**PSY 401: ADVANCED RESEARCH**  
Fall 2013  
Website: [http://psych.hanover.edu/classes/seniors/](http://psych.hanover.edu/classes/seniors/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Time &amp; Place:</th>
<th>Faculty contact information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MWF, 11-11:50am</td>
<td>Ellen Altermatt x7317 <a href="mailto:altermattel@hanover.edu">altermattel@hanover.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCC 147</td>
<td>Bill Altermatt X7318 <a href="mailto:altermattw@hanover.edu">altermattw@hanover.edu</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Skip Dine Young x7319 <a href="mailto:youngst@hanover.edu">youngst@hanover.edu</a></td>
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<td>John Krantz * x7316 <a href="mailto:krantzj@hanover.edu">krantzj@hanover.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alexis Green x7238 <a href="mailto:green@hanover.edu">green@hanover.edu</a></td>
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*address general questions about the course to John

**Overview and Course Objectives**

With your participation, we expect this course to:

1. engage you in advanced issues of research and design
2. provide practice in the art of collaboration via close interaction with your colleagues
3. develop critical thinking as applied to psychological research
4. prepare you for the empirical project you will conduct next semester

**The Empirical Research Project**

By the end of this academic year (winter term) you will have developed, conducted, analyzed and reported your own research project. This project will be conducted either individually or with one other person.

This fall you will develop and write a formal research proposal including an introduction, method section, proposed analyses section, and detailed (week-by-week) timeline for conducting the project during the next term. By the end of the Fall term, all the materials you will need to conduct your research in the Winter term should be collected and prepared. This project needs to be an advanced piece of research; by that we mean a project with more depth than the projects you have conducted as part of coursework in Research Methods or other classes. It should be equivalent in scale to an “Independent Study.”

**Note:** It is expected that you will work in pairs on your projects. If you wish to work individually, you will need to justify your choice. At the end of the first week, you will submit to the faculty the name of your partner (who should be in agreement) or write a justification for working alone. The department faculty will then decide the pairing. You will need compelling reasons to work alone.
Detailed Information about Assignments and Course Activities

Research Journal / Retrospective Report. You have a choice of keeping a weekly journal or writing a retrospective paper at the end of the course.

1. If you choose the research journal option, you should keep a weekly record of your progress – thoughts on the project, the challenges you encounter, how you overcame them, choices you made which helped move you forward, etc. Each journal entry should be at least half a page in length. The journal should reflect the development of your ideas rather than simply catalog your ideas. The evaluation of your journal will be based upon how well you show the development of your ideas.

2. Alternatively, you may elect to write a 7-10 page retrospective paper in which you reflect on your experiences in 401. 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?

Week 1: Prepare for the semester

This week we will introduce you to the course and you will begin the process of settling on a research topic. You should begin by examining recent years’ senior projects (see the psychology library or the department website for copies) and by searching PsycINFO for relevant studies. At the end of Week 1, we need to know whether you will complete your project with a partner or if you wish to work on your project alone. Email John with this information (and a justification, if you choose to work alone) by Friday, September 6 at 11 a.m.

Week 2: Small Group Presentations / Research Ideas & References

This week you will lead a discussion with a small group about the steps you’ve taken so far. Your presentation should include answers to the following: What was the preliminary, broad topic area that interested you and how have you narrowed it down? What led you to be interested in this topic? What have you done to research this topic? What problems have you encountered so far? What have you learned so far? In preparation for this presentation, you should read at least three articles or book chapters on your topic. You should plan to facilitate / direct the conversation, and you should have organized information and questions for your classmates that will generate a helpful conversation about your ideas. Do not feel pressured to have a complete study worked out at this point. By the end of this week, you will submit a short paper (one or two paragraphs) describing your research ideas and a list of 10 references (properly formatted in APA style) that you have reviewed (at least the abstract). Email these materials to each psychology faculty member by Friday, September 13 at 11 a.m.

Weeks 3 & 4: Conferences with Faculty / Research Ideas & Abstracts

During scheduled class time (and outside class time as needed), you will meet with at least 3 faculty members to discuss your ideas. Each faculty member will have a copy of your
preliminary research ideas and your reference list. Come prepared to explain your thoughts and ask questions. We will track how many faculty you meet with and this will figure in your participation grade. Meetings typically run 30 minutes.

By Friday, September 20, email each member of the department a 1-page paper describing (1) your research question(s) and methods and (2) the two faculty members with whom you feel you could work most effectively on your project. We will use this information to assign you to your faculty thesis advisor. You will spend the next several weeks working with that advisor to develop your proposal. To every extent possible, both student and faculty needs will be considered when assigning pairings (but do note that it is unlikely we’ll be able to make everyone happy).

Note that on Monday, September 16, the class will meet to hear a presentation about careers by Margaret Krantz, Director of the Career Center. On Wednesday, September 25, the class will meet in the computer lab, SCC 148, to be introduced to web-based research methods, including a tool to assist in the development of web surveys. Advisor assignments will be announced by Friday, September 27.

**Weeks 5, 6, 7, & 8: Advisor Meetings / First Draft Due**

During weeks 5, 6, 7, and 8, we will not meet as a class. Instead, you should arrange a regular weekly meeting time with your advisor to discuss your proposed study. You and your thesis advisor should begin to work together. During these weeks, you should 1) be preparing to present your proposal to the class (see below), 2) begin working on the first written draft of your proposal, 3) track down any materials (e.g., questionnaires, stimuli) you will need for your project, and 4) submit your journal to your advisor as a progress check (if you’re keeping a journal). If you are not keeping a journal, this may be a good time to start drafting your retrospective report. You will be asked to turn in the first draft of your written research proposal and the materials you will need (e.g., questionnaires) to your thesis advisor by Friday, October 18. This is un-graded but required and will figure in to participation grade

**Weeks 9 & 10: Presentations**

At some point during these weeks you will make a **formal presentation** of your research ideas so that your classmates can help you refine and anticipate problems with your design. Your presentation should include a description of the relevant literature, your proposed methods, a rough idea of how you will analyze your data, and the timeline for completing the project. Of course, some aspects of this proposal may be rough and some aspects of your design will change (perhaps dramatically) as a result of the feedback you receive. However, you should consider this a serious design proposal and consider yourself a moderator of the discussion of the proposal. Have questions ready if necessary to prompt your classmates’ feedback. You will have 15 – 20 minutes for your presentation & discussion. This is a letter-graded assignment. Please email your PowerPoint file to John the day before your presentation. As you prepare for your presentation, be sure to work on revisions to your first draft.
Week 11: Second Draft of Proposal Due

By Tuesday, November 12, submit the second draft of your proposal to your advisor. Your grade on this assignment accounts for current quality and progress from first draft. Pace your work as the semester progresses! Also note that standards for grading drafts are generally different than those for final papers. A high grade on a draft does not necessarily translate into a high grade on a final paper.

Weeks 11 - 14: Advisor Meetings

During weeks 11 through 14, we will not meet with a class. During these weeks, you should meet with your advisor, make revisions to your second draft, and finalize your journal or retrospective report. You will also use this time to collect and or prepare all study materials you need. Your goal is to be ready to run your study but the end of the term. Pilot testing the study is also highly advisable.

Finals Week: Final Proposal and Journals or Retrospective Reports Due

Final Written Proposal Due. On (or before!) the day the final exam is scheduled, you will submit a detailed, APA style research proposal that will include a full literature review, methods section, proposed results, and a timeline.

Research Journal or Retrospective Report due to your thesis advisor.
# Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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| 1    | 9/3-9/6  | **Course Introduction**  
Class meeting Monday  
Faculty research presentations on Wednesday  
No class Friday  
Look at past senior thesis reports (on bookshelf in SC 147 and on department website: [http://psych.hanover.edu/classes/seniors/](http://psych.hanover.edu/classes/seniors/))  
Find partner  
**By Friday, indicate a partner or write a justification for working alone** |
| 2    | 9/9-9/13 | **Present initial ideas in small groups**  
MEETINGS WILL BE ARRANGED BY YOUR FACULTY LEADER  
Continue literature search, request ILLs; Read literature, take notes  
Research ideas and 10+ references are due Friday of this week |
| 3 and 4 | 9/16-9/27 | **Meet individually with 3+ faculty members about research ideas**  
Class meets Monday 9/16 to hear presentation by Career Center: Margaret Krantz  
Class meets Wednesday 9/25 to be introduced to web-based research methods: John Krantz  
Continue literature search, request ILLs; Read literature, take notes  
Submit two choices for faculty advisor and 1-page description of research question(s) and methods by Friday, September 20  
Advisor Assignments will be announced by September 27 |
| 5, 6, 7, and 8 | 9/30-10/25 | **Meet with advisor**  
No regular class meetings  
Continue literature search, request ILLs; Read literature, take notes  
Track down any necessary questionnaires or study materials  
Continue work on first draft: Introduction, Methods, Expected Results  
Submit journal to advisor for progress check, if keeping journal  
Begin working on presentation  
Submit first draft of proposal and copies of all materials to advisor by Friday, October 25  
First drafts will be returned by Friday, October 29 |
| 9 and 10 | 10/28-11/8 | **Presentations**  
Meet in class all scheduled days  
Ask questions during presentations  
Continue literature search, request ILLs; Read literature, take notes  
Revise first draft |
| 11-14 | 11/11-12/6 | **Meet with advisor**  
No regular class meetings  
Thanksgiving Break begins Wednesday  
Revise first draft  
Read literature, take notes  
Submit second draft of proposal and copy of all materials to advisor by Tuesday, November 12  
Second drafts returned by Friday, November 15  
Revise second draft  
Collect all experimental materials. They are due to advisor by 12/6  
Pilot test study |
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| Finals Week 12/9-12/13 | **Submit proposal** to advisor and second reader.  
              | **Submit journal or retrospective report** to advisor |
Grading

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<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm progress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal presentation</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second draft of proposal</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Journal / Retrospective Report</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance, participation, &amp; making regular progress on project</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Proposal</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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Letter Grades

Letter grade interpretations are given by the following interpretation of the final average:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>%</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</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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Late Penalties

To encourage timely preparation, there is a penalty for assignments that are submitted late. Assignments submitted after class on the day they were due will receive a -10% penalty. An additional -10% penalty will accrue with each additional day late.

Attendance & Participation

Since we have arranged this course so that each of you will benefit from each other’s input, it is vital that you attend all classes and participate fully. Your participation will be graded because we’d like to emphasize its importance and give credit to your important efforts in this area. Listen carefully, ask questions when you are confused or have a helpful suggestion, and work hard to elicit feedback from other students when you are responsible for leading the discussion.