

**PSYCH 462  
RESEARCH SEMINAR  
Winter 2008**

<b>Meeting Time &amp; Place</b>  Weeks 1-6: Meet with advisor  Weeks 7-14: MTWF, 11-11:50am 147 Science Center	<b>Faculty Contact Information</b>		
	Ellen Altermatt	X7317	altermattel@hanover.edu
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	*General questions about the course should be addressed to John		

### Overview and Course Objectives

Your major objectives this semester are to conduct the research project that you designed last semester, to analyze the data you collect, and to present your findings both in an oral presentation and in an APA-style paper.

### Grading

All assignments will be graded on a 0-100 scale. Final letter grade will be determined by the total number of points you have earned. Letter grade interpretations are given below.

	Points
Practice presentation	10
Final presentation	20
Progress through midterm	15
Attendance and participation	10
Research journal or retrospective paper	5
Final draft of research paper	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

## Assignment Descriptions

**Abstract.** Students will prepare a summary of their project that is no longer than 250 words. Abstracts should include a general statement about the topic or purpose of your study, a very brief description of your method (including the number of participants, if possible), a discussion of central findings (or expected findings), and a statement about the implications of your findings for research, theory, or practical application. The abstract presumes *no* familiarity with your study. It should include everything your audience will need to understand what you have written.

**Practice presentation.** In the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> weeks, students will practice the formal 10-12 minute PowerPoint conference presentations that they will eventually be giving to a wider audience. You will be allotted 15 minutes for your presentation. To allow time for questions after your presentation, you should limit your presentation to 10 minutes (12 minutes maximum). Since this is the first practice presentation, timing will not be strictly observed and additional time will be permitted for feedback.

**Final presentation.** In the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> weeks, students will give their formal presentations. Limit your presentation to 10 minutes (12 maximum) to allow time for questions. Examples of past years' presentations can be found at: <http://psych.hanover.edu/classes/seniors/>

**Progress.** Progress is demonstrated by working consistently (rather than waiting until the last minute) and by the quality of the rough drafts you submit.

**Attendance and participation.** Attendance and participation includes meeting at scheduled times with your advisor, being prepared for those meetings and contributing to the conversation, and participating during the presentations by asking questions.

**Journal or Retrospective Paper.** You have a choice of keeping a weekly journal or writing a retrospective paper at the end of the course. If you choose the *journal* option, you should keep a weekly record of your progress (e.g., thoughts on the project, the challenges you encounter, how you overcame them). Each journal entry should be at least half a page in length. Alternatively, you may elect to write a *7-10 page paper* in which you reflect on your experiences in 401 and 462. What have you learned about conducting research? What were some of the important challenges you faced in completing your project? Knowing what you know now, what do you wish you had known when you were beginning 401?

**Final draft of research paper.** This is the culmination of your senior project. It should be formatted according to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the APA's *Publication Manual*. The grade for your paper reflects both the overall quality of your project and how well you have communicated about your project in writing.

## Schedule

Week	Deadline
<b>1</b> 1/7-1/11	Prepare materials for study. If using subject pool, submit request to John for study ID number. Use ID number to reserve room with student assistant in psychology lounge.
<b>2</b> 1/14-1/18	Post sign-up sheet, if applicable. Plan data entry, making sure that data entry will allow you to conduct the analyses you want. Continue preparing materials for study. Don't forget informed consent and debriefing!
<b>3</b> 1/21-1/25	Begin data collection and data entry. Plan data analysis. Test data analysis procedures using phony data. <b>1/25: Submit abstract</b> to advisor. Please note that abstract must be 250 words or less.
<b>4</b> 1/28-2/1	<b>2/1: Submit progress report</b> to advisor. Please note that progress reports should include expected finish date, status of data collection, problems encountered, and planned data analysis. Continue data collection.
<b>5</b> 2/4-2/8	Continue data collection.
<b>6</b> 2/11-2/15	Begin data analysis.
<b>7</b> 2/18-2/22	Continue data analysis. <b>Abstract must be submitted by 2/22</b>
<b>8</b> 2/25-2/29	[Winter Break]
<b>9</b> 3/3-3/7	Finish data analysis. <b>Practice presentations</b>
<b>10</b> 3/10-3/14	<b>Practice presentations</b>
<b>11</b> 3/17-3/21	<b>Practice presentations</b>
<b>12</b> 3/24-3/28	<b>Final presentations</b>
<b>13</b> 3/31-4/4	<b>Final presentations</b>
<b>14</b> 4/7-4/11	
Finals 4/14-4/18	<b>Final draft</b> due to advisor and second reader. <b>Submit journal or retrospective paper</b> to advisor. <b>BUTLER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE (4/18/2007)</b>