Syllabus
Psych Lit
Graduate Seminar
Fall 2006
56:830:520

Meeting Time: Thurs. 6:00 - 8:40 pm

Professor B. Adelson
Office Hours: Tuesday 5:50 - 6:50pm & Thursday 5:00 - 6:00
Office: Armitage 311
To contact me, email: adelson@camden.rutgers.edu

• This syllabus may change with class needs.
• You are responsible for whatever version is current.

• Due Dates:
  – Begin library research: Sep. 28.
  – Bring a schedule of your tasks to class: Sep 28.
  – Final reading list: Oct. 26, 5pm.
  – First draft: Nov. 27, noon.
  – Critiques of first draft: Nov. 30, noon.
  – Final paper: Dec. 20, 2 pm.

1 Course Readings:

• Required. (In the bookstore.)
  1. Preparing Literature Reviews. M. Ling Pan

• Recommended. (Available at bookstores and online.)
  1. Professors As Writers. Robert Boice
  3. Elements of Style. Wm. Strunk
2 Course Description

From the Psychology Department webpage:

The goal of this course is to have each student finish the semester with a complete review of a specific content area in Psychology, such as might appear in a professional journal. Students will learn how to use library resources, search the literature, find studies relevant to their projects, and integrate and make use of the literature. On the basis of this work, students will develop the ability to formulate viable research hypotheses. In the ideal case, the literature review will lead to a thesis proposal. But if a student decides to work on a different topic for a thesis, important research skills will have been learned.

3 Work Requirements: Student Assessment

1. Your literature review: 50%
   - Your first draft: 15%
   - Your critique of another’s 15%
     - Was it helpful?
     - Was it constructive?
   - Your final paper 20%

2. Weekly Writings: 25%
   - Answers to questions at the end of each chapter in Pan.
   - Weekly essays. For example, chronicling what you did, what you wrestled with.

3. Weekly presentations 25%
   - On the readings. Synthesizing: What was important, how this week’s contributes to the whole.

4. If needed:
   (a) Additional written homework assignments on the readings and the classroom work.
   (b) Additional reading.
   (c) Pop quizzes to make sure everyone fully understands the material.
      - These will figure into one of the grading categories above, as appropriate.


4 Course Policies

1. Writings (weekly & final)
   - Late assignments will receive a reduction of one letter grade.
     - The only exception is for documented illness or family emergency.
   - All writing must be clear and grammatical. It must contain clear logical arguments.
     - There is a 10% deduction for first drafts which do not meet this requirement. The deduction for later drafts is 15%.
     - Please use the Learning Resource Center if you have any concerns about your writing skills. Location: http://learn.camden.rutgers.edu. Room 231 Armitage.
     - I am happy to work with you on assignments during my office hours.

2. Plagiarism With respect to university rules on plagiarism you are responsible for knowing the information at: http://www.camden.rutgers.edu/RUCAM/info/Academic-Integrity-Policy.html

3. Class behavior regulations:
   There are certain expectations that I have concerning students who take my courses. My experience is that classes function best when students abide by these expectations. They are:
   
   (a) You are expected to come to class on time.
       - Do not come in late. This can be very distracting.
       - Also, if you come to class, you are expected to stay for the entire class period unless you seek permission beforehand.
   (b) If you attend class, you are expected to pay attention.
       - In some classes students feel anonymous and there is a tendency to interact with friends. Again, this can be very distracting. You may not do this.
       - Having to repeat instructions, requirements, etc. for students who were talking with friends wastes other students’ time.
   (c) If you must use the facilities during class you must not walk in front of the speaker or allow the door to slam on entering and exiting.
   (d) You may not use electronic devices without permission and then only to record class notes.
   (e) You may not engage in any behavior that detracts from the class learning experience.

   • Penalties for violations of behavior policy:
     - Students who violate these rules will be warned for the first violation.
     - A second violation will result in a 5-point deduction from the take-home final.
     - Any subsequent violation will result in the loss of a letter grade on the take-home final.
5 Schedule

Dates, topics, readings, and assignments are below.

Introduction

1. **Sep 7**: Introduction to class:
   - Goals
   - Course content
   - Expectations

5.1 What’s a good literature review?

1. **Sep 14**: Readings:
   - Pan
     - 1. Qualitative Versus Quantitative Reviews 1
     - A. Checklist of Guidelines 163
     - B. Qualitative versus Quantitative Research 171
   - Sternberg
     - Part I. Introduction:
     - 1. Writing an empirical article Daryl J. Bem;
     - 2. Writing a literature review Nancy Eisenberg;

2. **Sep 21**: Readings:
   - Pan, Model Literature Reviews:
     - 1. Stereotypes Towards Stuttering 173
     - 3. Adolescent Mothers' Relationship with Their Children's Biological Fathers: Social Support, Social Strain, and Relationship Continuity 185
     - 4. The Performance of Narcissists Rises and Falls with Perceived Opportunity for Glory 191
     - 5. The Inherent Limits of Predicting School Violence 196
     - 7. Risk Propensity Differences Between Entrepreneurs and Managers: a Meta-Analytic Review
5.2 Choosing your Topic

1. **Sep 28:** Readings
   - Pan
     - 2. Selecting a Topic for Review 9
   - Sternberg
     - 4. Introducing your research report: writing the introduction Philip C. Kendall;
     - 5. Theories and hypotheses Abraham Tesser;
     - 11. Writing for your referees Robert J. Sternberg;
   - **To do for next week:**
     - Make sure you begin doing your library research at this point.
     - Bring a schedule of your tasks to class next week.

5.3 Finding your References/Refining Your Topic

1. **Oct 5:** Guest lecture: Vibiana Bowman, Psychology Reference Librarian.
   Please have read the readings listed below under Oct. 12 by Oct. 5.

2. **Oct 12:** Readings
   - Pan
     - 3. Searching for Literature and Refining the Topic 21
     - 4. Retrieving and Evaluating Information from the Web 33
     - 5. Taking Notes and Avoiding Unintentional Plagiarism 45
     - 6. Guidelines for Evaluating Sources of Literature 59
     - 10. Blending Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches 101
     - 11. Introduction to Meta-Analysis 113
     - 12. A Closer Look at Meta-Analysis 127

5.4 Working with the Literature: Read, Evaluate, Synthesize

1. **Oct 19:** Readings
   - Pan
     - 7. Evaluating and Interpreting Research Literature 65
     - 13. A Closer Look at Creating a Synthesis 137

2. **Oct 26:** Check in:
• How is it going?
  Discussions of common problems and fixes.
  – Readings: Boice

• Final reading list due
  One copy to Dr. A.

5.5 The First Draft

1. Nov 2: Readings
   • Pan
     – 8. Planning and Writing the First Draft 77
   • Sternberg
     – 10. Documenting your scholarship Randolph A. Smith

2. Nov 9: Readings
   • Sternberg
     – 3. Titles and abstracts Robert J. Sternberg
     – 6. Writing effectively about design Harry T. Reis
     – 7. Doing data analysis and writing up their results Elena L. Grigorenko
     – 8. Results that get results Peter Salovey
     – 9. What does it all mean? Robert Calfree

3. Nov 16:
   • How is it going?
     Discussions of common problems and fixes.
     – Readings: Boice

   • Incorporate solutions from last week.
   • Discuss your critique.

• Nov 27, noon. First draft due.
  • One copy to Dr. A. One to your reader.
5.6 The Final Product

1. **Nov 30**: Comments on first draft due Nov 30, noon. One copy to Dr. A. One to the author. 
   Reading:
   - Pan
     - 9. Revising and Refining the First Draft 91
   - Sternberg. Part III. Dealing with Referees:
     - 12. Reading reviews, suffering rejection, and advocating for your paper Melissa G. Warren
     - 13. Rewriting the psychology paper Richard K. Wagner

2. **Dec 7**: Reading:
   - Pan
     - 14. Writing Titles and Abstracts 145
     - 15. Citing References 151
   - Sternberg. Part IV. Conclusion:
     - 14. Article writing 101 Robert Sternberg

5.7 Paper Due

- Due Dec. 20 (the scheduled date of the final) by 2:00 pm.
- Please send soft copy
- I will be in my office at 2:00 pm if you wish to do any of the following: discuss what you are handing in, to review or debrief. Please show up at that time.
- No additional credit for any work done beyond this point.