

¹PSYC 7141 – Doctoral Research Seminar

Course Syllabus – Fall, Spring, Summer

INSTRUCTOR AND EMAIL:

SEMESTER:

RESOURCES:

- Bibliography of Required Readings
 - American Psychological Association. (2020). *APA Publication Manual* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
 - *Thesis and Dissertation Preparation Guide* by the University of Central Arkansas Graduate School (available on our course Blackboard site or <https://uca.edu/graduateschool/thesis-and-dissertation/>)
 - All other resources are available from our course Blackboard site.

PURPOSE OF OUR COURSE: This course was designed by the graduate faculty to help doctoral students begin the process of a successful dissertation project. This course is not common in graduate programs and our department considers it to be one of the most important and valuable components of our doctoral programs. The basic idea is to take an immense task called the dissertation and break it up into very manageable weekly goals throughout the year. By engaging in this process, you will make remarkable progress on your dissertation.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY: Although our course may not focus on diversity-related topics, valuing diversity is a core value of our department, UCA, and psychology as a science. I want you to know that I support the Department of Psychology & Counseling's Vision & Mission statements in regard to respecting and valuing all students. At times, some questions or discussion can seem personal or emotional to you or your peers, so our hope is that we will develop a learning environment in which we celebrate diversity and where we can explore relevant topics in a manner that is respectful of one another.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance and active participation is expected at every meeting and will be a factor in the course grade.

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES

- Attend at least one dissertation proposal and at least one dissertation defense meeting
- Attend assigned individual and group meetings with other students enrolled in seminar, as assigned
- Fall semester
 - Review recent volumes of top journals to identify hot topics and “holes” in the literature
 - Interview faculty to learn about expectations, challenges, & rewards of dissertation research
 - Develop and discuss 2 potential dissertation topics
 - Engage in literature review
 - Discuss ideas with potential dissertation advisor(s)
 - Review the format of a dissertation
 - Review a completed UCA dissertation
 - Select a topic
 - Establish who will be your dissertation advisor
- Spring semester
 - Establish who will be on your dissertation committee
 - Write a summary of the literature, rationale for study, and hypotheses
 - Develop annotated bibliographies for relevant sources
 - Discuss methodological issues
 - Discuss data analysis options
 - Develop a Gantt chart timeline for all remaining tasks

¹ SyllabusP7141-DissertationSeminar-BIHM Summer 2022

- Summer semester
 - **Complete draft of Chapter 2 (new format) of proposal** (i.e., an Introduction consisting of a brief literature review with hypotheses at the end of the review, a proposed Methods section, and a proposed Results section in which you state how you will analyze each hypothesis/question).

DETAILED TIMELINE: See our Class Meeting Objectives document on our Blackboard site.

GRADING: Each weekly submission is worth 10 points and seminar participation is worth 30 points each semester.

- Fall semester: (16 submissions X 10 points) + 30 participation points = 190 possible points.
- Spring semester: (12 submissions X 10 points) + 30 participation points = 150 possible points.
- Summer: (10 submissions X 10 points) = 100 possible points.

Course Grade: A = 90%-100% B = 80%-89% C = 70%-79% D = 60%-69% F = 0%-59%

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: If any assignments are turned in late, the student will lose 5 points per day it is late. Assignments will be due at the time designated in the Assignments section of Blackboard.

COURSE EVALUATION: Student evaluations of a course and its professor are a crucial element in helping faculty achieve excellence in the classroom and the institution in demonstrating that students are gaining knowledge. Students may evaluate courses they are taking starting on Nov 15 (Fall) and Apr 11 (Spring) through the end of finals week by logging in to myUCA and clicking on the Student Course Experience Survey link.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, please contact the UCA Office of Disability Support Services, 450-3613.

TITLE IX DISCLOSURE

If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member (as it relates to "student-on-student" or "employee-on-student"), the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved. Any allegations made by a student may or may not trigger an investigation. Each situation differs and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on those specific set of circumstances. The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator. For further information, please visit: <https://uca.edu/titleix>.

OTHER ACADEMIC POLICIES: Students are encouraged to review the Student Handbook for Sexual Harassment Policy and other academic policies.

BUILDING EMERGENCY PLAN: An Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS) for the building in which this class is held will be discussed during the first week of this course. EPS documents for most buildings on campus are available at <http://uca.edu/mysafety/bep/>. Every student should be familiar with emergency procedures for any campus building in which he/she spends time for classes or other purposes.