

LINFIELD COLLEGE
Division of Continuing Education - Adult Degree Program
McMinnville, Oregon

Psychology 490 – 3 Credits
Research Project

SYLLABUS

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Spring, 2008

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Appointments by arrangement.

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of English 377 and Psychology 190, or permission of instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is the second part of a year-long two course sequence (Psy 190 [Research Evaluation] and Psy 490 [Research Project]) in which a senior project is proposed and completed. During the Spring semester, the study that was proposed in Psy 190 will be carried out--data will be collected in accordance with the Ethical Standards of the American Psychological Association, the results statistically analyzed, and conclusions written up, thus completing the thesis.

For students who, in the Fall, elected to do a comprehensive research review and summation of the “state of the art” of current research on a particular topic, the process of a writing a summation of reviewed literature will continue into the Spring.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Collection of empirical data pertaining to the topic of the proposed thesis in accord with the Ethical Guidelines of the American Psychological Association.
2. Will execute appropriate statistical analyses for the data collected.
3. Writing of conclusions, implications, summation, limitations, and suggestions for further research, in accordance with the standards set forth in the American Psychological Association’s Publication Manual (5th Edition).
4. An abstract will be completed summarizing the entire study

PROCESS: Because of the wide variety of topics and varying paces of the studies pursued by students, instruction and scheduling will be individualized. Each student will be given appropriate reading assignments, especially pertaining to appropriate statistical analyses. Students will be individually guided and coached through the writing process. Students are expected to: (1) be consistently working on their project between meetings and completing segments of their theses by recommended dates, and (2) be in consistent ongoing contact with the instructor. All submissions of drafts should be submitted via www.turnitin.com.

COURSE OUTLINE: See attachment

TEXTBOOKS:

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed)

Elmes, D. G., Kantowitz, and Reodiger, H. L. III (2006). Research Methods in Psychology (8th Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson.

COURSE FORMAT: The course will consist of individual meetings, e-mail, and telephone communication. All students are expected to actively involved in completing elements of their theses in a timely manner, and to have read appropriate assignments as designated by the instructor. Students are expected to seek out the instructor for ongoing assistance and individual coaching.

DEADLINE: The due date for the completed thesis will be May, 29, 2008.

GRADING: The entire thesis will be graded globally, and the grade on the quality of the thesis will constitute the course grade. See specific definitions in the Linfield College catalog:

A = Excellent*
A-
B+
B = Good
B-
C+
C = Satisfactory
C-
D+
D = Barely satisfactory
F = Failing

*Students who receive an A on their thesis will have their thesis bound and shelved in the College Library. For students whose theses are submitted for binding and library shelving, there are several modifications in the format to be completed after a final grade of "A" is assigned. Those include a revised title page and optional acknowledgement page. All students may elect to have

personal copies of their thesis bound at cost in accordance with library policies.

GENERAL POLICIES:

Incompletes A grade of Incomplete (I) is given only in emergency situations. The student must request an Incomplete in writing and must obtain my permission. All uncompleted work must be completed within the time limits I set. If you simply don't turn in the final assignments or the final exam, your course grade will be calculated with the missed portion counting for 0 points.

Academic honesty Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student found to be engaging in either of these activities at any point in the course will receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or entire course and may be subject to further college sanctions.

Un-edited non-scholarly materials from the Internet or World Wide Web, and non-scholarly articles from popular periodicals are not acceptable sources for referencing and citation.

Students with disabilities Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know of, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term.