New Course Proposal

PSY 4100 Supervised Research in Psychology

1. Catalog Description

4100 PSY. Supervised Research in Psychology. (Arr.-Arr.- 1-6) F or S. Sup Research. An opportunity to design and conduct empirical research in psychology under the close guidance and sponsorship of a psychology faculty member. Approval of instructor is required prior to registration. May be repeated for credit. A maximum of nine semester hours may be earned in this course. A maximum of three hours may be applied to the major in psychology. Prerequisites: PSY 2610 and PSY 3805 with a grade of C or better in both, or permission of the instructor.

2. Objectives

To provide students an opportunity to design and conduct empirical research in psychology under the close guidance of a psychology faculty member.

3. Outline of the Course

Because the research experience will vary by topic and instructor, the course outline will be unique for each student.

A sample outline for a student wishing to conduct his or her own empirical research might look like this:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Meetings and discussions between student and instructor to obtain clear focus on the scope of the empirical research project. Student and instructor will arrive at a proposed schedule for the research project.</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
<td>Student will search for journal articles and book chapters related to the research project.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Student will develop and write a literature review of readings related to the research project. Student will submit a draft of the research questions.</td>
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<td>5-6</td>
<td>Meetings and discussions with the instructor on the methodology of the research project. Instructor provides feedback on the research questions and literature review.</td>
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7-8  Student will develop materials for data collection and instructor will review the materials.

Student will submit application for ethics approval.

Student will make arrangements for data collection.

9-10  Student will collect data and create a database.

Meetings and discussions with the instructor on the analysis of the data.

11  Student will conduct appropriate analyses on the data.

Meetings and discussions with instructor on the results of the analyses conducted.

12-13  Student will write and submit first draft of the empirical paper.

14  Instructor will provide feedback on the first draft of the empirical paper.

Student will revise and submit the paper.

15  Instructor will provide feedback on the second draft of the paper.

Student will revise and submit the final paper.

Evaluation of the student’s work will be based on the quality of the final draft of the paper, adherence of student to the proposed schedule, self-direction, and other qualities deemed appropriate by the instructor. As an example, a student might receive 50% of their grade based on a final research report (paper), 15% based on research design and analysis, and 35% based on implementation and completion of data collection. The student and instructor can discuss these criteria at the beginning of the semester.

4. Implementation
a. This course will be handled by qualified members of the Psychology faculty. Number of hours credit to be offered (1-6), as well as background preparation of students, will be determined by the assigned faculty member. A Supervised Research in Psychology Request Form, detailing the objectives of the research project, must be filled out by the student and signed by the Department Chair, assigned faculty, and student.

b. No extra costs to students.

c. Relevant readings will be selected based on the research project.

d. This course may first be offered in Fall of 2002.

5. **Rationale**

   a. The course is proposed for students who plan to design and conduct empirical research. An independent study course (PSY 3900) currently exists but will now be reserved for non-empirical research (directed readings and individual instruction). The proposed course allows students to design and conduct empirical research under the close supervision of a psychology faculty member. Implementing a separate course for this purpose will allow a student’s transcript to reflect actual research experience. Students seeking to enter a graduate research program in psychology or related field may find this option particularly attractive as it not only gives students research experience but also permits students to experience an important mentoring relationship with a faculty member in the department.

   b. The level of this course is justified given the prerequisites (PSY 2610 and PSY 3805).

   c. This course has some similarity to the independent study course (PSY 3900). However, if PSY 4100 is approved, then, PSY 3900 will be reserved for non-empirical research or directed study, while PSY 4100 will be reserved for students who wish to conduct empirical research under the supervision of a psychology faculty member.

   d. This course will be an elective in the Psychology Major and Psychology Minor.

6. **Community College Transfer**

   No community college course will be deemed equivalent to this course.

7. **Date approved by the Psychology Department:** 12/1/00

8. **Date approved by the College of Sciences Curriculum Committee:** 9/28/01

9. **Date approved by the Council on Academic Affairs:** 10/25/01