Research Seminar (PSY5198)

Fall 2020

**Instructor:** Joe Etherton, Ph.D.

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**Office:** UAC 233

**Office hours:** T 11:00-1:00, Th 1:30-3:30, and by appointment

**Office phone:** 512-245-6367

**Class Location:** \*UAC 409 *(note change)*

**Class Time:** Thursdays 11:30-12:20 (section 1); 12:30-1:20 (section 2)

**Course website**: http:/

**Course Description**: The research seminar course spans the Fall and Spring semesters, providing an orientation to the graduate program and the process of developing and beginning your thesis. The course will involve developing and refining research interests, reviewing and critiquing relevant literature, developing a research proposal, forming a thesis committee, and taking the thesis to completion.

**Course Objectives:** Provide an orientation to the MAPR program through a focus on the following topics:

1. **Thesis Project Development**:

* Identification of research interests; selection of an appropriate research design; determining the appropriate methods and procedures to carry out the proposed research; and thesis proposal development. All of these will involve regular consultation with the student’s mentor.
* Fostering effective oral and written communication skills and critical thinking.

1. **Research Management Skills**, through:

* Developing a research protocol and manual of operations for a particular study, including recruiting and running participant (modified as needed for Covid-19 restrictions).
* Submitting applications to the IRB and practicing principles of ethical conduct in research.
* Fostering professionalism and career development.

**Required Reading**: 1. MAPR Graduate Handbook; 2. selected readings to be posted on CANVAS.

**Course Policies:**

1. **Attendance:** Attendance is expected in class. In the event of illness or another emergency, students are expected to obtain notes and relevant materials from a classmate before contacting me regarding missed material. Assignments are due on the deadlines listed except in extenuating circumstances (e.g., serious personal illness or family emergency). If one of these events should occur near an assignment deadline, you must contact me prior to the deadline (or within 24 hours after) and written documentation must be provided (e.g., doctor’s note).
2. **Mobile phone/laptop usage:** Please silence cell phones before the start of class. You may use laptops/tablets to take notes only during class (i.e., please refrain from surfing the internet, playing games, and other disruptive behaviors).
3. **Academic Honesty:** Please observe the Texas State policy on academic integrity: Violation of the Honor Code includes copying from another student’s test or paper, or from any electronic devices or equipment; plagiarism; collaborating without authorization with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work; submitting the same essay or other project without substantial revision or expansion of the work, as well as other similar actions (UPPS 7.10.01) Academic dishonesty includes copying off another person on an exam, using outside sources, signing another student’s name on an attendance record, or in written work, paraphrasing from a reference source without an appropriate citation or not using direct quotes and a citation for more than four words taken from an outside source. Appropriate penalties in accordance with university and department policy will be enforced for academic dishonesty (e.g., Grade of “F” on assignment/exam in question, Honor Code violation filed, etc.).
4. **Students with Disabilities:** Students who have been documented by the Office of Disability Services as needing special accommodations should identify themselves to me at the beginning of the semester. Texas State is dedicated to providing these students with necessary academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to facilitate their participation and performance in the classroom.
5. **Assessment:** The Department of Psychology has adopted expected student learning outcomes for the undergraduate major, the graduate major, and for PSY 1300, a general education course meeting a requirement for the social and behavioral science component. These expected student learning outcomes are available for your review at the following website:

http://www.psych.txstate.edu/undergraduate/assessment.html

9/2/2020 Syllabus update:

\*\****Note that changing circumstances related to Covid-19 concerns may require modifying course format or schedule on short notice. I will inform students as soon as possible if any significant changes to the course are necessary. In the event of sharply increased rates of infection “worst case scenario”, this course may be delivered remotely via Zoom synchronously or asynchronously.***

***Note that because some students will be attending class remotely via Zoom, some or all class meetings may be recorded.***

WEARING MASKS

To protect the health of students, faculty, and staff, face coverings/masks appropriate for protection against the spread of Covid-19 are required at all times in the classroom. Violations will result in removal from the classroom.

CLASSROOM CIVILITY

Civility in the classroom is very important for the educational process and it is everyone’s responsibility.  If you have questions about appropriate behavior in a particular class, please address them with your instructor first.  Disciplinary procedures may be implemented for refusing to follow an instructor’s directive, refusing to leave the classroom, not following the university’s requirement to wear a cloth face covering, not complying with physical distancing or sneeze and cough etiquette, and refusing to implement other health and safety measures as required by the university. Additionally, the instructor, in consultation with the department chair/school director, may refer the student to the Dean of Students Office for further disciplinary review.  Such reviews may result in consequences ranging from warnings to sanctions from the university. For more information regarding conduct in the classroom, please review the following policies at <https://policies.txstate.edu/division-policies/academic-affairs/02-03-02.html>, Section 03: Courteous and Civil Learning Environment, and <https://studenthandbook.txstate.edu/rules-and-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html>, number II, Responsibilities of Students, Section 02.02: Conduct Prohibited.

**Course Requirements:**

**\*\*Please consult your mentor as needed or required with each of these assignments. \*\***

**1. Curriculum Vitae (CV)**

* This assignment will require that you create or update your CV (aka “vita”) including the following sections: personal information, education, honors/awards/scholarships, relevant research experience/skills, teaching experience, presentations/publications, professional affiliations, professional service and other categories as needed.
* Examples will be provided
* Your CV must be uploaded via CANVAS by 5pm on Thursday September 17.

2. **Summary of Research Interests**

* Write a 200 word summary of your research interests.
* This summary will be posted with your picture on the MAPR website.
* Examples of previous research summaries can be found here: <https://www.psych.txstate.edu/graduate/mapr/D--New-Sept-2017-studentsalumni/new-Current-Cohorts-landing-Sept-2017/cohort2019.html>
* Summaries are due Sept. 24 by 5pm on CANVAS.

**3. Research Interest Presentations**

* Create a PowerPoint presentation, approximately 10 minutes long, discussing your research interests. If you have several research interests, be sure to include your thesis topic as part of the presentation.
* Your presentation may include explanations of key terms or concepts, psychological theories, inconsistencies or conflicting viewpoints in the literature, and/or examples of significant previous studies relevant to your interests.
* Your research interest summary assignment should serve as the starting point for your presentation.
* Presentation time slots will be posted on CANVAS for the presentation dates (Oct. 8, 15, and 22).

**3. References List for 3 citations**

* After our session on library resources with the Psychology Librarian, please prepare an APA style references list for 3 citations relevant to your area of research: one article, one book, and one chapter in an edited volume.
* The references list will be due Oct. 15 by 5 pm on CANVAS.

**5. Outline Presentations**

* Create a PowerPoint presentation that is an outline of your literature review for your thesis
* Use this outline to write your final paper for this class.
* Consult your thesis mentor as you develop your presentation, as they may have suggestions for important papers or authors in your area of interest.

**6. Final Paper**

* Write the literature review for your thesis, **consulting regularly with your thesis mentor.**
* Your literature review should conform to the Graduate College’s formatting guidelines
* I will check in with your mentor throughout the semester, and I will ask him/her for final approval of your literature review. **Mentor approval is required for submission.**

**Grading:**

Course grades will be computed as follows:

Class participation 20%

Presentations/Written assignments 50%

Final Paper (Literature review for thesis) 30%

**This schedule may be subject to minor changes.**

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| **Week** | **Date** | **Topic** |
| Week 1 | Aug. 27 | Introduction: Courses and program requirements |
| Week 2 | Sept. 3 | Thesis/program timeline; creating a CV |
| Week 3 | Sept. 10 | Identification/development of research interests; pictures for MAPR website |
| Week 4 | Sept. 17 | Library resources. Class location to be announced.  **CV due at 5pm on CANVAS** |
| Week 5 | Sept. 24 | Selecting a thesis chair and committee  **Summary of research interests (200 words max) – due at 5 pm on CANVAS** |
| Week 6 | Oct. 3 | Conducting literature reviews and critiquing research |
| Week 7 | Oct. 8 | Research interest presentations |
| Week 8 | Oct. 15 | Research interest presentations  **References list for 3 citations relevant to your area of research: one article, one book, one chapter in edited volume – due 5 pm on CANVAS** |
| Week 9 | Oct. 22 | Research interest presentations/research design and methodology |
| Week 10 | Oct. 29 | Writing an outline for your literature review |
| Week 11 | Nov. 5 | Resources for thesis research |
| Week 12 | Nov. 12 | Outline presentations |
| Week 13 | Nov. 19 | Outline presentations |
| Week 14 | Nov. 26 | NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK |
| Week 15 | Dec. 3 | Outline presentations  **Thesis committee form due in class** |
|  | **Dec. 8** | **FINAL PAPER due Tuesday December 8, 5 pm on CANVAS.** |