**Senior Thesis Seminar II**

PSY – 412.1

ID 3780

**Spring 2023**

**Instructors:** Asel Myrzabekova, Assistant Professor

**Office:** Psychology Department

**Course time:** Seminars (Monday and Wednesday) 08:00-09:15

**Credit hours:** 0

**Course status:** Required

**Office hours:** By appointment (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

**Pre-requisites:** PSY 232, PSY 234, PSY 411.1

**E-mail:** [*myrzabekova\_a@auca.kg*](mailto:myrzabekova_a@auca.kg)

**Zoom link:** <https://zoom.us/j/98972434906>

**Required textbooks**:

• American Psychological Association. (2010). Publication manual of the American psychological association (6th ed.). <https://www.apa.org/pubs/books/4200066>

• American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication manual of the American psychological association (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

• Students’ Guide designed by the Department of Psychology at AUCA

**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 announced earlier 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.

**Learning Objectives:**

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

* Design, implement, write-up and present their individual senior thesis projects
* 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.

**Resources to Support Student Learning**

• Senior Thesis Policy: <https://www.auca.kg/en/psyc_und_policies_senior_thesis_policy/>

• Library Help, eReserves and research tools: <https://library.auca.kg/>

• Writing Center: <https://warc.auca.kg/>

• Academic Advising Office: <https://auca.kg/en/academic_advising/>

• Psychological Counseling Services: <https://auca.kg/en/psycons/>

• AUCA Student Code of Conduct <https://auca.kg/uploads/Students_life/Docs/Code%20of%20Students%202019.pdf>

• AUCA Bylaws of the Academic Appeals Committee <https://auca.kg/uploads/Faculty%20Senate/Academic%20Appeals%20Committee%20Bylaws.pdf>

• Accommodation policy (for students with special educational needs)

<https://auca.kg/en/p5732652484/>

**Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to follow the AUCA ACADEMIC HONESTY code. All types of plagiarism are strictly prohibited. “Papers may appear to be plagiarized if students: occasionally use the words of another scholar without quotation marks and proper reference, with the result that it appears that the words are the student’s own; occasionally use the ideas of another scholar without proper reference; inadequately paraphrase the words or ideas of another scholar; or fail to include the bibliographic citation for all sources used in the process of completing the assignment. Self-plagiarism is also dishonest, it is not appropriate to hand in the same work for assignments given in more than one class, without the permission of every instructor”[[1]](#footnote-1).

If a student fails to observe this requirement, the instructor may assign an “F” for the work or an “F” for the whole class, depending on the type of assignment and relevant circumstances. Students are expected to read and follow the section on Student Academic Dishonesty of the AUCA Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct.

● On the first occasion you are caught plagiarizing, you fail that assignment.

● The second time, you fail the course.

● The third time, you may be subject to more severe penalties.

The Registrar, your academic advisor, and the FYS Director will all be informed of your plagiarism. You will also be required to arrange a session with a WARC tutor, who will review your paper with you and help you avoid making the same mistake in the future.

**Course requirements:**

**ATTENDANCE:** The seminar classes will be held in offline and online modes. 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.**

**FOUR ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Assignment #1. Progress report III: Data collection.** Students report on their data collection and submit detailed statistical analysis of data and the raw data and computer analysis output.

**Assignment #2. Progress report IV: 1st draft.** Students submit to the Department the first drafts of their theses formatted in accordance with APA style.

**Assignment #3. Presentation.** Preparation for the mock defense.

**Assignment #4. Mock defense.** Students present final version of their theses. Supervisors report on their assessment of the progress of the students and their preparedness for the Defense.

**Grading**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Assignment** | **Points** |
| 1 | Progress report III: Data collection | 15 |
| 2 | Progress report IV: 1st draft | 35 |
| 3 | Presentations | 20 |
| 4 | Mock Defense | 30 |
| Total | | 100 |

**Grading system:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Percentage Score Range** |
| A | 95-100 |
| A- | 90-94 |
| B+ | 85-89 |
| B | 80-84 |
| B- | 75-79 |
| C+ | 70-74 |
| C | 65-69 |
| C- | 60-64 |
| D | 55-59 |
| D- | 50-54 |
| F | 0-49 |
| I | Case-by-case decision; Incomplete grade is usually assigned because of health issues |
| W | Student may request Withdrawal grade from the course grade to avoid failure or low grade |
| X | X grade specifically denotes non-attendance;  X grade cannot be requested by students and is only given at the discretion of a faculty member; |

**SCHEDULE**

| **Week and date** | **Topic** | **Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week 1 (16.01)** | Introduction to the course.  Discussion of Introduction sections | Each student will be assigned as a peer-reviewer. First two weeks of the Spring 2023 we will hold peer-review group work sessions  Time slots for individual meetings –  https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1L4BVX0YTeN5dMqwvqzdki\_AOlguAnbakLTQ-6ss9TzI/edit#gid=0 |
| **Week 1 (18.01)** |
| **Week 2 (23.01)** |
| Week 3 (30.01) | Planning for data analysis  Quantitative data analysis | Working with data: recording, storing data, working with database, transcribing text  How to work with qualitative data, Open ended questions? coding  How to work with quantitative data: database |
| Week 3 (01.02) | Planning for data analysis  Qualitative data analysis |
| Weeks 4-5 (06.02-15.02) | NO CLASSES  Independent work | **Progress report III: Data collection**  **Deadline: February 15, 2023**  Students report on their data collection and submit detailed statistical analysis of data and the raw data and computer analysis output. |
| Weeks 6-8 (20.02-10.03) | NO CLASSES  Independent work | **Progress report IV:**  **Deadline: March 10, 2023**  Results section (drafting)  Discussion section (drafting)  Students submit to the Department the first drafts of their theses formatted in accordance with APA style. |
| Weeks 9-10 (13.03-22.03) | Presentations | Getting prepared for the Mock Defense  OFFLINE |
| TBD | Pre-defense | **Mock Defense.**  **Dates: TBD**  Students present final version of their theses. Supervisors report on their assessment of the progress of the students and their preparedness for the Defense. |
| TBD | Reflection of mock defenses  APA formatting, Appendices, References |  |
| Week 15 | Senior Thesis Submission | **Final versions submission.**  **Date: April 30, 2023**  Students submit their final projects. Late projects are subject to a mandatory and substantial grade penalty. On the project due date, students must submit the bounded copy as well.  Submitted:   1. at e-course 2. hard copy |
| TBD | Defense | **Date TBA (preliminary scheduled for mid-May).** |
|  | Individual consultations | Based on the prior agreement with the course instructor |

**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, theoreti**c**al 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: **TBD** | 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 final projects. 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).** |

1. AUCA Student Handbook [↑](#footnote-ref-1)