

**Syllabus for PSY 499
Senior Project Seminar
Psychology Department
University of La Verne
Spring 2007**

Section I: The Class and the Instructor

Instructor's Name:

Dr. Ngoc Bui
<http://faculty.ulv.edu/~buin>

Methods of Contacting Instructor:

e-mail: buin@ulv.edu

Office Hours:

Hoover 216 ext. 4099
M W F 11:30am-12:30pm; 3pm-4:30pm

Section II: The Course

Course Description: Senior Project M W 1pm-2:50pm

This course is designed to assist you in the successful completion of your senior project. Senior Projects in the Psychology Department require the selection of an appropriate and approved topic. More specifically, this course will enable you to: (a) conduct a literature review; (b) formulate research questions and/or hypotheses; (c) collect and input original data; (d) analyze data using SPSS; (e) write up findings using APA format; and (f) present findings to a group of peers and professors. This course meets to the missions of the University of La Verne's Mission in the following ways:

1. Community and Diversity: The University promotes the goal of community within a context of diversity. This course requires the learners to sample from diverse populations for their projects, in order to better understand human behavior and mental processes of the diverse community within which they live.
2. Values orientation: The University supports the health of the planet and its people. The topics chosen for projects must help the people, the animals, or the planet in some way.
3. Life-Long Learning: Learning to use relevant information, applying this knowledge, and presenting the information in an understandable form are skills learners will use throughout their lives.

Course Prerequisites:

PSY 305: Statistics

PSY 390: Research Methods

Concurrent registration in PSY 395 (Computer Data Analysis) is allowed

PSY 497: Internship (strongly recommended)

Course Objectives:

1. Conduct a literature search and review on an approved topic.
2. Formulate research questions and specific research hypotheses based on review of literature.
3. Collect original data that is reliable and valid.
4. Input and analyze data on SPSS
5. Write a complete research paper in APA format.
6. Present research findings to a group of peers and professors.

Required Materials:

American Psychological Association (2002). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th Ed.)*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Floppy diskettes or flash drives for data storage

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Section III, Part A Instructor Responsibilities

Methods of Instruction:

This course will be presented using a combination of lecture, discussion, and group activities. Outside reading and other information gathering activities will be assigned.

Methods of Assessing Student Progress:

Final grades will be determined based upon completion of the following:

1. Attendance (13 meeting days)	13 points
2. Senior Project Proposal (with hypotheses and variables)	20 points
3. Article summaries (10 articles minimum x 5 points)	50 points
4. Measures/Instruments (must show to instructor)	10 points
5. Literature Review (2 drafts minimum)	40 points
6. Human Subjects Review Form (IRB proposal)	25 points
7. Method Section (2 drafts minimum)	25 points
8. Results Section	20 points
9. Tables and graphs (minimum of 1 each)	10 points
10. Discussion Section	20 points
11. Abstract (under 200 words)	10 points
12. Oral Presentation	20 points
13. Two final copies (tape or wire bound, free of errors)	25 points

Total: 288 points

Grade Breakdown:

A	92-100%
A-	90-91%
B+	88-89%
B	82-87%
B-	80-81%
C+	78-79%
C	72-77%
C-	70-71%
D	60-69%
F	below 60%

Maintenance of Student Records

All papers and assignments will be returned or will be made available for pick-up to the student for review after grading. The instructor will retain a permanent record of each student's grade for one year from the last date of the course.

Section III, Part B: Student Responsibilities

Attendance and conduct statement:

Students are expected to attend the first day of class and all subsequent Monday class meetings. Wednesday classes are consultation days with your professor for specific help on your project. You cannot contribute to nor benefit from class meetings that you miss. Students are expected to behave respectfully to one another in the learning environment. This includes eliminating electronic devices that may be distracting to others, arriving on time to class, and to be courteous to one another.

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Senior Project- Manuscripts and Presentations

It is the responsibility of the students to comply with APA ethical guidelines and ULV's Institutional Review Board Guidelines for conducting research. Also, all final manuscripts to be graded must be paper or spiral bound (you can have this done at the ULV Graphics Dept.) and are due the **Monday, May 21, 2006 by 12pm noon**. A PowerPoint presentation of your thesis project will be given to your peers and guests as scheduled on the syllabus (see schedule). You will be given a maximum of 15 minutes. You must use PowerPoint presentation software to present your project and include at least 1 table or graph of your data in your oral and visual presentation.

Academic Honesty Statement:

All your written assignments may be turned in to a plagiarism service (e.g., Turnitin.com) to check for its authenticity. The University imposes specific disciplinary actions in response to incidents of academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etc.). Cheating on any assignment or plagiarizing any work will result in failure from the course. In addition, the student must complete the Multimedia Integrity Teaching Tool (MITT) in order to not be dismissed from the college. Please refer to the University of La Verne Catalog for information about rights and responsibilities of students.

Section III, Part C: Student Resources

1. Learning Enhancement Center provides assistance for writing, and tutoring in academic area (Ext. 4342)
2. University Counseling Center provides assistance to students who have difficulties with the stresses of academic and personal life (Ext. 4831).
3. The Disabled Student Services offers assistance to students with physical, psychological and/or learning disabilities (Ext. 4441).

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Section IV: Projected Schedule of Assignments:

All dates are approximate depending on how we progress. Any changes in deadlines for assignments will always be announced in class. Please adjust your calendars accordingly.

Week 1: (2/5-2/9)	Introductions Syllabus Identify research interests/topics <u>Homework #1: Project Proposal (with hypotheses and variable description)</u>
Week 2: (2/12-2/16)	Library research Writing and completing a Literature Review Homework #1 due (Proposal and hypotheses) <u>Homework #2: Write article summaries (first 4 articles)</u>
Week 3: (2/19-2/23)	Presidents' Day Holiday (No class on Monday, Meet Wed. 2/21) Creating and locating instruments Human Subjects Review form <u>Homework #3 Human Subjects Review Section (IRB Proposal)</u>
Week 4: (2/26-3/2)	Research and Ethics Recruiting participants Homework #2 due (article summaries 1-4) <u>Homework #4: Find an instrument</u> <u>Homework #5: Write article Summaries (articles #5-7)</u>
Week 5: (3/5-3/9)	Data collection strategies Homework #3 due (IRB Proposal) Homework #4 due (Find an instrument) <u>Homework #6: Write article summaries (articles #8-10)</u> <u>Homework #7: Literature Review (draft #1)</u>
Week 6: (3/12-03/16)	Approving data collection process and measures Troubleshooting Homework #5 due (Article summaries 5-7)
Week 7: (3/19-03/23)	Data Collection (1 st week) Data Analysis part 1 Homework #6 due (Article summaries 8-10)
Week 8: (3/26-3/30)	Data Collection (2 nd week) Data analysis part 2 <u>Homework #8: Method section (draft #1)</u> <u>Homework #9: Results section</u> Homework #7 due (Literature Review draft #1)
Week 9: (4/2-4/6)	SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)
Week 10: (4/9-4/13)	Reporting and discussing progress in analysis and/or data collection Writing a Results section Homework #8 due (Method Section draft #1) <u>Homework #10: Method Section Draft #2</u> <u>Homework #11: Literature Review (Draft #2)</u>

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- Week 11:**
(4/16-4/20) Creating tables and graphs
Writing a Discussion section
Homework #9 due (Results Section)
Homework #12: Discussion section (draft #1)
- Week 12:**
(4/23-4/27) Putting it all together
Writing an Abstract
Peer Reviews of final paper
Homework #10 due (Method section draft #2)
- Week 13:**
(4/30-5/4) References
Work on poster/PowerPoint visual displays
Homework #11 due (Literature review draft #2)
Homework #12 due (Discussion section)
Homework #13: Tables and Graphs
- Week 14:**
(5/7-5/11) Practice Oral Presentations (bring PowerPoint slides)
How to present your research
Homework #13 due (Tables and Graphs)
- Week 15:** Oral Presentations (Time and Place to be announced)
- Week 16:** **Final Bound Copies due by noon Monday 5/21/07**

Homework #	Homework Assignment	Points	Due Dates
1	Proposal	20	2/12
2	Article Summaries (#1-4)	20	2/26
3	IRB Proposal	20	3/5
4	Measure or Instrument	10	3/5
5	Article Summaries (#5-7)	15	3/12
6	Articles Summaries (#8-10)	15	3/19
7	Literature Review draft #1	20	3/26
8	Method draft #1	10	4/9
9	Results section	20	4/16
10	Literature Review draft #2	20	4/23
11	Method draft #2	15	4/30
12	Discussion Section	20	4/30
13	Tables and Graphs	10	5/7
	Abstract	10	
	Oral Presentation	20	
	Final Bound Copies	25	5/21