

PSYC 694H, Honors in Psychology II

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course represents the second semester in the two-semester sequence of Honors in Psychology. There are two components to the course: research that you carry out under the direction of your thesis advisor, and this class that is intended for all of the Psychology Honors students. Your major goals for the semester are to (1) finish conducting your research, analyzing the results, and writing your thesis; (2) present and successfully defend your research before a committee by **Noon, April 11**; (3) turn in a final copy of your thesis by **April 27**; and (4) present your research at the Psychology Honors Poster Session on **April 28 (tentative date)**. You are strongly encouraged to present your research at the UNC Celebration of Undergraduate Research on **April 18** as well, but this is not a course requirement.

The purpose of this class is to facilitate your progress toward those goals. You will work directly with your advisor and committee on the substantive aspects of your research. Our class sessions will supplement that work by focusing on various skills needed to present that research in appropriate and engaging ways in (a) scientific writing, (b) posters, and (c) oral presentations aided by PowerPoint or other programs. Thus, class sessions will be offered on writing the final sections of your thesis, APA style, creating PowerPoint slides, how to give an oral presentation for your thesis defense, designing your poster for the Psychology Honors Poster Session, and other topics. You will practice giving your thesis oral presentation to classmates during other class sessions, receiving feedback on how to optimize your presentation. In addition, you are always welcome to stop by during my office hours, to make an appointment to meet me during another time slot, or send me email with whatever questions you have.

The class will meet once a week. There are two sections of the course, and you have been assigned to one of these sections on either Monday or Wednesday morning, 10:10- 11:25. **Please note: in order to provide time for everyone to practice their oral presentations close to defense time, there is one evening class scheduled in March.** We make up for the class time by cancelling one day time meeting as noted on the schedule below.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Laboratory Work

Laboratory work conducted with your thesis advisor will be negotiated with him or her. Ordinarily, it is expected that students will be involved in this work approximately 7-12 hours per week.

Course Work

Completion of your written thesis

Once your data collection and analyses are complete, you need to finish writing your thesis. The complete document will consist of the following sections, in this order: Title Page, Abstract, Acknowledgments, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, References, Tables, Figure Captions, and Figures. Except for the Title Page and Acknowledgments, everything should be in APA format. I am willing to read parts of your thesis, if you ask me to do so, with the understanding that turn-around time will be approximately one week. It is also certainly acceptable to ask fellow students in this Honors class and other members of your laboratory group for comments on a draft of your thesis. One class session will be devoted to writing tips for your Results and Discussion sections. A polished copy of your thesis should be distributed to your committee at least a week before your defense. Assuming that you pass your defense, your committee may still request changes in the document, which you will make before turning in the final version by the April 27 deadline. For technical guidelines on submitting the final document for the UNC library, see the document “Thesis Guidelines for Final Submission of Honors Theses”, which will be posted on Sakai.

Presentation of your research

- Your committee will require you to give a presentation of your research at the beginning of your oral defense, which will occur sometime in late March or early April. You will then answer questions from committee members for about half an hour.
- In preparation for your defense, you will present your thesis work to the class. You can have up to 15 minutes for this talk, followed by questions and discussion.
- You will present your project as a poster at the Psychology Department Honors Poster Session on April 28. Participation in this event is required. Parents and friends are welcome to attend.
- You are also encouraged to present your thesis as either a talk or a poster at the Annual UNC Celebration of Undergraduate Research on Monday, April 18. For those of you headed to graduate or professional school, participation in this event will make a good addition to your vita. To participate, you must register by **March 1**. Go to: http://www.unc.edu/depts/our/apps/forms/cur/cur_abstract.php for details.

Please note that there are several deadlines you must meet in order to graduate with Honors. Those deadlines include the dates by which you must complete the oral defense of your thesis, submit the Oral Defense Form (signed by the members of your committee), and turn in paper copies of the final version of your thesis. See the course schedule below for details.

GRADING

Grades will be assigned in collaboration with your thesis advisor. The grade breakdown is as follows:

Laboratory work (evaluated by your advisor): 70%

Participation in class and in the Departmental Honors Poster Session: 30%

HONOR CODE

As in all courses at Carolina, the Honor Code is in effect in this course. Any material (ideas, theory, prior research findings, etc.) taken from written sources should be properly recognized through footnotes, reference citations, or direct quotations. As you prepare drafts of your thesis sections, you are welcome to obtain help from your thesis advisor, your instructor, graduate students, or classmates. However, this work should be primarily your own. If you have questions about this, please ASK.

REQUIRED READING

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Class Schedule:

Dates	Topic
1/11	Overview of spring activities; forming your committee
1/18	No class
1/25	Writing your Results and Discussion sections
2/1	APA Style- components of thesis; headings references etc.
2/8	APA Style continued- grammar, punctuation, writing style
2/15	Creating graphs and tables; Committee Composition form due Feb 15
2/22	The ins and outs of good PowerPoint slides
2/29	Giving a research presentation- it's more than slides
3/1	Submit abstract to OUR Celebration (optional but recommended): http://www.unc.edu/depts/our/apps/forms/cur/cur_abstract.php
3/7	Class presentations of your defense talk
3/14	SPRING BREAK
3/21	Class presentations of your defense talk
3/23 7-9 pm	Class presentations of your defense talk
3/28	Class presentations of your defense talk
4/4	Class presentations of your defense talk
4/11	NOTE: Thursday April 11 (AT 12:00 NOON) is the THESIS DEFENSE DEADLINE! You must complete your defense and submit the Oral Defense Form – signed by the members of your committee – by this deadline. This is essential for graduation in May! Bring the completed form directly to Rachael Hill 213C Davie Hall. The form is available on the Sakai site.
4/11	Preparing your poster
4/18	UNC CELEBRATION OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH; Frank Porter Graham Student Union, April 18 1:00 – 3:45 PM
4/18	Instead of class: attend the UNC CELEBRATION OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH; Frank Porter Graham Student Union; April 18 from 1:00 – 3:45 PM
4/25	LAST CLASS
4/27	Final copy of thesis submitted
4/28 (tentative)	1:30-3:30 PM: Departmental Honors Poster Session Lobby of Davie Hall
5/8	Commencement!