

PSYD98Y: Thesis in Psychology

Coordinators 2000-2001:
Professors John Bassili and Mark Schmuckler

Some Mondays 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Room R3231

Office hour: by e-mail appointment
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Students will write a research thesis under faculty supervision. On several Mondays, there will be a general meeting of all thesis students. These meetings will be to apprise students of the procedures for starting research and criteria a written thesis should satisfy. Each thesis proposal and completed project will be presented by the individual students, and discussed by the group. There will also be a general presentation day in the week before final exams in April 2000. A presentation to the Undergraduate Research Conference is optional, and will be given bonus marks (4%). Theses are marked by the supervisor (65%) and an independent reader (35%). Deadline for thesis: final day of classes April 2000 - late penalty: 2% per day. Note that this course does not provide feedback in the form of marks before the drop date. If you have any concerns, discuss them with your supervisor and the course coordinators.

Schedule for Fall Semester

Sept 11: Introduction
Sept 18: Update on supervision and informal presentation of area of research
Oct ~~18~~¹⁶: Discussion of Ethics and of ethics approval process
Oct ~~18~~¹⁶: Ethics approval requests received
Nov 6: Draft proposals due; Ethics approval results; Progress Reports
Nov 20: Presentations of research ideas
Nov 27: Presentations of research ideas

The schedule for the spring semester will be posted on the web by November 27.

Your supervisor should give you guidance on the preparation of the ethics approval requests. A form needs to be filled and a protocol describing the research procedures is attached to the form. The protocol usually provides a few details about the conceptual background for the research. The emphasis, however, should be on methods and procedures rather than on theory. What the Ethics Committee looks for is information on recruiting procedures, instructions to subjects, a signing form for participants to give informed consent on, anticipated risks to participants, details of how records of responses will be made and stored, and a debriefing script.

Draft proposals should be in APA style, 4-5 pages in length. They should have a title, an abstract, a one-page literature review, a one-page procedure, a proposed results-analysis section, and a one-paragraph discussion. Your supervisor should have a chance to give you feedback on your draft proposal on one or more occasions before you submit it in class. The same is true of any other written work or oral presentation in this class. Schedule your work to allow for your supervisor's feedback before the submission deadline.