



First Year Research Seminar: Earn Your Next Set of Regalia....

Time: Wed 3:00-4:20 PM **Place:** 271B Franklin Building

Professor: Holly Arrow, 239 Frankie, 346-1996, harrow@uoregon.edu

Office hours: Wed 1:15-2:15, and by appointment

Course Objectives: This three-term seminar guides first year PhD students through the process of designing a study, collecting data, and presenting the results of the first year research practicum in oral and written form. For Masters students it provides opportunities to present and refine ideas and get feedback and support from peers. Fall term will get you launched on your first year project/Masters theses. Winter term covers ethical issues related to research, teaching, scholarship, and mentoring, and it fulfills required ethics training for all students funded by or attached to labs funded by NIH and NSF. Spring term will hone your skills to present and explain your research to others, both orally and in written form.

Course Description: The fall quarter begins with the opportunity to hear the second-year students present their first-year projects. This provides an excellent orientation as you begin work on your *own* project. During the fall quarter, you will define a topic, form your advising committee, put together a reading list, write and rewrite a one-page summary of your planned research, and give feedback to other first year students about their developing ideas. We will be discussing issues in methodology and research design. Guest speakers will brief you on library, and programming resources.

Week 1, Oct 2

Overview. Desiderata for research discussion: Precision, realism, and generalizability.
Critical and creative thinking.

Week 2, Oct 9 & 11

***Go to FYP presentations Wednesday & Friday, 3:40-5:20* EMU Fir Room**

(see you there – this substitutes for class this week)

Assignment for FYP presentations:

1. Every student should ask a question during one of the presentations. So as you listen, jot down questions, and put up your hands during Q&A! Don't all wait until the last day!
2. For each presentation, note what you liked best and where you saw room for improvement
3. For each day you attend, decide which presentation you like best, and why. Take notes!
4. Bring your notes to class on Oct 16 & Oct 30.

Week 3, Oct 16.

Thinking about research: Dilemmatics and the research strategy circumplex.

Assignments:

1. Come prepared to discuss last week's FYP presentations (bring your notes!).
2. Read McGrath, J. E. (1982). Dilemmatics (will be posted on Blackboard)

Week 4, Oct 23 & 25

***Go to FYP presentations Wednesday & Friday, 3:40-5:20* EMU Fir Room**

*** And to the Fall Department Party 5:30-7:30 Friday in Gerlinger Lounge.**

(see you there – this substitutes for class this week)

Week 5, Oct 30

Discuss FYP presentations from last week; share preliminary ideas for your own project

Assignments:

1. Come prepared to discuss last week's FYP presentations (bring your notes!).
2. Bring **three ideas** for your first year project or masters project (type these up on a half sheet of paper). Discussions with your *primary advisor* and with other grad students in your main lab is a good way to develop project ideas. For each idea, consider at least two approaches from the Runkel & McGrath circumplex. Assess the challenges for precision, realism, and generality.
3. Type up a reading list for your first year /masters project. This is the start of what will become the reference list for your project. In discussions with your advisor and other grad students in your lab, ask for suggestions for this list.

Week 6, Nov 6

Doing research with humans!

1. We will review info about the Psychology & Linguistics Research Participant Pool. Procedures for using participants from this pool will be of interest both to those who plan to use this pool for data collection and to those serving as TAs for courses (mostly 201 & 202) that offer credit to students who participate in research. The Pool includes an option (the General Survey) to start collecting data on a “fast track” without running individual studies through the IRB (the HS Coordinator handles IRB approval). Complete CITI training (if you haven't already) and also read the webpage under assignments. Come prepared with questions.
2. Along with collecting data on humans, psychological research typically involves collaborating with other researchers. The most important one right now is your advisor. Assignment 1 below will improve your chances of effective collaboration with this particular individual.

Assignments:

1. Collect, type up, and bring to class **5-10 tips for working with your advisor effectively**. Interview other lab members of the lab and your advisor to gather information. This will help you get to know your advisor and develop realistic expectations about their strengths, their foibles, and the ways that they approach the advisor-advisee relationship. ***Students with the same advisor should collaborate on this project.***
2. Go to <http://humansubjects.uoregon.edu/index.cfm?action=irb&sub=citi> Complete the CITI training, print out your completion form, and bring a copy to class to turn in.
3. Review the information for undergraduates participating in research at <http://psychweb.uoregon.edu/undergraduates/humansubs>

Week 7, Nov 13 Who should I invite to serve on my committee (FYP or Masters)?

Students will collaborate on preparing and presenting overviews of the research foci and special methodological expertise of faculty in our four “areas”: social/personality, developmental, clinical, and cognitive/neuroscience. You will also start narrowing down your plans for your first year or masters project.

Assignments:

1. With other grad students in your “area,” collect & organize info about faculty research and methodological expertise. Prepare a 15 minute overview to share with the class.
 2. On a single page describe the pros and cons of your two best ideas for your first year/masters project. Consider how each project would contribute to the research area and also practical issues of study design and collecting or otherwise gaining access to data.
- Bring two copies to class*** – one to share with a classmate and one to turn in to Holly.

Week 8, Nov 20: *Meet in Knight Library, Edmiston Classroom****

Barbara Jenkins will give an overview of library resources and also ways to organize your references using tools such as Mendeley and Zotero. Then Nathan Dunn from CAS-IT will discuss resources (seminars, programming, visualization tools) offered by CAS-IT.

Assignments:

1. Provide written feedback to your partner on the pro/con assignment last week. Copy Holly on your email, or send her an attachment if you gave your partner a hard copy.
2. During week 8 you should be ****finalizing your project topic and main research question(s) and discussing research design ideas**** with your primary advisor.
3. Flesh out / prune your reading list as you zero in on your main project topic.

Week 9, Nov 27 No class today. Instead complete assignments below.

Assignments:

1. Write a 200-word description of your proposed project and post to Blackboard as a Word or rtf file **by 2 PM Wed.**
2. Recruit members for first year committee or your masters committee, using your proposed project as a recruiting tool. Tell faculty members you hope to recruit **why** you think they in particular would be ideal for your committee.
3. Think of someone who has helped you out, and express your gratitude to them (special Thanksgiving assignment!).

Week 10, December 4 Last class! Looking back, looking ahead.

Assignments:

1. Type up and bring ***a half-page of feedback and suggestions for the two project descriptions you were assigned to review*** (Holly will post assignments on Blackboard).
2. Think about and make a note of what you have found to be the most satisfying, most surprising, and most challenging aspects of your graduate school experience so far.
3. Post your current project reading list on Blackboard.

Reading:

Mcgrath, J. E. (1982). Dilemmatics: The study of research choices and dilemmas. In J. E. McGrath, J. Martin, & R. A. Kulka, R. A. *Judgment Calls in Research* (pp. 69-102). Beverly Hills, CA: SAGE Publications Inc.