

PSYC 296H: Honors ProSeminar
Professor Mary Peterson
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Office Hours: Mon 2:30 – 3:30 PM; Thurs. 12:30–1:30 PM, and by appointment

Spring 2005
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SYLLABUS

This course is designed to introduce psychology students to the breadth of ideas that are examined in psychology and the myriad methods used to examine them. The course also serves as an introduction to the research currently being conducted in the Psychology Department at the UA, with the aim of helping students to find an advisor with whom they can conduct their Honors Thesis research. From January 31 – March 21, different faculty members will visit the class. They will discuss their research and tell you something about the life of research, as they see it. Each speaker will assign a reading relevant to the topic of his or her lecture. Readings will be available on the POLIS website.

Introduction and Background

- W Jan 12 Syllabus; Discussion of Class Format; Finding an Advisor
M Jan 17 Martin Luther King Holiday
W Jan 19 Research Methods Overview. Reading: McGuigan, Chapter 4
M Jan 24 Research Methods Overview; Writing commentaries and proposals.
Reading: McGuigan Chapter 5
W Jan 26 **Research Methods Exam**; Discussion of the reality of doing a thesis

Faculty Presentations

- M Jan 31 Dr. Lynn Nadel: Stress and Memory
W Feb 2 Dr. Lee Ryan: Imaging and Memory
M Feb 7 Dr. Alfred Kaszniak: Emotion and Aging
W Feb 9 Dr. LouAnn Gerken: Infant Speech Perception
M Feb 14 Dr. David Sbarra: Emotional Experience Following Romantic Breakups
W Feb 16 Dr. Hal Arkowitz: Increasing Motivation to Change
M Feb 21 Dr. Richard Bootzin: Insomnia
W Feb 23 Dr. Elizabeth Glisky: Memory and Aging
M Feb 28 Dr. Connie Beck: Family Relationships
W Mar 2 Drs. Varda Shoham and Michael Rohrbaugh: Clinical Psychology
M Mar 7 Dr. Mary Peterson: Visual Perception and Cognition
W Mar 9 Dr. Kenneth Forster: Psycholinguistics

SPRING BREAK

- M Mar 21 Dr. Massimo Piatelli-Palmerini: Decision Making
W Mar 23 Dr. Jerel Slaughter: Industrial-Organizational Psychology
M Mar 28 Dr. Matthias Mehl: Personality: Expression and Perception
W Mar 30 Dr. Tanya Schmader: Stereotype Threat

Student Presentations

- M Apr 4 Student Presentations
W Apr 6 Student Presentations
M Apr 11 Student Presentations
W Apr 13 Student Presentations

continued

M Apr 18	Student Presentations
W Apr 20	Student Presentations
M Apr 25	Student Presentations
W Apr 27	Student Presentations
M May 2	Discussion
W May 4	Grading Day

POLIS site: https://www.polis.arizona.edu/courseHomesite.do?course=PSYC_296H-001&semester=spring05
E-Res site: <http://eres.library.arizona.edu/coursepage.asp?cid=4084&page=01>

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

1. Eight Commentaries. One commentary is due per week from Jan 31 – Mar 30. Commentaries can be written on either of the readings assigned for the week, but they must be handed in at the class for which the reading was assigned. Commentaries are to discuss the implications of the research, and/or raise theoretical, analytical, or methodological issues; they are not to simply be summaries of the reading, although they a brief summary should introduce and position your ideas. Commentaries must be a single typed page. **Not accepted via email.** (40% of final grade)

2. Presentation of Research Ideas for Discussion. From April 4 – 25, individual students will give a 15-minute presentation of their research proposal. The proposal will be developed in consultation with the course instructor, at least, and where possible, with a second faculty advisor. Presentations should be prepared and professional. Students who are not presenting are expected to raise questions and make comments and suggestions. (10% of final grade)

3. Research Proposal. Students are expected to write a 10–15-page research proposal. Final drafts of proposals are due one week after your presentation date. I will provide comments on first drafts, if given sufficient time. This proposal may constitute the plan for your honors thesis, but it need not. (10% of grade)

4. Participation in Discussion. Discussion and exchange of ideas is an important component of this class. Students are expected to participate in discussion with the visiting speakers, with other students, and with the instructor. As part of this process, before each class between January 31 and March 30, the instructor will ask students to bring up questions on the assigned readings and/or issues they raised in their commentaries. (15% of final grade)

5. Research Methods Exam, on the lectures and Chapters 4 & 5 of McGuigan, F. J., *Experimental Psychology: Methods in Research*, 7th edition, NJ: Prentice Hall. (10% of final grade)

6. Progress on Proposal Plan.

A. Honors theses must be supervised by faculty members who are either **Core faculty or Joint Appointed Faculty** in the Psychology Department. Lists of faculty with these appointments can be found on the Psychology Department Web Page (see POLIS site for links). From there, you can link to individual home pages. By Wed., March 9, students must choose 3 faculty members from these lists whose research areas suggest they might be an appropriate thesis advisor, and for each, write a brief description of their research and a statement of why it is interesting. (A = 6% of final grade)

B. Students are expected to present their proposal ideas in at least one individual meeting with the instructor. Students can meet with the instructor as early in the semester as they desire, but must do so at least a week before their presentation. (B = 5% of final grade)

7. Attendance. Students are expected to attend all class meetings; both attendance and participation credits will be deducted for absences. (4% of final grade)