

Course:	PSY 490 Senior Thesis								
Term:	Spring 2012								
Instructor:	Name: Dr. Eugenia Shittu, Interim Dean, Arts and Sciences Division Email Address: eshittu@wilberforce.edu Phone Number: 937-708-5626								
Catalog Description:	Independent research on theoretical problems in psychology. To be presented to faculty (an assessment test to measure the level of psychological knowledge of majors at the end of the senior year).								
Prerequisites	PSY 220, 325, and 445								
Course Level Learning Outcomes:	At the completion of the course students are expected to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be able to generate feasible research topics. 2. Be able to generate hypotheses and research questions. 3. Be able to develop a questionnaire and collect data for the project thesis. 4. Effectively use descriptive, inferential and correlation statistics to analyze data. 5. Be able to successfully defend the senior thesis. 								
Materials:	No textbook is required. (Two textbooks will be on reserve.) Researching and Writing in the Social Sciences, by C. A. Hult, 2008. A Practical Guide to Behavioral Research Tools and Techniques by Robert Sommer, Barbara Sommer 6 th Ed. 2005.								
Grading:	Thesis defense will be held April 18, 2012. Research Project is due April 25, 2012 <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Research Project</td> <td>400 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oral presentation</td> <td>200 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attendance</td> <td>100 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Total</td> <td>700 points</td> </tr> </table> Grading Scale: 630 – 700 = A 560 – 629 = B 490 – 559 = C 420 – 489 = D Below 419 = F	Research Project	400 points	Oral presentation	200 points	Attendance	100 points	Total	700 points
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	A student's proficiency in course work is measured in terms of the following Alphabetical symbols. Minuses and pluses are not accepted. A: Excellent
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	<p>B: Good</p> <p>C: Satisfactory (Grade C or better required in major courses).</p> <p>D: Poor (passing, except in major courses).</p> <p>F: Earned Failure. (Removed only by repeating the course). Upon successfully passing the course, the first grade is “excluded” from grade point average. The second grade is “included in the recalculation of the grade point average.</p> <p>I: Incomplete (student performing satisfactorily, but unable to complete coursework due to valid reason).</p> <p>N: Used in cases where grades are not yet submitted.</p> <p>W: Withdrew before course drop deadline.</p> <p>WP: Student withdraws from University. Withdrew passing after course drop deadline (2weeks after mid-term).</p> <p>WF: Student withdraws from University. Withdrew failing after course drop deadline (2weeks after mid-term. WF is treated as an F (punitive grade).</p> <p>CR: Credit/pass</p> <p>NC: No credit/fail</p> <p>Z: Failed course for non-attendance/unofficial withdrawal (treated the same as an F grade). Last date of attendance is reported by faculty.</p>
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<p>Activities:</p>	<p>Overview of the following. APA Writing Style, Technical Considerations, Literature Review, Sampling, Questionnaire Construction, Survey Research Method, Experimental Research Method, Field Studies, Data Collection, Descriptive Statistics (frequency data, bar graphs, pie charts, percentages, etc.), Inferential Statistics (Independent t-test and Hypothesis Testing), Data Analysis, and Writing and Reviewing a Research Report: Title page, Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results, Discussion, Limitations and Suggestions, References and Appendices.</p> <p>Research Project: Each student is required to generate a feasible topic and at least three hypotheses relevant to the topic. The research project will be at least 35 typewritten pages long using APA format. The research project will include:</p> <p>-Title Page: The title page includes the title, author’s name and institutional affiliation. The title must be brief – ten to 12 words in length. It must be informative, fully explaining the main features of the study.</p> <p>-Abstract: The abstract should accurately, completely, and concisely capture the essentials of the study. The abstract informs readers of the problem investigated in the research, the method, results, conclusions and implications. It should be about 120 words.</p>
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INTRODUCTION

The introduction begins on a new page and requires no heading. This section usually begins with a general statement on the research problem, and reviews the literature citing past research and theoretical papers on the problem and ends with the specific questions or hypotheses that were tested in the study, along with the rationale for investigating them.

-Operational Definition of Terms: Define all the important terms you have used to this point and or anticipate using later in the Project Thesis. Include all terms that are usual or technical and not likely to be familiar to the readers.

METHOD

This section presents the methodological details of the study. It includes three subsections described below:

1. **Participants (or subjects).** This includes the total number of participants.

Information on participants' major demographic characteristics (e.g. gender, education, age etc.) or conditions pertinent to the research should be included. Use your judgment on which information to report.

2. **Apparatus/ materials:** In this section, identify and describe the instruments used in the research, including brand names, and models as well as the purposes to which they are put in the study.

3. **Procedure:** In this section, each step in the research, from the moment a subject's involvement began to when it ended should be reported, including instructions they were given, activities, events to which they were exposed, the turning of tasks, how the study ended, whether participants were paid for their involvement, and whether and how they were debriefed.

RESULTS

The result section reports how the data were analyzed and the results of those analyses. A good organization with well-chosen headings can help readers to easily understand your results. Carefully constructed figures and tables also clarify the presentation.

Statistical Analyses: When describing results statistically, include both measures of central tendency (means, modes, medians) and measures of variability such as standard deviation. In reporting statistical analyses, note the test that you use, the value of the test, the degree of freedom, the alpha level and the directions of the effect. The result section should contain all the results of the study.

DISCUSSION

The introduction evaluates and interprets research published in the literature, the discussion does the same for the study being reported helping readers understand how the researcher answers the questions posed in the introduction. The discussion also evaluates the study's

	<p>strengths and limitations to enable readers to better interpret results. Your discussion might end by presenting the theoretical or practical implication of the research, offering qualifications of its results or suggesting specific recommendations for future studies.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUGGESTIONS/CONCLUSION</p> <p>Give specific suggestions for future studies.</p> <p>References: The references should be listed in alphabetical order by the first author's surname. Each study mentioned in the paper must appear among the references and each entry in the references must be referred to in the paper.</p> <p>Appendix: Present your raw or unanalyzed data as well as other supporting information to show what you did in the study, for example your questionnaire, consent forms, etc.</p>
<p>Policy Statements:</p>	<p>Note: Students are responsible for informing the instructor of any instructional accommodations and/or special learning needs at the beginning of the semester.</p> <p>Note: Faculty is bound by a university policy on cheating. For our purposes, cheating is defined as providing or accepting information on any exam or taking credit for work that is not solely yours. If you are caught cheating, a grade of F will be assigned for the course and the matter referred to the Division chair for further disciplinary actions.</p>
<p>University Policies:</p>	<p><u>Academic Honesty:</u> Plagiarism and cheating are completely unacceptable in an institution of higher education and learning. Such behavior deprives the student involved of the desired education and development of an appropriate value system. It is extremely unfair to other student, and it severely diminishes the value and integrity of a University degree.</p> <p>Plagiarism occurs whenever another's work is submitted as one's own. This includes the use of information from an Internet site or from a published author's ideas and words without proper attribution or documentation. It also includes the copying of term papers, other unpublished works, homework, case reports, computer programs and spreadsheets, and any other course assignments which are submitted for course credit as the student's own effort.</p> <p>Each instructor shall state the specific penalties for plagiarism and cheating in the course syllabus. The instructor has final responsibility for assessing the penalty in such cases regarding the course grade.</p> <p>All cases of plagiarism and cheating will be referred to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for possible further action. Additional penalties may be imposed for the egregious cases of plagiarism and cheating.</p>

	<p><u>Drops and Withdrawals</u> Dropping Courses: A course may be dropped up through the end of the second week of the semester without any record on the transcript. After this date, a course may be dropped up to weeks after mid-term grade reports are due, with a W appearing on the transcript. Withdrawals after mid-terms must be approved by the Vice-president of academic Affairs.</p> <p>In certain General Studies core courses, students' assignments to course sections may be changed by faculty with written notification given to the Registrar. In all other cases, a student wishing to move from one section of a course to another must accomplish this by using a drop-add form to drop the old section and add the new section.</p> <p><u>Withdrawal/Grading Policies</u> The follow procedures will apply to all students withdrawing from the University. Grades will be given in regard to the time of withdrawal. Contact the Registrar's Office for forms and assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W (official withdrawal initiated by the student): To be given when a student withdraws between the first day of class/registration and the last day to drop courses, this is two weeks after mid-term exams. • AW (unofficial withdrawal not initiated by the student): The student does not inform anyone that he/she is leaving campus (the student walks out). The university may also administratively withdraw a student for disciplinary reasons, academic legal anytime during the semester. <p><u>Special Accommodations:</u> A student who is ill or who has or develops medical conditions including but not limited to illness, physical or other disability or pregnancy must notify the Director of Health Services immediately.</p>
<p><u>Classroom Conduct:</u> Announce your requirements about cell phone use, testing and other related technology in your class. Include your expectations about class interruption, disruption and inconsiderate behavior.</p>	<p>Monday, Wednesday 4:00 p.m. – 5:40 p.m.</p>

Contact Hours:
Specify all classes meet for the full-time stated on schedule. Classes cannot be shortened or cancelled without prior permission. Cancelled classes must be rescheduled.

Course Policies : Attendance is mandatory and lateness will not be tolerated.

Weekly Schedules:

Week 1: Defining, designing, and developing a research project
Assignment: Selection of a topic for the project thesis

Week 2 & 3: APA Writing Style
Assignment 1: 10 journal articles on an approved topic for the project thesis
(Handout developed by the Wright State University Writing Center)
Assignment 2: Technical Consideration
Assignment 3: Literature Review
Discussion on Assignment one

Week 4: Assignment: Chapter One of the Thesis Project (Independent Study)

Week 5: Overview on Survey Research, Experimental Research and Field Studies
Critique and Discussion on Assignment one.
Assignment 3: Corrections on Chapter one due

Week 6: Overview: Sampling and Questionnaire Construction
Assignment 4: Submit a 20 item questionnaire

Week 7: Overview: Sampling & Questionnaire Construction
Assignments 5: Draft of chapter two of the project thesis, Corrections on Assignment 4 due

Week 8: Data collection and corrections and discussion on Assignment 5
Assignment: Corrections on assignment 5 (Independent Study) Due

Week 9: Data collection ends

Week 10: Data Analysis
Assignment: Data Analysis

Week 11: Chapter 3 – Method (Independent Study)

Week 12: Chapter 4
Discussion and Conclusion & Appendices

	<p>Week 13: Corrections on Chapters 3 & 4 (Independent Study) Assignment</p> <p>Week 14: Thesis Defense</p> <p>Week 15: Final Thesis defense and submission of thesis project</p>
Advising & Tutorial Support:	By appointment