

Psy 3902W: Major Project in Psychology

The guidelines for Major Projects in the College of Liberal Arts are brief:

Major project

Each major requires completion of a major project, intended to demonstrate a student's analytic and conceptual skills as well as an understanding of the modes of inquiry common to the major discipline. The major project is intended to be the capstone experience of the student's work in the major fields. For most students, the format will be a paper.

Completion of this course is considered to be completion of the major project requirement. As such, the course consists of two elements. First, it is a capstone for your psychology baccalaureate degree. You will review the discipline of psychology by reading the book by Stanovich and by reflecting on your experiences in your degree program. Second, you will focus your efforts this semester at formulating and reflecting in written form on a culminating experience. For some of you, that will mean working in an active research lab with a faculty led team of researchers. For others, it will mean working in a community service setting and relating what you have learned in classes to issues in the "real world." For others, it will mean learning more about an issue you choose to research in depth from a psychological perspective. This means several things depending on which course option you chose. Before starting, you must meet the registration requirements of your section:

- Research Option- you must have completed a contract with a faculty member for work in a research laboratory-- most often involving concurrent registration in *Psy 5993: Directed Research in Psychology*. To complete this course, you must complete the requirements of your contract.
- Community Service Option - you must have arranged a service-learning/community involvement placement through the Career and Community Learning Center (CCLC). To complete this course, you must complete the requirements of your placement contract.
- Individual Interest Option - you must complete the additional reading/contact activities listed under your specific paper requirements.

Paper Requirements

The ultimate purpose of this course is to serve as a vehicle for writing a Senior Paper. I interpret the College's general guidelines as giving you some freedom to choose a topic once you have completed the capstone part of the course. The form and substance of your paper will differ depending on which course registration option you have chosen. These differences are detailed in the following general guidelines.

A. All Papers must:

- Strictly follow APA Style guidelines. Your assignment grades will depend, in part, on adherence to them. You are nearly baccalaureate level psychologists and, in this course, you will write like psychologists write.
- Be between 15-20 pages in length.
- Reference at least 10 articles you find in the PsychInfo database.
- Cite the Stanovich book that we use in this course.

B. Research Option Papers must satisfy A. and also be:

- Derived from the activities of the research lab you are working in. The paper could be a report of a study for which you helped collect and analyze research data, a report of the development of a research technique, etc.
- Approved by your Section Leader if it is a report of an empirically based study.

C. Community Service Option Papers must satisfy A. and also:

- Relate to your placement. You might use psychological theory and research work to suggest ways a service delivery problem might be addressed or an organization might run more smoothly.
- Unite theory, research, and practice. Your task is to accomplish what George Miller referred to as "Giving psychology away."

D. Individual Interest Option Papers must satisfy A. and also:

- Relate to a personal or occupational interest of yours.

- Be informed by extra reading or contact with people working in your area of interest. The most common way to satisfy this requirement will be for you to read a book written by a psychologist for a general audience or to interview at least 3 professionals working in an area of interest to you. You must have your choice to satisfy this requirement approved by your Section Leader.

The above guidelines are prescriptive primarily in form. They are meant to guide you rather than restrict your creativity. If you have good reasons to depart from them, discuss them with your Section Leader. He or she will confer with or refer you to me. We will find a way to make your Senior Project as meaningful and useful to you as we can. You will learn more about the specifics of these requirements as you do assignments for this course. As always, we want to help you understand clearly what your task is and how you can be successful at it.

COURSE GRADING

Reading Quizzes: (12 chapters from Stanovich, 10 items ea. @ .2 points/item = 24 possible points):

Assignments: #1(5 pts), #2-8 & 12 (15 pts ea.), #9 (50 pts), #10 (20 pts), and #11 (graded A-F)

Final Grade Calculation

The Final Grade is based on 2 components: a) the quiz and assignments other than the final paper, and b) the final paper.

1. Total possible points on Assignments 1-10 & 12 and quiz: 219

(Grading: A=203; A-=197; B+=188; B=182; B-=175; C+=166; C=160; C-(or S)=153; D+=145; D=131; F=below 131)

2. Paper Final Submission (Assignment 11): A-F

Final Grade: Average of the above 2 letter grades

(NOTE: You must receive passing grades on both components to pass this course.)

CLASS CALENDAR
Major Project in Psychology (Psy 3902W)
 Fall 2009
 Nicholson Hall 155

<u>Week of:</u>	<u>To do:</u>	<u>Due Dates:</u>
Sept. 8 (1)	Attend lecture (mandatory) Attend lab (mandatory) Read Machi/McEvoy (M&M): Introduction Read Sheehan (in WebVista <i>Writing Aids</i> folder)	Assignment #1 by Sept. 10 (midnight) Sheehan to be read before Week 2 lab
Sept. 15 (2)	Attend lecture (strongly recommended) Attend lab (mandatory)- APA format Assignment #2 Read M&M: Step 1 -Do exercises 1.1-1.4 & 1.5 (1a only) Read Stanovich: Ch. 1 & 2 Take Stanovich quizzes 1 & 2 (in WebVista)*	Assignment #2 by Sept. 20 (midnight) M&M Step 1 read before Week 3 lab -Bring your notes from the exercises to the Week 3 lab *All Stanovich quizzes must be completed by Oct. 26 (midnight)
Sept. 22 (3)	Attend lab (mandatory) – Select Topic Assignment #3 Read M&M: Step 2 -Do Exercise 2.2 Read Stanovich Ch. 3 & 4 – take quizzes	Assignment #3 by Sept. 27 (midnight) M&M Step 2 read before Week 4 lab -Bring one core idea map to Week 4 lab
Sept. 29 (4)	Attend lab (mandatory)- Lit search Assignment #4 Read M&M: Step 3 -Do Exercise 3.2 Read Stanovich Ch. 5 & 6 – take quizzes	Assignment #4 by Oct. 4 (midnight) M&M Step 3 read before Week 5 lab -Bring a map of 1 simple argument to Week 5 lab
Oct. 6 (5)	Attend lab (mandatory)- Dev Argument Assignment #5 Read M&M: Step 4 -Create a lit survey tally matrix for 5 refs (See Fig 4.2) Read Stanovich Ch. 7 & 8 – take quizzes	Assignment #5 by Oct. 11 (midnight) M&M Step 4 read before Week 6 lab -Bring tally matrix to Week 6 lab
Oct. 13 (6)	Attend lab (mandatory)-Survey Lit Assignment #6 Read M&M: Step 5 -Create an argument of advocacy model (See Fig 5.5) Read Stanovich Ch. 9 & 10 – take quizzes	Assignment #6 by Oct. 18 (midnight) M&M Step 5 read before Week 7 lab -Bring your advocacy model to Week 7 lab

Oct. 20 (7)	Attend lab (mandatory)- Critique Lit Assignment #7	Assignment #7 by Oct. 25 (midnight)
	Schedule individual meeting with lab instructor	
	Read M&M: Step 6 -Begin draft	Assignment #9 (draft) due Nov. 13 (midnight)
	Read Stanovich Ch. 11 & 12 – take quizzes	*All Stanovich quizzes must be completed by Oct. 26 (midnight)
Oct. 27 (8)	Individual Meetings -Bring work on flash drive	
Nov. 3 (9)	Attend lab (mandatory)-Peer Review -Bring 1 hardcopy draft of Assignment#9 Assignment #8	Assignment #8 by Nov. 8 (midnight)
	Schedule Individual meeting with lab instructor	
Nov. 10 (10)	Attend writing lab (strongly recommended) Finish Assignment #9 (draft)	Assignment #9 by Nov. 12 (midnight)
Nov. 17 (11)	Individual Meetings to discuss draft feedback -Bring draft or view on WebVista	
Nov. 24 (12)	Individual Meetings to discuss draft feedback -Bring draft or view on WebVista	
Dec. 1 (13)	Attend lab (mandatory) -Bring poster ideas Assignment #10	Assignment #10 by Dec. 6 (midnight)
Dec. 8 (14)	Attend writing lab (strongly recommended) Assignment #11 (Final draft)	Assignment #11 by Dec 11 (midnight)
Dec. 15 (15)	Poster Sessions (mandatory) -Tuesday, Dec 15, 9-11:00am, Elliott Hall Lobby Assignment #12	Assignment #12 by Dec 18 (midnight)

*****Late assignments subject to a 10% penalty.*****

Assignments 1-9 not accepted after 2 weeks from due date.
Assignments 10-12 not accepted after 1 week from due date.

*****Mandatory Lab Attendance*****

The labs function best when all students participate. For this reason, labs with mandatory attendance (see calendar above) may only be missed for documented illness or emergency. Whenever possible, an absence should be discussed with your lab instructor in advance of the lab. An absence that fails to meet these requirements will result in a 10% reduction in your grade on the assignment being worked on in that lab.