

Psyc 399/Psyc 360 Social Psychology Research Internship

Fall, 2016

Meetings: Many Fridays, 1-3 PM in Room 104 at Midway

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Competence Statement:

Knows and understands basic psychological theory and research well enough to complete all steps involved in conducting a professional-level research study.

Course Objectives and Goals:

- To be able to identify and summarize background theory and research pertinent to a basic or applied research problem.
- To be able to design a research study to investigate a basic or applied issue of importance (including issues surrounding research design, measurement, participant selection, and threats to validity).
- To be able to perform data collection competently and reliably
- To understand data analysis well enough to competently summarize and explain results relevant to the selected research problem.
- To be able to produce a written summary of a research study that is suitable for publication and/or presentation at a professional meeting/conference.

Course Materials:

Books, Articles, or other readings relevant to the chosen research problem. Student should begin the course by conducting a literature search for relevant sources using the library databases and search functions. At least 12 journal articles or books must be cited in the final written summary. Student will find and select sources, then have them approved by instructor.

Evaluation:

The course will be graded on a S/NC basis. Satisfactory completion of all Course Objectives will result in an "S" grade. This course work may be completed independently or as part of a research team. The student should provide regular progress reports to the instructor at least once every other week.

Major Assignments/Tasks/Steps:

*****Before** August 26, you should write a brief summary of your proposed research topic. Be as specific as you can regarding your research question, hypothesis, or target problem. Drop your summary in D2L

1. Select a Researchable Topic. Ultimately, a topic requires a concept or theory from social psychology, which will be combined with an application context and a research method. For example, concepts could include social judgment, conformity, attitude, etc. (see a basic social psych text). A applied context might be perception of a co-worker, a pro-environmental behavior, procrastinating on a class assignment, etc. Finally, research methods include observation, experiments, surveys, etc. You will need to merge all three of these things together (concept, application, method) – start by focusing on one and building from there. You should have narrowed in one 1 or 2 of these by next week. E-mail to instructor at least 4 hours before class next week.
2. Review the literature pertaining to your concept and/or application. Look at a recent textbook to get some references. Use the PsychInfo database to find recent articles closely related to your concept/application. You should have at least 4 journal articles found using PsychInfo) two weeks from now. Type up a one page summary of each source, and include a reference section listing all sources.
3. Approach varies from here – take steps to develop research proposal: general overview of your goal, literature review, planned methods. Consider borrowing and/or adapting measures and methods from other studies.
4. Once method is sound, collect data (no later than halfway through term).
5. Conduct appropriate data analysis, write results section.
6. Write discussion/conclusion section.
7. Disseminate/share your study with others. Present at a conference like the Psychology Research Colloquium, Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference (MUPC), or Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA). Submit article to a journal.

Example of Goals/Schedule:

End of Week 3: Firm Topic and summaries of four relevant articles

End of Week 4: Independent Variable(s) and Dependent Variable(s). Manipulations & Measures

End of Week 5: Brief introduction – lit review and statement of question/hypotheses

End of Week 6: Firm draft of Methods (**materials/measures, procedures**, participants)

End of Week 7: More complete introduction – lit review, 8+ citations, and statement of question/hypotheses

End of Week 8: Absolute Deadline to Start data collection

**Do Research Presentation at Psychology Research Colloquium: Saturday
TBA in Mid-November**

Possible Meeting dates: August 26; Sept. 9, 16, 23; Others???