

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

INTERDISCIPLINARY PH.D. PROGRAM IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

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**Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Social Psychology
Graduate Handbook**



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www.unr.edu/cla/socpsy

Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Social Psychology,

University of Nevada, Reno

Program Handbook

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I. Mission Statement

The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Social Psychology is founded on a vision of social psychology as the core discipline of human affairs. It represents an integration of psychological and sociological scholarship in the investigation of personal and social life. The mission of our doctoral program is to advance scientific knowledge of social psychological structures and processes, and to do so through scholarly study, the training of Ph.D. students, and the dissemination of our knowledge in both scientific and applied communities. We are deeply committed to the guidance and instruction of graduate students as both junior colleagues and advanced students.

NOTE: For additional information on program issues beyond those addressed in this handbook check the new Frequently Asked Questions section of our website.

II. Introduction to the Program

The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Social Psychology has existed at UNR for forty years. The interdisciplinary committee that operates this program awards a Regents-approved Ph.D. degree in social psychology. The structure and curriculum of the Program were revised in the early 1990's, resulting in an updated curriculum and an expansion of its faculty to include members from a variety of departments and colleges. The Program is administered by a Ph.D. Committee comprised of faculty members with backgrounds in social psychology, psychology and sociology from the Departments of Psychology, Sociology, Managerial Science, Human Development and Family Studies, Criminal Justice, Women's Studies, the School of Journalism and the School of Public Health.

The Program has 39 students actively pursuing their PhD degrees; it has awarded 80 degrees since its inception. The Program curriculum has both substantive and methods core classes, as well as a variety of seminars, and it emphasizes early involvement in research. Entering students are required to have a background in psychology or sociology, or to take background classes in these areas as determined by the student's advisor and the Program Director. Details of the curriculum are given in a later section of this handbook. Time to completion of the degree typically ranges between 4 and 6 years depending on the student's circumstances. The Graduate School requirement is that all work toward attainment of the Ph.D. needs to be completed by the end of the student's 8th year. For exceptions to policy see the UNR catalog and then contact the Graduate School.

Research interests of the faculty range widely, from social cognition, attribution & attitudes to the study of bureaucracies, law and social movements. Areas of specialization by the Program faculty include Social Psychology and Health, Social Psychology and Organizations, Social Psychology and Law, and Social and Personal Relationships. The Program faculty is very active in the field of social psychology, serving on the editorial boards of a variety of international scholarly journals. They also maintain an active engagement with international colleagues in the

areas of health, law, organizations, and relationships.

The Program is enhanced by the presence of the two Judicial Colleges at UNR and by the research facilitation provided by the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies, the Sanford Center for Aging, the Center for Partnership Evaluation, and the Center for Research Design and Analysis. Furthermore, the Program has its own experimental and survey research laboratories on site.

Graduates of the Program are employed in a variety of capacities. Some are professors who teach and conduct research at research universities while others have full-time research positions both in the public and private sectors. Some of our graduates have had successful consulting businesses while others combine consulting with university employment. In short, there are many career possibilities to choose from with advanced graduate training in social psychology. Information on our alumni and their employment sites can be found on the Program website at www.unr.edu/cla/socpsy.

III. Program Features

Interdisciplinary Focus: As one of the oldest social psychology programs in the country, the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Social Psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno is unique in providing students with a wide range of perspectives. The Program integrates psychological social psychology and sociological social psychology to form an interdisciplinary, contextualized perspective. Students are exposed to quantitative, experimental and qualitative approaches to social research, helping them choose the appropriate method for their own research endeavors. This comprehensive approach prepares students to conduct successful, meaningful research and to have engaging careers in both academic and applied settings. Our majors areas of specialization are: Social psychology and health; Personal and social relationships; Social psychology and law, and Organizational behavior. Within these areas, social psychological scholarship is considered with attention to the contexts of gender and culture. Students can

choose an area of specialization, focus on scholarship that integrates two or more of the specializations, or work in other social psychological domains.

Mentoring: The faculty of the Interdisciplinary PhD Program are dedicated to the training and mentoring of graduate students. The Program ensures that students have a chance to collaborate with faculty who share their interests. Students have opportunities to work on a range of research projects in conjunction with one or more faculty members. Typically, by the end of the first year all students have developed a mentoring relationship with a faculty member who advises them as they progress into toward their degree.

Financial Commitment to Students: The Program is committed to finding full-time (20 hours/week) support and tuition assistance for all of its students. During 2006, our minimum monthly stipend for graduate students is \$1,400. Students also receive tuition benefits such that they only pay \$33.82 per credit or \$608.76 per year for 2 semesters totaling 18 credits. For full-time graduate assistants out of state tuition fees are waived, a cost savings of \$9,911. Assistantships also provide health insurance coverage. For more than a decade, through fellowships, research and teaching assistantships and participation in research grants, we have been successful in funding all of our first year students. In addition during recent years, all active students in their second year and beyond have maintained funding throughout the completion of their degrees. The Program places a high priority and commitment to seeking and maintaining support for students whenever possible.

Encouragement of Professional Involvement and Achievement: Students are encouraged to engage in scholarly research, often in collaboration with faculty, to present research at professional meetings, and to publish in reviewed journals and volumes. The Social Psychology PhD Program and the UNR Graduate Student Association facilitate professional development through financial support of student travel and research.

Optional MA in Social Psychology: Students who have been admitted to the Ph.D. program

may opt to graduate with an MA in Social Psychology upon completion of a prescribed 32 credits in the doctoral program. Most of these credits (24) may also be applied to the Ph.D. This degree is solely available to students accepted into the doctoral program, en route to their Ph.D.

WRGP/WICHE Program Member: The Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Social Psychology at UNR is the only social psychology doctoral program that has been chosen as a member of the Western Regional Graduate Program/Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education. Students admitted to the program from the 14 western states are eligible for enrollment under this program. To find out more about WRGP visit their website at: <http://wiche.edu/sep/wrgp/>.

VI. History of Social Psychology and Presence at UNR

A. The Discipline

Social Psychology is the core discipline of human personal and social existence. It places human existence within a hierarchical framework, examining the nature and influence of societal, cultural and situational contexts on the actions, feelings and thoughts of people. The discipline focuses on patterns of interaction between people, and on the thoughts, feelings and actions of individuals as they are affected by and affect the social world.

As a discipline, Social Psychology had its formal beginning in this country, but rapidly spread after World War II to Western Europe and Great Britain, and it now is as active and established there as in the U.S. In the last two decades, it also has been established in several Asian universities.

Social Psychology is an empirical science, and historically has generated a wide range of investigative procedures that since have been widely adopted for more general use. These include the sample survey, participant observation research, attitude tests and scales, and a

variety of experimental techniques. Over the years, the discipline has experienced a significant increase in the sophistication of experimental design and methodologies relied upon in research.

Practical applications have long been a part of social psychological research endeavors, ranging from changing dietary habits during World War II, to the post-war bombing survey, to understanding the social processes of industrial production, and more recently including very active expansion into medicine (psychoneuroimmunology; behavioral medicine, social inequalities in health) and other health areas, environmental protection, political processes, terrorism, and the judicial system.

Adequate understanding of social psychological structures and processes require thorough training in both psychology and sociology, as well as in a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods. However, the understanding of human processes that emerges is neither psychological nor sociological; it is truly social psychological--a unique and emergent conception.

B. History of the Program at UNR

The first student was admitted to doctoral study in Social Psychology at UNR in 1962, and the first Ph.D.s were awarded to four students in 1967. The Program was authorized by the Regents to award an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. earlier that same year, and has continued to award the Ph.D. in Social Psychology since then. To present, the Program has awarded 80 Ph.D. degrees; most of our graduates hold faculty positions throughout the country, although some are employed in research positions at state agencies and private corporations.

The Program was constructed in 1963-64 by Professors Backman, Secord and Ginsburg, and was modeled after a similar program at the University of Michigan, where Dr Ginsburg had been trained. The Program was explicitly interdisciplinary from its inception, and has continued to be so. Program faculties have ties with colleagues and institutions elsewhere around the world, including England, Spain, Scotland, the Netherlands, Australia, Russia, Japan and other former Soviet countries. This, too, has produced considerable collaborative research and several

sabbatical and shorter visits in both directions. The international ties and experience of Program faculty provide an important perspective in the Social Psychology Program at UNR.

V. Program Requirements

The curriculum of the Program extends over a minimum of four years and includes multiple requirements that fall in the following order:

- A. a core theory component
- B. a methodological component
- C. a qualifying exam
- D. selection of a research advisor
- E. a research paper requirement
- F. advanced seminars
- G. a foreign language or breadth requirement
- H. formation of a dissertation committee
- I. first committee meeting
- J. a comprehensive exam
- K. dissertation research

A. The **Core Theory** component, Soc-Psych 739 and 740, Advanced Social Psychology I and II, is a two-semester sequence required of all first-year students. It is team-taught by the social psychology faculty and typically includes the following topics:

Collective behavior; culture; deviance and social control; emotion; general theory; health psychology; industrial/organizational psychology; language and discourse; law and justice studies; legitimation of social inequality; personal relationships; religion; small groups and group decision processes; social cognition and attitudes; and socialization.

B. The **Methodological Component** consists of five courses. The first course in the methodology area is a psychometrics and scaling course (PSYCH 724, Applied Research Methodology II) taken the first semester of the first year. During the second semester there is a one-semester team taught overview of the major methods of the discipline and it is taken by all first-year students in the Spring of their first year (SOC/PSYCH/HDFS 718, Research Methods in Social Psychology). The third is a pro-seminar in Survey Research Methods (SOC 737), normally taken in the third or fifth semester dependent upon when it is offered. In addition, students are required to take two semesters of graduate statistics. The first statistics class (PSYCH 706, Intermediate Statistics I) is offered during Fall of the first year; and the second statistics course which focuses on regression, structural equations, and linear models (SOC 707, Intermediate Statistics II; or STAT 757, Applied Regression Analysis) is typically taken during Spring of the first year. In the case of the second course, the Program Director will inform students as to the specific course in which they should enroll. The Program also offers an elective course in advanced data analysis methods and design. Where appropriate for career goals, students can work with their advisors to determine other appropriate coursework available.

C. **Qualifying Examination** is given at the end of the first year within one month of the end of the Spring semester. Students must have satisfactorily completed all of the first-year program requirements (with a GPA of 3.0) before taking the qualifying exam. This exam is a synthesizing and integrative written exam, covering the materials presented during 718, 739 and 740 of the first year. This exam is offered only once to each student and it is necessary to pass this exam in order to move into the second year of the Program. The qualifying exam is take-home, and is typically administered in two 24-hour segments with one day off in-between. Following the examination committee's reading of papers, the Program Director meets individually with each student to discuss results and progress.

D. Students must select a **Research Advisor** from the Program faculty prior to the beginning of the Fall semester of their second year of study. The research advisor must agree, in writing, to serve as the student's primary advisor and potential dissertation committee chair.

E. The **Research Paper Requirement** entails three consecutive semesters of supervised research, typically at the start of students' second year, during which students complete an empirical research paper under faculty supervision (for further detail, see p.).

F. Students also are required to take either one or two **Advanced Seminars** per term during their second and third years, as offered by Social Psychology Program faculty.

G. The Program requires all students to acquire a fluency in a **Foreign Language**. In order to demonstrate fluency in a foreign language, students must successfully complete (or have completed) a 4th semester (undergraduate level) of a language sequence or demonstrate their competency at that level on a language test. In some instances, with the permission of one's advisor and the Program director, a student may be excused from the foreign language requirement but must instead satisfy a **breadth requirement**. In order to satisfy the breadth requirement, student may take two additional courses in a discipline or on a topic outside of social psychology. The substitution of these two related courses outside Social Psychology, and related to the area of scholarly interest and the intellectual development of the student, will then satisfy the language requirement. This substitution requires the written permission of the student's advisor and approval of the Program Director. Breadth requirement course credits are in addition to the total regular program credit requirements.

H. Students should secure the participation of five faculty members on their **Dissertation Committee** no later than the first month of classes of their third year of study. When inviting faculty to serve on their dissertation committees, students must clearly explain that the faculty role on the committee will also include participation in the development, administration, and assessment of the student's comprehensive exam (see below).

The dissertation committee must consist of at least five members, minimum of three of whom must be Program faculty, including the dissertation chair. All dissertation committee members

need to have Graduate Faculty Status (see the UNR Graduate School website for details on committee composition and a list of current graduate faculty). The fourth committee member should be a faculty member from a department in a field related to the dissertation topic. The fifth committee member must have Graduate Faculty Status but not be a member of the social psychology program; this person's role is as a representative of the UNR Graduate School, sometimes called a 'university-at-large' member. Students may request the appointment of a committee member from the faculty of another university or from a relevant discipline or profession, providing the prospective member has achieved a record of distinction. To consider having a committee member from another university, students need to work closely with their advisor and the UNR Graduate School. For further information on the role of the committee members, please see the university catalog. The committee must meet at least once in the Fall semester of the student's third year to complete the student's Program of Study form and to begin planning for the student's comprehensive examination.

The Program of Study form lists all the courses and other credits that the student has taken and plans to take to satisfy the requirements of the Ph.D. degree. It also includes the names of the dissertation committee members and a tentative title for the dissertation. Bear in mind that the program of study form can, and often is, modified before a student completes the actual *program of study* for the degree. Nonetheless, it is necessary to complete the paperwork to be in compliance with Graduate School requirements, to demonstrate timely progress toward attainment of the degree, to plan ahead and be well prepared. The program of study form can be downloaded from the Graduate School webpage at: <http://www.vpr.unr.edu/grad2>. In some cases it is not possible to know what courses will be offered in future semesters. Nonetheless, students should make educated projections and fill out their forms in a manner that reflects how they plan to complete their Ph.D. degree, including their dissertation credits. If there is a change in committee membership or the courses proposed on the original program of study form, a Change in Program of Study form is also available from the Graduate School website.

I. First Committee Meeting: Students should plan to meet with their dissertation committee at

the beginning of the Fall of their third year of study to develop a plan for the design of and preparation for the comprehensive exam. The student should bring a completed **Program of Study** form to this meeting and obtain the signatures of his or her dissertation committee. Students also typically bring their current vita to the meeting, and they may disseminate to the committee members beforehand a brief summary of their research interest, specifically as related to the forthcoming dissertation.

J. The **Comprehensive Exam** is developed by the student's dissertation committee and is typically given in late Spring of the third year of study but no later than September of the fourth year. Students must satisfactorily complete all of the program requirements set forth in the first three years prior to taking the comprehensive exam. The comprehensive exam will be geared to the student's specific areas of interest but will also reflect the field of social psychology, to the satisfaction of the student's dissertation committee and advisor. Students may retake the comprehensive examination one time on the recommendation of the dissertation committee and advisor. The comprehensive exam includes a written component and an oral component. The graduate student must bring a prepared **Doctoral Degree Admission to Candidacy/Comprehensive Examination Report** form to the oral examination to be completed by the dissertation committee. This form may be downloaded from the Graduate School web page. The comprehensive exam will typically consist of a take-home exam written over a 5 day period (i.e., one week), followed by a two-hour oral exam two weeks after the submission of the written portion. Any exceptions to this timing must be requested in advance of the normal deadline, clearly justify the deviation in timing, specify the alternative timing to be followed, and be approved in writing by the Program Director, dissertation chair, and the members of the student's dissertation committee.

K. **Dissertation research**

Prospectus Meeting: Each student will arrange with the dissertation committee and adviser a time to review and evaluate the student's dissertation proposal for discussion and ultimately, for

the approval of the committee. More than one meeting may be required to obtain committee approval of the proposal. The first meeting to discuss the dissertation proposal should occur no later than at the beginning of the Fall semester of the 4th year, following the comprehensive exams.

Dissertation Dissemination: All students are required to defend their dissertations in an oral examination before their dissertation committee. As a matter of courtesy, committee members should receive the final version of their dissertation at least two weeks before the date of the dissertation defense. Dissemination of the defense document to the committee members should only take place after the draft has been approved by the dissertation chair.

Dissertation Defense: All students must meet with their dissertation committees for a period of at least two hours to defend the final draft of their dissertation, once the draft has been approved by their dissertation chair. Students must bring two prepared forms to this meeting: the Doctoral Signature Page and the Doctoral Degree Notice of Completion, both of which may be downloaded from the Graduate School web page. Before the committee members sign these documents they may ask the student to make changes in the final draft. Once signatures are obtained the completed forms should be returned to the Graduate School. Students must file the final copy of their dissertation with the Graduate School approximately one week before the end of the semester in which they plan to graduate. Check with the Graduate School for the exact date. Students should also check with the Graduate School website with regard to electronic options for submission of the final dissertation document. Instructions for the necessary format of your dissertation are also available on the Graduate School website.

Graduation: Students must formally apply to graduate and must do so very early in the semester that they intend to graduate, typically by the last day of late registration for the semester. See the Graduate School website again for the specific deadline.

VI. Optional Master's Degree in Social Psychology*

- The MA in Social Psychology is OPTIONAL to students enrolled in the Ph.D. Program.
- Students are not admitted to the MA Program per se, but are only admitted to the Ph.D. Program.

Requirements for the MA in Social Psychology

- * Total number of credits required: 32
- * Total number of credits that may be applied toward the Ph.D.: 24

First Year (18 credits): (Courses are cross listed. Please use the relevant prefix each semester).

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
SOC/PSY 739, Advanced Soc Psy I (3)	SOC/PSY 740, Advanced Soc Psy II (3)
PSY 706, Intermediate Statistics (3)	SOC/PSY/HDFS 718, Research Methods in Social Psychology (3)
PSY 724, Applied Res Methods (3)	SOC 707, Intermediate Stats II OR (3) STAT 757, Applied Regression Analysis (check with Program Director for appropriate course)

Summer Qualifying Exam (1 credit) *Please note that although you take the exam in June, you actually register for the credit during the following Fall semester. See the Program Director as to the correct course for which to register. Therefore, you may be enrolled in a total of 10 to 11 credits during Fall of your second year.*

Second Year (14 credits) *The following order of seminars and supervised research is suggested but not mandatory.*

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
Supervised Research* (4)	Seminar (3)
SOC 737, Survey Res Met** (3)	Seminar (3)

Courses you should transfer from the MA into the PhD: Transfer all the first year courses (18 credits), 737, and 3 credits of supervised research for a total of 24 credits because all of these are required for the Ph.D. degree.

Forms to fill out to Graduate with the MA: You must formally apply to graduate and you must do so very early in the semester that you intend to graduate with the MA, typically by the last day of late registration for the semester. See the Graduate School website again for the specific deadline. You also need to fill out and submit a Masters Degree Notice of Completion form, which is also available on the Graduate School website.

* Students should enroll in Supervised Research/Graduate Research with their advisor, using the course number provided, as it may be in conjunction with faculty member's home department. Typically, this is SOC 702, PSY 752, HDFS 752, PUBH 792, etc.

** If SOC 737 is not offered in your second year, it may be possible to substitute an alternative course to meet the requirements of the MA in Social Psychology degree. Please see the Program Director.

VII. Research Paper Requirements (2nd year)

By the end of the Spring semester of the first year in the Program, each student must choose a faculty member who agrees to serve as their general advisor, as well as to serve as the supervisor of their research paper. The student works closely with this faculty member during the duration of the 2nd year research project.

The research paper may derive from the faculty's ongoing research program or be freely negotiated between faculty and student. The work is expected to be collaborative. That is, the student should play a major role in the negotiated project that includes preparation of a written proposal, initiative in securing/collecting data, and responsibility for analyzing the data and drafting a report. These activities are expected to be under the supervision of the faculty advisor.

The requirement includes an oral presentation of the results of the project by the student to an appropriate audience. Ideally the project will result in a presentation at a professional meeting and/or a publication. Students are also encouraged to practice their presentation before the professional meeting by sharing their findings at one of the brown bag luncheons sponsored by the program. The order of authorship should be discussed in advance of the project. All publications and presentations resulting from this project should follow APA guidelines of authorship, with the student and faculty member receiving appropriate authorship and reflecting the relative contribution of the student and advisor.

Students typically complete their research papers under the supervision of their research advisor via three continuous semesters of supervised research, beginning in either spring of their first year or the Fall of their second year. Thus, they should typically complete their research paper no later than the end of the Fall semester of their third year, but they may finish by the end of the second year. Exceptions may be made to their deadline but must be approved by the student's advisor and the Program Director. Students should check with their advisor as to the appropriate course number under which to register, as it may be in the home department

of that faculty member (SOC 702, PSY 752, HDFS 752, PUBH 792, etc.). Check with the faculty member or that department to obtain the call number for enrolling in the course.

Suggested time line for Supervised Research

Semester 1 (usually Fall of year 2): complete research proposal; prepare human subjects application

Semester 2 (usually Spring of year 2): collect or secure data and begin data analysis

Semester 3 (usually Fall of year 3): complete data analysis, write paper, and submit for presentation at a professional meeting or for publication

Note: Students who are completing the MA along the way to the PhD will generally enroll in a total of 10 credits of second year research paper. Those completing the PhD without the MA will have a total of 9 credits of second year research paper. This additional credit is to enable the MA students to arrive at the necessary total of 32 credits for the MA degree (9 classes X 3 credits + 1 credit qualifying exam + 4 credits research = 32).

VIII. Standard Schedule for Ph.D. without MA in Social Psychology

Credits to graduate: Minimum of 74:

- 48 credits of graduate course work, 30 credits of which must be 700-level or above. Nine credits of course work may be the 9 credits of supervised research taken to fulfill the research paper requirement;
- 24 credits of dissertation research (students may take more than 24 but only 24 can be counted toward the degree)
- 2 credits of exams, 1 for the qualifying exam and 1 for the comprehensive exam

Fall, first year

PSY 706 (Statistics)

PSY 724 (Assessment, W. Follette)

SOC/PSY 739 (Social Psychology Core I)

* Check with the Program Director as to the appropriate statistics course for spring semester

Spring, first year

* STAT 757 or SOC 707 (Statistics)

SOC/PSY 740 (Soc Psychology Core II)

SOC/HDFS 718 (Research Meth Social Psy)

June, First Year

Qualifying Exam (1 credit) *Please note that although you take the exam in June, you actually register for the credit during the following Fall semester. See the Program Director as to the correct course for which to register. Therefore, you will be enrolled in a total of 10 credits during Fall of your second year.*

Fall, second year*

Soc 737 (Survey Res. Methods)** (3)

700-level Social Psych Seminar *** (3)

Supervised Research**** (3)

Spring, second year

Supervised Research (3)

700-level Social Psych Seminar (3)

700-level Social Psych Seminar (3)

Fall, third year

Supervised Research (3)

700-level Social Psych Seminar (3)

700-level Social Psych Seminar (3)

Dissertation committee meets

Spring, third year

700-level Social Psych Seminar (3)

799-Dissertation (Prospectus planning) (6)

Comprehensive Exam near end of semester

Fall, fourth year

Comprehensive Exam (1 credit)
 799 Dissertation (9 credits)

Spring, fourth year

799 Dissertation (9 credits)

* Note.—**Deficit coursework:** Students with insufficient background in Psychology will take an additional Psychology course, during the second year, chosen in conjunction with their advisor and the Program Director. Students with insufficient background in Sociology will take a graduate theory course in Sociology, generally SOC 711.

-- **Language or Breadth Requirement:** Some students may need to take additional credits to satisfy the language or breadth requirement (see page 11).

**Survey Research Methods is offered either the 2nd or 3rd year of the student's program.

***Students are expected to enroll in social psychology seminars when they are offered during the summer.

***** Students should enroll in Supervised Research/Graduate Research with their advisor, using the course number provided, as it may be in conjunction with faculty member's home department. Typically, this is SOC 702, PSY 752, HDFS 752, PUBH 792, etc.

IX. Standard Schedule for Ph.D. *with* the MA in Social Psychology

Credits to graduate: Minimum of 82:

- 32 credits of graduate coursework for the MA, 24 credits of which may transfer to the Ph.D. (see specific requirements for the MA degree on page 15)
- An additional 24 credits of course work
- Note that 30 credits of the 48 credits of graduate course work must be 700-level or above. Nine credits of course work may be the 9 credits of supervised research taken to fulfill the research paper requirement;
- 24 credits of dissertation research (students may take more than 24 but only 24 can be counted toward the degree)
- 2 credits of exams, 1 for the qualifying exam and 1 for the comprehensive exam

Fall, first year

PSY 706 (Statistics)

(3)

Spring, first year

* STAT 757 or SOC 707 (Statistics)

(3)

PSY 724 (Assessment, W. Follette)

(3)

SOC/PSY 740 (Soc Psychology Core II)

(3)

SOC/PSY 739 (Social Psychology Core I)

(3)

SOC/HDFS 718 (Research Meth Social Psy)

(3)

* Check with the Program Director as to the appropriate statistics course for spring semester

June, First Year

Qualifying Exam (1 credit) *Please note that although you take the exam in June, you actually register for the credit during the following Fall semester. See the Program Director as to the correct course for which to register. Therefore, you may be enrolled in a total of 11 credits during Fall of your second year.*

Fall, second year*

Soc 737 (Survey Res. Methods)**

(3)

Spring, second year

Supervised Research

(3)

700-level Social Psych Seminar ***

(3)

700-level Social Psych Seminar

(3)

Supervised Research****

(4)

700-level Social Psych Seminar

(3)

Fall, third year

Supervised Research (3)
 700-level Social Psych Seminar (3)
 700-level Social Psych Seminar (3)
 Dissertation committee meets

Spring, third year

700-level Social Psych Seminar (3)
 700-level Social Psych Seminar (3)
 799-Dissertation (Prospectus planning) (3)
 Comprehensive Exam near end of semester

Fall, fourth year

Comprehensive Exam (1)
 700-level Social Psych Seminar (3)
 799 Dissertation (6)

Spring, fourth year

799 Dissertation (6)
 700-level Social Psych Seminar (3)

Fall, fifth year

799 Dissertation (9)

(The example program above shows 84 credits total as it is based on courses of 3 credits each.)

***Note.—Deficit coursework:** Students with insufficient background in Psychology will take an additional Psychology course, during the second year, chosen in conjunction with their advisor and the Program Director. Students with insufficient background in Sociology will take a graduate theory course in Sociology, generally SOC 711.

-- **Language or Breadth Requirement:** Some students may need to take additional credits to satisfy the language or breadth requirement (see page 11).

**Survey Research Methods is offered either the 2nd or 3rd year of the student's program.

***Students are expected to enroll in social psychology seminars when they are offered during the summer.

***** Students should enroll in Supervised Research/Graduate Research with their advisor, using the course number provided, as it may be in conjunction with faculty member's home

department. Typically, this is SOC 702, PSY 752, HDFS 752, PUBH 792, etc.

X. Academic Standards

Graduate School Standards – the Criteria for Academic Probation

The Graduate School requires that students meet specific academic standards. Students whose overall GPA drops below 3.0 are placed on probation. Graduate students placed on probation are not eligible for appointments as teaching or research assistants. Students have one semester to raise their GPA to 3.0 and avoid losing graduate standing. If a graduate student's overall graduate GPA remains below 3.0 for two consecutive semesters, that student is dropped from graduate standing. Such a student may take courses under the category "Graduate Special" but they are no longer considered graduate students in the Social Psychology Program. In order to be re-considered as Ph.D. students in social psychology, they must raise their graduate GPA to 3.0 using their "Graduate Special" courses and then may re-apply to the Program at the next February 1st deadline. Only 9 credits of graduate special coursework may be transferred toward the Ph.D., degree, subject to approval by the Program. Students should consult with the Program Director for advice when signing up for courses if they are interested in potentially transferring those courses for credit toward Program requirements.

Standards Specific to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Social Psychology Program

The standards set by the Graduate School are considered minimum standards; the Program reserves the right to set higher standards for Ph.D. students. For core classes (Soc-Psy 706, 718, 739, 740, 724, 737) a grade below "B-" indicates that the student must take the class again and receive a grade of B- or above.

Appeals

Students may formally appeal a decision made of the Social Psychology Program regarding their academic status by writing a letter to the committee outlining their position within 10 days of a challenged decision. The Graduate School provides an appeal process that the student may follow. All decisions on appeals are final.

Normal Progress:

Students should recognize that it is their responsibility to complete the course work, exams and other requirements of the program in a timely manner.

***Students should refer to the Graduate School section of the University Catalog for further clarification of requirements for completion of the Ph.D.*

NOTE: For additional information on program issues beyond those addressed in this handbook check the new Frequently Asked Questions section of our website.

XI. Program Themes

The Program faculty contribute to four thematic areas as discussed below. Students may choose research projects that utilize one or more of these themes, or they may engage in social psychological scholarship in other aspects of the discipline.

**** *For the most current information on faculty research interests please see individual faculty webpages at www.unr.edu/cla/socpsy.***

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY AND HEALTH

Faculty of the Interdisciplinary PhD in Social Psychology program are actively engaged in research that assesses human health and well-being from a social-psychological perspective. Their areas of interest span a broad range, including the influence of psychological and social processes on physiology, doctor/patient interaction, violence against women, religious participation and health, grief surrounding mass tragedies, and the social-psychological processes behind social inequalities in health.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

One of the research foci of the Interdisciplinary PhD in Social Psychology program is Social Psychology and Relationships. Faculty research interests in this area of emphasis focus on research issues related to the development, maintenance and dissolution of human relationships. Topics span a broad range of issues looking at relationships within friendship, dating, marriage, and family contexts as well as different life stages. Specific issues of concern include: the interface among gender, socialization and relationships; adolescent relationship perceptions; marital or relationship commitment, and cultural differences in relationship formation and dynamics.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY AND LAW

The social psychology and law specialization consists of advanced courses, seminars, directed

research, and opportunities for practica in justice system settings. These courses build on the core courses and advanced seminars that comprise the Ph.D. program in social psychology. Social Psychology and law program faculty offer a seminar that covers the area of scholarship in social psychology, and law, usually taken by students in their second or third year of study. Advanced seminars are offered on jury behavior and other specialized topics in areas of law, social justice, and criminal justice. Appropriate courses in related departments are also taken by our students, such as constitutional law and jurisprudence, which are offered by the political science department.

The Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies, a research center on the campus, directed by a social psychology faculty member, affords students an opportunity for assistantships and research on justice issues. Projects at the Center have included studies of grand jurors; decisions by district attorneys to seek the death penalty in eligible cases; program evaluation research in justice-related settings, the use of scientific evidence in court, and other areas. Faculty and graduate students in the specialization attend colloquia and lectures at the Center presented by University faculty and visiting scholars, and also find resources at the Center for their individual research.

The National Judicial College and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges are located on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno. These unique justice establishments afford research opportunities for graduate students in the Social Psychology and Law specialization.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY AND ORGANIZATIONS

Some members of the Social Psychology Ph.D. faculty study human behavior in organizations and related applied settings, such as management consulting. Our work is simultaneously both research-oriented and theory-driven. The theory is rooted in Social Psychology, but is informed as well by other social sciences such as economics, government policy-making, and legal processes. Broad areas of investigation include current issues in industrial/organizational psychology, organizational behavior and theory, organizational consulting, leadership, social psychology and educational institutions, and human resource management. Courses recently made available to program students include organizational behavior, and topics such as ethical behavior in organizations, organization development and consulting, women and organizations, job stress and coping, and technological diffusion and development.

XII. Social Psychology Faculty Members

**For more information on faculty interests and background, please check our web page at www.unr.edu/cla/socpsy*

Carl Backman. Emeritus Professor, Dept. of Sociology (Ph.D., Indiana University)

Deborah Ballard-Reisch. Professor, School of Public Health (Ph.D. Bowling Green University)

Paul Devereux. Associate Professor, School of Public Health (Ph.D. University of Nevada, Reno)

Ronald Dillehay. Emeritus Professor, Dept. of Psychology and Past Director, Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies (Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley)

Marta Elliott. Associate Professor, Dept. Of Sociology, (Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University)

William Evans. Professor, Human Development and Family Studies; Adolescent Development State Specialist, Nevada Cooperative Extension, (Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles)

Gerald Ginsburg. Emeritus Professor of Social Psychology and Dept. of Psychology (Ph.D., University of Michigan)

Jennifer Greer. Associate Professor, Reynolds School of Journalism and Social Psychology Program (Ph.D., University of Florida)

Markus Kimmelmeier. Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology and Social Psychology Program (Ph.D., University of Michigan)

Karen Kopera Frye. Associate Professor, Dept. of Human Development and Family Studies (Ph.D., Wayne State University)

Laurie Larwood. Emeritus Professor, Dept. of Managerial Sciences (Ph.D., Tulane University)

Monica Miller. Assistant Professor, Dept. of Criminal Justice and Social Psychology Program. (J.D. University of Nebraska College of Law; Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

Colleen I. Murray. Director of the Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Social Psychology; Professor, Dept. of Human Development and Family Studies (Ph.D., The Ohio State University)

James T. Richardson. Professor, Dept. of Sociology; Director, of Judicial Studies Program; Director, Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies (J.D., Nevada School of Law, Old College; Ph.D., Washington State University)

Yvonne Stedham. Professor, Dept. of Managerial Sciences (Ph.D., University of Kansas, Lawrence)

Mary White Stewart. Professor, Dept. of Sociology; Director of Women's Studies Program (Ph.D., University of Nevada)

Judith A. Sugar. Professor, School of Public Health (Ph.D., York University, Toronto, Canada)

Daniel Weigel. Professor, Cooperative Extension, Dept of Human Development and Family Studies (Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno)

Thomas Wright. Professor, Dept. of Managerial Sciences (Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley)