences for faculty advisors. In addition, attach a 1-page description of your topic, your specific research question, and your proposed method for your study. Included in this assignment is a list of at least 15 relevant (APA formatted) references. These references will be assessed on how appropriate they are given your topic of interest. You should be sure that all references are scholarly, available in English, and are not dissertations. After each APA reference, copy and paste the abstract so that it can be reviewed as well.

10/14: First Draft of Proposal (15%): The first draft of your Introduction, Method, Proposed Analysis, and References should be *emailed to your advisor*. This proposal should be in proper APA format.

10/24-11/14: Presentation (20%): This is a formal presentation of your research project. You will have 15-20 minutes to lead a presentation of the background of the project, proposed methods, and the possible analysis of the results. This presentation is also an opportunity to get feedback/suggestions about your research design. This presentation is graded by both your first and second reader.

11/11: Revised Proposal (ungraded): Your revised proposal should be *emailed to your advisor*. This draft is ungraded, but is expected to show refinement from your first draft. It is your last opportunity to get feedback from your advisor prior to your final proposal submission.

11/30: IRB Submission (ungraded): Use the application template provided on Moodle to answer all of the questions, and have your advisor review this. You can then copy/paste your responses into the boxes online and *submit your application using the online form*. Make sure that you select that the study is for a class and list your advisor as the Faculty Sponsor. Let your advisor know that you have completed the application so that they can go into the system and approve it for IRB review.

12/7: Final Proposal (40%): Upload to Moodle the final version of your proposal to be read by your first and second readers. As with earlier versions, it should be in proper APA format. You should also include all materials necessary for your study (e.g., questionnaires, stimuli, etc.).

Attendance and Participation (15%): Since we have arranged this course so that each of you will benefit from each other's input, it is vital that you attend all classes and participate fully. Your participation will be graded because we'd like to emphasize its importance and give credit to your important efforts in this area. Listen carefully, ask questions when you are confused or have a helpful suggestion, and work hard to elicit feedback from other students when you are responsible for leading the discussion.

Letter Grades: A = 100-93%; A- = 90-92%; B+ = 87-89%; B = 83-86%; B- = 80-82%; C+ = 77-79%; C = 73-76%; C- = 70-72%; D+ = 67-69%; D = 63-66%; D- = 60-62%; F = <60%

Late Penalties: To encourage timely preparation, there is a penalty for assignments that are submitted late. Assignments submitted after class on the day they were due will receive a -10% penalty. An additional -10% penalty will accrue with each additional day late.

Week 1: Prepare for the semester

This week we will introduce you to the course and you will begin the process of settling on a research topic. You should begin by searching PsycINFO for relevant studies. At the end of Week 1, we need to know whether you will complete your project with a partner or if you wish to work on your project alone. Email Dr. Dine Young with this information (and a justification, if you choose to work alone) by Friday, September 2 at 5pm.

Week 2: Small Group Presentations / Research Ideas & References

This week you will lead a discussion with a small group about the steps you've taken so far. Your presentation should include answers to the following:

- What was the preliminary, broad topic area that interested you, and how have you narrowed it down?
- What led you to be interested in this topic?
- What have you done to research this topic?
- What problems have you encountered so far?
- What have you learned so far?

In preparation for this presentation, you should read at least three articles or book chapters on your topic. You should plan to facilitate/direct the conversation, and you should have organized information and questions for your classmates that will generate a helpful conversation about your ideas. The purpose of these presentations is to get feedback from your classmates about your planned research idea, potential pitfalls, how it might be improved, and the method you plan to use to answer your research questions. The more you bring to the table, the more useful this will be!

Weeks 3: Conferences with Faculty / Research Ideas & Abstracts

During the scheduled class time (and outside class time as needed), you will meet with at least 3 faculty members to discuss your ideas. Come prepared to explain your thoughts and ask questions. We will track how many faculty members you meet with and this will figure in your participation grade. Meetings typically run 30 minutes. **These meetings will take place on Monday-Thursday of Week 3.**

By Thursday, September 15th, upload on Moodle your 1-page description and 15 references (described above) and your advisor preferences. To every extent possible, both student and faculty needs will be considered when assigning pairings (but do note that it is unlikely we'll be able to make everyone happy).

Weeks 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8: Advisor Meetings / First Draft Due

Monday of Week 4 (9/19), Dr. Krantz will give an overview of online research. On Wednesday (9/21), Dr. Saczawa will introduce us to Qualtrics which will be the platform we will use for our research this year. Margaret Krantz, Senior Director of Career and Professional Development at the Levett Career Center will present on careers and graduate school on Monday of Week 5 (9/26).

We will not meet at a class any other time during Weeks 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Instead, you should arrange a regular weekly meeting time with your advisor to discuss your proposed study. You and your thesis advisor should begin to work together. During these weeks, you should 1) be preparing to present your proposal to the class (see below), 2) begin working on the first written draft of your proposal, and 3) track down any materials (e.g., questionnaires, stimuli) you will need for your project. **The first draft of your proposal should be emailed to your advisor by Friday, October 14th at 5pm.**

Weeks 9 & 10: Presentations

At some point during these two weeks, you will make a **formal presentation** of your research ideas so that your classmates can help you refine and anticipate problems with your design. Your presentation should include a description of the relevant literature, your proposed methods, a rough idea of how you will analyze your data, and the timeline for completing the project. Of course, some aspects of this proposal may be rough, and some aspects of your design will change (perhaps dramatically) as a result of the feedback you receive. However, you should consider this a serious design proposal and consider yourself a moderator of the discussion of the proposal. Have questions ready if necessary to prompt your classmates' feedback. You will have 15 – 20 minutes for your presentation & discussion. This is a letter-graded assignment. You will be graded by both your first reader (2/3) and second reader (1/3). Please email your PowerPoint file to Dr. Dine Young the day before your presentation. As you prepare for your presentation, be sure to work on revisions to the written draft of your proposal.

Weeks 11 - 14: Advisor Meetings

During weeks 11 through 14, we will not meet as a class. You should continue to meet with your advisor and make revisions to your proposal. **Your second draft (ungraded) is due on Friday, November 11th.** You will also use this time to collect and or prepare all study materials you need. Your goal is to be ready to run your study by the end of the term. Pilot testing the study is also highly advisable. Have your advisor review your IRB documents and **submit your IRB application by Wednesday, November 30.**

Wednesday of Finals Week: Final Proposal Uploaded to Moodle by Wednesday, December 7 at 5pm

Schedule

<p>Week 1 8/29-9/2</p>	<p><i>Monday: Course Introduction</i> <i>Wednesday: Faculty research presentations</i> <i>Friday: Meet & Greet to help find Partners</i></p> <p><u>Assignments/Tasks</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Look through the existing literature to start developing a research idea 2) Find partner(s) 3) By Friday (5pm), email Dr. Dine Young with the names of both people in your group or your justification for working alone.
<p>Week 2 9/6-9/9</p>	<p><i>Monday: No class: Labor Day</i> <i>Wednesday & Friday: Present initial ideas in small groups</i></p> <p><u>Assignments/Tasks</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continue literature search, request ILLs; Read literature, take notes
<p>Week 3 9/12-9/16</p>	<p><i>No regular class meetings.</i></p> <p><u>Assignments/Tasks</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Meet individually with 3+ faculty members about research ideas (Mon-Thurs) 2) Continue literature search, request ILLs; Read literature, take notes 3) Email two choices for faculty advisor and 1-page description of research question(s) and methods with 15 references to Moodle by Thursday, September 15 at 5pm. Advisor Assignments will be announced at the end of the week.
<p>Weeks 4-8 9/19-10/21</p>	<p><i>No regular class meetings except:</i> <i>Monday 9/19: Dr. Krantz – Online Research</i> <i>Wednesday 9/21: Dr. Saczawa – Qualtrics</i> <i>Monday 9/26: Margaret Krantz, Senior Director of Career and Professional Development – Careers and Graduate School</i></p> <p><u>Assignments/Tasks</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Meet with advisor 2) Continue literature search, request ILLs; Read literature, take notes 3) Track down any necessary questionnaires or study materials 4) Continue work on first draft: Introduction, Methods, Expected Results 5) Begin working on presentation 6) Submit first draft of proposal (see description earlier in syllabus) and copies of all materials to advisor by Friday, October 14 at 5pm.
<p>Weeks 9 & 10 10/24-11/4</p>	<p><i>Monday, Wednesday, & Friday (both weeks): Class meetings for presentations</i></p> <p><u>Assignments/Tasks</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Email your presentation to Dr. Dine Young 24 hours before your presentation time 2) Present your research proposal (schedule to be announced via email/Moodle) 3) Ask questions during presentations 4) Continue literature search, request ILLs; Read literature, take notes 5) Revise first draft of proposal

Weeks 11-14 11/7 -12/2	<i>No regular class meetings</i> <u>Assignments/Tasks</u> 1) Meet with advisor 2) Revise first draft 3) Read literature, take notes 4) Submit revised proposal and copies of all materials to advisor by Friday, November 12 at 5pm. 5) Revise second draft 6) Collect all experimental materials & prepare website/survey if necessary 7) Pilot test study (if necessary) 8) Submit IRB application by Wednesday, November 30 at 5pm (have advisor review prior to submitting)
Finals Week 12/5-12/9	Upload to Moodle your final proposal & all experimental materials by Wednesday, December 7 at 5pm.