University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)
Psychology 475 – RESEARCH THESIS
Section XXX – Class Call # XXXXX

Instructor
Class Location
Time
Phone & Email
Office Hours & Location

Course Catalog Description
(3.0 Credits): Research investigation conducted and written in thesis form.
Prerequisites: PSY 101, PSY 240

Course Overview & Objectives
This course satisfies Silver Core Objective 14 (Application): “Students will be able to
demonstrate their knowledge and skills developed in previous Core and major classes by
completing a project or structured experience of practical significance.”

The research thesis is the development of an independent, original scholarly or creative topic of
interest within psychology. This course offers guidance in research for students completing a
research thesis and an oral defense by providing opportunities to discuss their work and receive
feedback.

Through the completion of this experience, students will be able to:
• Identify an original research question based on a review of the literature
• Identify and demonstrate appropriate research methodologies
• Engage in the thesis development independently and effectively
• Identify and practice research ethics and responsible conduct in research
• Reflect on feedback in the research process
• Demonstrate proficiency (command of academic writing as appropriate for the discipline)
in professional quality written, oral, reading, presentational, and graphic skills: oral
defense, written thesis, scholarly article review according to the APA 6th Edition
Publication Manual guidelines
• Effectively explain the research to others in the field and to broader audiences
• Demonstrate an understanding of the scholarly research process: proposal, prospectus,
final thesis

Evaluation of Student Performance
Attendance (50%): Course grades are largely dependent on attendance and punctuality. Thesis
students are expected to arrange for regular meeting times with the mentor, cover scheduled
sessions, attend scheduled meetings, and complete all assignments by agreed upon deadlines.
When running subjects or attending lab meetings, it is expected that the research assistant will
arrive at the scheduled starting time.

Professionalism (15%): Thesis students must behave in a professional manner, especially while
running subjects for experiments. Interactions with other personnel in the research lab should
be conducted as outlined by the experimenter. Professional behaviors include: collegiality,
positive attitude toward learning, initiative, maturity in response to challenges, willingness to seek help.

Comprehension (35%): Thesis students will be given materials to aide in understanding the current experiment. Students may be called upon to seek out additional materials to promote their comprehension. It is expected that appropriate questions will be asked of the mentor if something is unclear. Weekly tasks will be completed in a way to provide an ongoing contribution to the research process. The product of this work will result in a written thesis (20%) and oral defense (15%) according to the APA guidelines. The content and nature of the thesis is dependent on the student’s research interest and the faculty member’s area of expertise. The thesis may result in a research paper or literature review.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9%</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.9%</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.9%</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>63-66.9%</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.9%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59.9% or below</td>
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Academic Dishonesty
Cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses" constitute academic dishonesty according to the code of this university. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and penalties can include canceling a student's enrollment without a grade, giving an F for the course or for the assignment. For more details, see the University of Nevada, Reno General Catalog.

Disability Services
Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me or the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building, Suite 101) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Academic Success Services
Your student fees cover usage of the Math Center (784-443 or www.unr.edu/mathcenter), Tutoring Center (784-6801 or www.unr.edu/tutoring), and University Writing Center (784-6030 or http://www.unr.edu/writing_center). These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student.

Statement on Audio and Video Recording
Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.