

PSY411.1

ID: 3779

SENIOR THESIS SEMINAR I FALL 2022

INSTRUCTOR

Asel Myrzabekova, Assistant Professor, Psychology

- Master's of Philosophy in Peace and Conflict Transformation;
- PhD candidate, Social and Political Philosophy, University of Bonn

CONTACT INFO

Email: myrzabekova_a@auca.kg
Office hours: by appointment via email

ZOOM LINK

<https://zoom.us/j/98972434906>

Mon. 08.00

Wed. 09.15

Enrollment key: [PSY411](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is the Department of Psychology's capstone course, designed to foster and evaluate the student's fundamental understanding of psychology as an empirical research science. In this **two-semester course**, students will acquire and utilize the skills necessary for conducting and reporting empirical research in psychology.

Each student will **individually conduct their own one-year long research project** under the supervision from a member of the Department of Psychology and with the support from the instructor of this course. We understand that because of the nature of scientific research, each senior project will differ in terms of its timing and emphasis on particular aspects of the research process. However, completion of each part of the senior thesis project will be strictly controlled based on deadlines. The deadlines will be announced earlier in the semester.

During the Fall semester you will be:

- conducting literature review: finding and reviewing academic literature
- forming hypotheses/formulating main research questions
- designing research to test those hypotheses/to study the problem/issue and find answers to specific research questions

During the Spring semester:

- data collection must be completed by early spring semester
- you will be analyzing and synthesizing the data,
- writing the thesis, and creating professional presentations
- presenting senior theses at Mock Defense and Final Defense.

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the completion of this course the students will be expected to demonstrate the following skills:

- **Analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information from primary sources to address psychologically relevant issues.**
- **Develop and conduct a research project; Write using APA style.**
- **Communicate orally and in a written form their research plan;**
- **Conduct and describe their research findings.**

ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

The course will use an **online seminar format**. Students will present their work in relation to their senior project in the format of structured assignment or in less formal discussions. Throughout the course students will carry out **five assignments** completion of which will lead to development of their thesis. Three times during the course, each student will give formal presentations in the presence of all faculty members - *Research Symposium, Mock Defense, Final Defense*.

The schedule of these meetings as well as the description of the requirements for the presentations will be available early in the semester. Each student is expected to actively participate in the in-class discussions, present their assignments, raise questions for discussions and carefully consider/address to the comments received at the departmental meetings. **Each week students must have meetings with their thesis supervisors in order to ensure they are on time with their projects. At least once a month every student needs to have meetings with WARC tutors.**

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“NEW NORMAL”

What should a “new normal” education system look like after obtaining extended experiencing teaching and learning during unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021?

The “new normal” – online education will heavily depend on how we effectively apply time management, innovative solutions and digital tools to support both learners and teacher. Creativity, fast learning, resilience and adaptability will be crucial for the next generations to navigate through the present—and any future challenges.

The major part of communication, learning and feedback will be facilitated through effecting use of apps like Zoom, Google Docs, Google meets, Padlet and etc. and of course email.

Check your **email (Gmail – AUCA) and use e-course** on regular basis. Additional reading materials and study guides will be posted via electronic course system.

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SEMINAR CLASS POLICIES

ATTENDANCE: Attendance at zoom sessions for this class is mandatory. The class will be held as per the schedule on a weekly basis (see below class schedule).

IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION: Each class we will have discussion sessions. During these sessions, you will be asked to share your experiences with the process of carrying out your research project. You will be encouraged to raise questions outlining the moments that were not very clear or you would like a second opinion about. You will be expected to listen to other students without interruption and critically reply to other students' comments and questions. **Missed or late work will be accepted only if a student provides an official note reasoning a substantive excuse for such circumstances – medical certificate in case of missing classes due to having health issues is required.**

ISSUES OF GRADING

If you feel that the evaluation of your work was not fair or you noticed some scoring mistakes in your grade, you should bring these issues to my attention immediately! If your demands are reasonable, I will remedy my mistakes. After all, social psychological research demonstrates that all people are susceptible to mistakes and biases. I promise, there will be a no-risk situation for you – I will not penalize anyone who takes the time to highlight instances where you or someone else were treated unfairly. In case the grade disputation is not solved at this stage the students can approach **Executive Committee /Academic Appeals Committee**¹ that is responsible for evaluating the evidence provided by both faculty member and the student and make a decision enabling conflict resolution regarding student's academic work.

CHEATING POLICY

All written assignments, including presentations must include the citation of source materials that were used by the student. Submitted work must be original and must not be plagiarized. If I notice that you have submitted someone else's work and presented it as your own, copied your answers from other exam papers or plagiarized from a published article, I will inform the administration about this issue regardless of your performance in other portions of the course. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an F for the assignment and possible suspension from the university.** I will hate to do that, but there will be no exceptions to this rule. For more detailed information, please refer to the Plagiarism Policy, AUCA.

¹ For more detailed on Executive Committee /Academic Appeals Committee follow the link https://auca.kg/en/subcom_academic_appeals/

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GRADING SYSTEM

		Grade	Percentage	Score Range
1.	Assignment 1 - AB		10%	A 95-100
2.	Assignment 2 - Abstract	A-	10%	90-94
3.	Progress report 1	B+	15%	85-89
4.	Assignment 3 - M	B	15%	80-84
5.	Assignment 4 - EC	B-	10%	75-79
6.	Assignment 5 - I	C+	10%	70-74
7.	Progress report 2	C	5%	65-69
8.	In-class participation	C-	5%	60-64
9.	Symposium	D	10%	55-59
10.	Work with Tutors from WARC	D-	10%	50-54
	TOTAL	F	100%	0-49

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Notes
Week 1 (05.09)	Introduction to the course. Quick session on literature review	Jamboard - https://jamboard.google.com/d/1b-CUX5-Ut8mO3eeBwmOw6LMtcNKu_UeG5qVF-BKjcEo/edit?usp=sharing Time slots for individual meetings - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1L4BVX0YTeN5dMqwvqzdk_iAOlguAnbakLTQ-6ss9TzI/edit?usp=sharing
Week 2 (12.09-14.09)	Presentation of Thesis topics	Each student will have 5 minutes for presentation https://docs.google.com/document/d/1of8wR1SEIiwIoIuEOHZt40mCsCI9zOotd/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115599683217438418791&rt=pof=true&sd=true
Week 3	Investigating the area of interest. Finalizing topics. Literature review Submit Assignment 1 (Annotated bibliography)	NO CLASSES on Week 3 (upload assignment to the e-course). Submission deadline– September 23

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Week	Topic	Notes
Week 4 (26.09)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statement of purpose - Research goals and research questions. - Abstract. 	Assignment 2 (Abstract) – NO CLASS on September 28 Students will submit a working abstract of the thesis to the seminar instructor and supervisor no later than September 30 . The abstract should be approximately 200 words in length, and will be circulated in the class on October 3. Students will have the opportunity to revise and update the abstract.
Week 5 (3.10)	Research proposal and planning. Outline of senior thesis project	Students must familiarize with Students guide on planning, writing and presenting your diploma work – Senior Thesis
Week 5 Week 6 (05.10-12.10)	Independent work	NO CLASS on October 5, 10 and 12 Progress Report 1 – to be submitted by October 14
Week 7 (17-19.10)	Presentations	Get prepared for the Research Symposium - October 29th (OFFLINE)
Week 8 (24-26.10)	Presentations	Get prepared for the Research Symposium - October 29th (OFFLINE)
Week 9 (31.10)	Reflections after the Symposium Methodology section: Methods, Participants, Materials	Continue working on revision of the Progress report (proposal)
Week 9 (02.11)	Independent work	NO CLASS – November 2 Submit Assignment 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methodology Section Submit Assignment 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With Ethical clearance Deadline – November 10
Week 10 (09.11)	IRB. Issues of research ethics	IRB Application and requirements 50 min - class

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Week	Topic	Notes
Week 11 (14-20.11)	Individual consultations IRB and Progress report 2	Based on the prior agreement with the course instructor
Week 12 (21-23.11)	Independent work Submit Progress report 2 (Proposal revision).	NO CLASSES Deadline for the submission of Progress report 2 - November 25
Week 13 (30.11)	Data collection plan and sampling methods Discussing issues of data collection and ways to deal with them	
Week 14 (05.12)	Introduction section	Each student will be assigned as a peer-reviewer. First two weeks of the Spring 2023 we will hold peer-review group work sessions NO CLASS – December 7
Week 15 (12-14.12)	Independent work	NO CLASSES Submit Assignment 5 - Introduction Section Deadline – December 16
	Individual consultations	Based on the prior agreement with the course instructor
	Winter Holidays	

RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE UNIVERSITY

All students are encouraged to use the available resources that are offered by the university, particularly you are advised

- To use the databases, open access resources available via the services provided by **AUCA Library**.
- To approach the **Writing and Academic Resource Center (WARC)**. WARC offers one-on-one tutoring sessions in a variety of subjects, including writing and English language Help. You can make your reservation at https://auca.kg/en/writing_and_academic_resource_center/.
- To approach for help to obtain guidance on courses and study requirements to **Academic Advising Office** - https://auca.kg/en/academic_advising/.
- AUCA also offers professional psychological support for students where they can ask for help through **Psychological Counseling Services** - https://auca.kg/en/about_offices_counseling/. All discussed issues at the

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Psychological Counseling office will be completely confidential and services provided in a supportive and friendly environment.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

CAMERA and MIC. When attending online class meetings have your *camera on* whenever possible, and keep your *mic on mute if you are not talking* to prevent background noise. Think about your actions on camera.

Always remember that everyone can see you.

USE RAISE HAND FEATURE. To keep our conversation, open to all students, click the “Raise Hand” button to add to our class discussion.

CONTRIBUTE VIA CHAT. Raise new topics, ideas, concerns, respond to others’ comments. Ask questions, post relevant links. The chat is a great tool to deepen our discussion!

USE REACTIONS. A quick way to show engagement and understanding during our live meetings.

PARTICIPATE IN BREAKOUT ROOMS. Serve as facilitator, note taker, time keeper, or reporter. Engage in the given activity, and prepare to share your discussion with the whole class.

ADD TO CLASS NOTES. Add your perspective to a shared document (via GOOGLE DOCS, GOOGLE SHEETS or HYPOTHESIS) that can later serve as collaboratively created class notes or feedback and comments to your peers.

For asynchronous participation – complete class readings, watch live-recorded class meeting videos, complete any related quizzes, engage via online discussion (discussion boards – using PADLET, JAMBOARD) and ask for help by reaching out to your instructor and/or supervisor and/or classmates with question or concerns about the content, assignments, or course management. You can email your instructor post to a course discussion board, or book an online meeting with your instructor and/or supervisor.

ZOOM DRESS CODE

What is the most appropriate outfit for your approaching ZOOM meeting? Not a suit, nor a tie, not jackets, not pajamas, no to tank tops, no tops with straps. While it’s not necessary to dress quite as well as you usually do, try not to take it down more than one level from your normal casual/business/office attire. You can wear a shirt, blouse, dress, casual T-shirt.

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IMPORTANT DATES

#	Milestones	Description
1	Progress report I: Submission of topics Date: October 14, 2022	All students in their senior year submit their project topics, research questions, hypotheses and a research plan.
2	Research Symposium Date: October 29	All Senior year students must take part and present their research topics. The faculty members participating at the panel will be evaluating panelists (10% of the final grade for Thesis Seminar I.)
3	Progress report II: Revised version of the Proposal after the Research Symposium. Date: November 25, 2022	All students submit their research proposals. The content of the proposals may vary but should contain the following: Title, the problem under investigation, history of the research problem, rationale for the study, hypotheses and objectives of the study, theoretical and practical implications of the study, research methods (including description of prospective participants, instruments and procedures). Proposal must contain a paragraph which explains how your research design complies with APA Ethical Standards.
4	IRB Application form submission – in November, December 2022.	It is students' responsibility to prepare and fill out application form to be submitted for the IRB' review, according to the IRB Review Schedule.
5	Progress report III: Data collection Date: February 15, 2023	Students report on their data collection and submit detailed statistical analysis of data and the raw data and computer analysis output.
6	Progress report IV: Date: March 10, 2023	Students submit to the Department the first drafts of their theses formatted in accordance with APA style.
7	Mock Defense. Date: April 1-5, 2023	Students present final version of their theses. Supervisors report on their assessment of the progress of the students and their preparedness for the Defense.
8	Final versions submission. Date: April 30, 2023	Students submit their <u>final projects</u> . Late projects are subject to a mandatory and substantial grade penalty. On the project due date, students must submit the bounded copy as well.
9	Defense	Date TBA (preliminary scheduled for mid-May).