CPSY 594
Proposal Writing
Fall 2011

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**Catalog Description**
Direct instruction and support on the process of preparing a thesis and/or other research/grant proposals. Includes both a colloquium and individual consultations with thesis chair or other faculty member. Colloquium will focus will on the refinement of research questions, the specifics of the design, and the Human Subjects in Research application process. Consultations with thesis committee chair (or other faculty member if not developing a thesis proposal), will focus on the development of a manuscript that clearly details the purpose of the research, summarizes relevant literature, and identifies proposed design/methodology for the research project.

**Course Goals**
This course focuses primarily on the development of the thesis proposal and instruction on the completion of the HSRC applications. Students will receive tools and support necessary to move forward in the proposal process. Successful completion of the course will include:
- Understand the thesis proposal process
- Create a tentative timeline for completion of proposal and conduct of research project
- A draft, outline, or clear plan for the thesis proposal (or other research proposal if not completing a thesis)
- A draft, outline, or clear plan for completing the HSRC application
- Increased knowledge of research methodology and design

**Course Materials**

**Recommended Texts:**


**Supplementary Texts & Workbooks**

**Additional Course Materials on Moodle**

**Course Requirements**
*Class Participation/Meetings with Thesis Advisor (25%)*
The colloquium aspect of the class is vital to everyone’s learning. These meetings will cover basic topics regarding proposal development and will also include a round-table discussion of the progress/challenges each student is having with their proposals. Attendance at monthly meetings and active participation in the discussion about each person’s research is expected. Additionally, monthly meetings with thesis chair to provide individual support is also expected.
**Self Selected Readings (10%)**
The readings for the semester and the major assignment will be related to each student’s unique research interests and based on where they are in the development of their proposal. However, several readings will be expected and a reading log/bibliography collected at the end of the semester.

**Thesis (Research Project) Proposal Draft with HSRC application (65%)**
The major assignment for the class will be the draft, outline, or plan for completion of the thesis proposal along with a draft of the HSRC application.

**Attendance Requirements:** Students will be required to attend the colloquium class Due to the nature of the colloquium, if a student misses a class they will be required to make up the class by attending an additional session of the colloquium or meeting an extra time with their thesis chair who may also require and additional assignment/reading.

**Evaluation and Assessment:**

As the course will be offered on a CR/NC basis, students must receive at least 80% of the total possible points to receive credit for the class. Final grades will be based on 200 point total and will be distributed as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Points Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160 and above</td>
<td>(80% of total points) -</td>
<td>CR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 160</td>
<td>(less than 80% of total points) -</td>
<td>NC</td>
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**Assignments**

- Class Participation: 50
- Reading Log/Bibliography: 20
- Thesis (Research Project) Proposal Draft with HSRC application: 130
- Total: 200

An additional determination of grades is as follows. If the minimum expectations for an assignment are met, the assignment, the grade given will be equivalent CR. If the assignment does not meet minimum expectations, and/or is missing any components, NC will be assigned. These expectations will be presented to the students when the assignment is given.

**Tentative Schedule of Classes/Assignments**

Meeting 1 – Overview of Proposal Development Process/Check In
Meeting 2 – Develop/Review Timeline for Proposal/Thesis Process/Roundtable on projects
Meeting 3 – Discuss Methods/Design/ Roundtable on projects
Meeting 4 – Discuss IRB Process/Integrating into Design/ Roundtable on projects

**Partial Bibliography:**

**Thesis Writing Books**


**Research Methods and Stats Books**


