

PSC 192: Field Work in Psychology (Fall, 2016)

Instructor: Dr. Kristin H. Lagattuta, Ph.D.

Office: 174L Young Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:50-9:50am

Email: khlaga@ucdavis.edu

PSC 192 provides an opportunity to integrate psychological research and theory with the practical experience and insights you're acquiring during an internship. You do this by writing weekly journal entries and completing a research term paper.

You may register for one unit of PSC 192 for every 30 hours of internship work you complete during the quarter (i.e., approximately 3 hours per week for each unit), up to a maximum of 6 units. To receive permission to enroll and the course CRN, submit your completed enrollment application (with your supervisor's signature) to Dr. Lagattuta during the first week of the quarter (contact Dr. Lagattuta if this poses a problem for you). The PSC 192 application form is available online on the psychology website.

Before completing the form, it's a good idea to contact Dr. Lagattuta to check that your internship is appropriate for PSC 192. This is especially important if you'll be interning for an organization or agency that isn't listed in the "Volunteer and Internship Opportunities" document on the course website.

Course Requirements

1. **Internship hours.** For each unit of PSC 192, you must complete at least 30 hours of supervised internship work during the quarter. This amounts to a weekly average of 3 hours for each unit.
2. **Research term paper.** The principal requirement for PSC 192 is to write a term paper in which you integrate your own internship experiences with one or more topics in psychological theory or research. This assignment requires that you identify a psychological research topic or question that is somehow related to your internship experiences and observations. You'll use PsycInfo, recent Psychology textbooks, and similar sources to locate specific research studies and theoretical articles that address your topic.

The psychological research question or topic that you identify will be the main focus of your paper, but you'll also discuss how your internship-related observations and experiences fit with (or, perhaps, contradict) the empirical literature addressing that question.

Your paper's minimum length and minimum number of citations of scholarly articles, books, and chapters depends on the number of units for which you register (see the table below).

Your paper must be double-spaced with the pages numbered in the top-right corner and 1-inch margins all around. Include a separate page with the title, your name, the date, and your e-mail address. Use APA format (6th edition) throughout your paper, especially in your in-text bibliographic citations and your References section. (Note that your References section must

begin on a new page.) Additional advice about writing your term paper can be found at the end of this document. Direct quotations from scholarly works should be used *very sparingly* in your research paper (2 maximum). Be very careful to avoid plagiarism.

3. **Weekly journal entries.** For 7 out of the 10 weeks of the quarter (by Saturday night at 11:59 pm: 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26, 12/3), you are required to submit a journal entry of 1-2 double-spaced pages as an attachment in MS Word format. These should be uploaded to Smartsite using dropbox. Although you can choose which 7 weeks to submit entries, you must complete 7 to receive credit for the course.

In each entry, you will discuss what you experienced in your internship during the previous week as well as situate your experiences in the context of relevant psychological research and theory (e.g., journal articles you've found through PsycInfo or Google Scholar, theories you've discussed in Psychology classes, materials provided to you by your internship supervisor or agency).

The goal of the journal assignments is to help you to think about your internship *in relation to key empirical research findings, theories, or principles of psychology* and, in doing so, to provide you with material for your term paper.

Your first few entries will most likely be in diary form ("I did this," "I saw this," "They taught me this," etc.). As the quarter progresses, however, your entries should increasingly demonstrate that you are thinking about psychological theory and research and how they relate to your work. It is expected that you will regularly cite relevant research studies or psychological theories in your journal entries *by the third week* of the quarter. For example, you may want to write about a particular study or article that you located in PsycInfo, using your internship experiences to illustrate key points. (Note that all citations of research studies and other sources must conform to APA format 6th edition requirements.)

Dr. Lagattuta (or a graduate student reader) will evaluate each entry. When you receive comments or corrections, be sure to keep them in mind when preparing your subsequent journal entries and your term paper.

Most jobs and careers related to psychology require you to be able to write well and keep professional records. To enhance this aspect of your training, **your weekly journal entries will be evaluated not only for content but also for grammar, spelling, punctuation, writing style, and correct use of APA format 6th edition.** A journal entry that is poorly written will be returned to you. To receive credit, you'll be required to revise and resubmit it.

If you aren't proficient at writing, if you lack experience writing in English, or if you simply want a knowledgeable person to check your grammar and spelling, you should take advantage of the free assistance available to you at the **Student Academic Success Center** (2205 Dutton Hall). Writing specialists and tutors are available on a drop-in basis or by appointment to help you with writing and proofreading your work.

Very important: All bibliographic citations in your journal entries and term paper must be in correct APA format 6th edition (both in text and in your References).

4. **Preliminary outline of your term paper.** By **11:59 pm on Saturday, November 5**, submit a 3- to 5-sentence paragraph describing your paper topic, a preliminary outline of the paper, and a bibliography (in APA format 6th edition) of the research articles that you plan to cite in your final paper. Submit this as an attachment in MS Word format using Smartsite dropbox.

The number of sources cited in your preliminary bibliography should be equal to or greater than the number of PSC 192 units you're taking (e.g., at least 2 sources if you're taking 2 units, at least 6 sources if you're taking 6 units). Note that your final term paper must cite a larger number of sources (see the chart below).

5. **Evaluation by your internship supervisor.** Near the end of the quarter, you'll receive an evaluation form from Dr. Lagattuta via Smartsite. Please give it to your supervisor, have them fill it out and sign it. Your supervisor should then scan it (or take photos of it) and email it back to Dr. Lagattuta: khlaga@ucdavis.edu. This email should come *from your supervisor*, not from you! If your supervisor prefers to mail it, provide them with a stamped, addressed envelope to mail to:

Dr. Kristin Lagattuta
UC Davis Center for Mind and Brain
One Shields Avenue
Davis CA, 95616

The completed form must be *received* by Dr. Lagattuta by **Friday, December 2**. Follow up to make sure your supervisor sends it in advance of this deadline so you do not receive a grade of Incomplete for the course.

Summary of Due Dates

- Submit your 1-2 page (double-spaced) weekly journal entries as MS Word attachments via Smartsite no later than **11:59 pm each Saturday**. Seven total entries are required.
- Submit a paragraph summary and draft outline of your term paper and a preliminary bibliography in MS Word format by **11:59 pm on Saturday, November 5** to Smartsite. Your in-text citations and References must conform to APA format 6th edition.
- The completed evaluation form from your supervisor must be *received* by Dr. Lagattuta no later than **Friday, December 2**.
- Submit your final paper in MS Word format no later than **11:59 pm on Saturday, December 3** to Smartsite.

Meeting with Dr. Lagattuta. You're welcome to arrange meetings with Dr. Lagattuta during the quarter, either in person, via telephone, or by e-mail.

Time Commitments and Term Paper Requirements

| # Units | Your Total Time Commitment (and average weekly commitment over 10 weeks) | Paper's Minimum Length (excluding References and Title Page) | Minimum Number of Scholarly Sources Cited* |
|------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | 30 hours total (on average, 3 hrs. per week) | 6 Pages | 2 |
| 2 | 60 hours total (on average, 6 hrs. per week) | 8 Pages | 3 |
| 3 | 90 hours total (on average, 9 hrs. per week) | 10 Pages | 4 |
| 4 | 120 hours total (on average, 12 hrs. per week) | 12 Pages | 5 |
| 5 | 150 hours total (on average, 15 hrs. per week) | 14 Pages | 6 |
| 6 | 180 hours total (on average, 18 hrs. per week) | 16 Pages | 7 |

Writing Your Psychology 192 Term Paper

Purpose of the assignment. The weekly journal entries are intended to provide you with an opportunity to think critically about psychology while you work at your internship. The purpose of the research paper is to take you to the next step: To develop an idea (most likely one that you've discussed in one or more of your journal entries) and compare or substantiate your own personal observations and experience with current empirical psychological research (as discussed in journal articles and textbooks).

Don't stress! If you enjoy writing any paper during your college career, it should be this one. You're researching a topic that relates to your interest and experiences, so the paper should have personal meaning for you.

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Remember: You can talk with Dr. Lagattuta (via e-mail, phone, or in person) during the writing process. But don't wait until the last minute to ask for help!

Choosing a topic. You should choose a specific topic for your paper before your summary, draft outline, and preliminary bibliography are due. It's a good idea to inform Dr. Lagattuta of your topic via e-mail before you write your outline. Selecting your topic early will ensure that you have enough time to complete the background research and confer with Dr. Lagattuta if necessary (e.g., if you're finding it difficult to select a topic or if you want to check that your idea for a topic is appropriate to the assignment). Make sure you choose a topic that you like – that will make the

* At least one half of the references you cite must be articles in scientific journals (e.g., *Psychological Science*, *Developmental Psychology*, *Child Development*, *Emotion*, *Journal of Clinical and Consulting Psychology*). The remaining references may be scholarly books or chapters from edited books. If you're unsure as to whether or not a particular source is appropriate, contact Dr. Lagattuta.

process more enjoyable for you. Here are some general suggestions:

- Find a topic that directly relates to what you're actually doing in your internship. This will make the paper more interesting for you to write. For example, if you are working with people with schizophrenia, an abstract discussion of various causes of schizophrenia may be less interesting than a discussion of theories of treatment and your personal observations of the treatment process (the title might be, for example, "The Role of Caregivers and Therapists in the Treatment of Schizophrenia").
- Find a topic you're passionate about. If you have a strong opinion about some aspect of your work, write about it! You'll find the paper-writing process goes much more smoothly if you really believe in the points you're arguing.
- Look for a topic that is neither too broad nor too narrow. If a topic is very broad (e.g., "Psychotherapy"), your discussion of it will necessarily be superficial. On the other hand, if it's extremely narrow or specialized, you may have trouble finding enough to say. Look for a topic of manageable breadth that allows you to explore some interesting issues in depth.
- Stick with one central topic. Relatively brief papers that try to cover several different topics (e.g., leadership, communication, *and* motivation) often aren't very good. It is fine to build your paper around comparisons – for example, of two different theories, of different approaches to treatment, of different cultures or age groups. But the number should be limited. For example, papers that compare two types of psychotherapy generally work; those that try to cover three or more tend to be too "thin."
- Use PsycInfo or Google Scholar as a resource. Review published research that relates to what you're doing. Read the abstracts of journal articles and learn what professionals are saying about your topic. You'll probably find something in one or more abstracts that piques your interest and makes your choice of topics easier (e.g., because it is eye-opening or, in your opinion, incorrect). Look for **recent** publications so you know the research you're discussing isn't outdated. If no literature exists on your topic, you may be defining it too specifically. If the number of references is overwhelming, you may be defining it too broadly.
- Integrate your internship experience into your discussion! This may be the part you enjoy the most. For example, you might use examples from your experience to set up your research question, to illustrate each of your points, or to conclude the paper with a real-world application of a psychological theory. It's not a good idea, however, to use your own experience to justify or support your points. For example, the fact that the schizophrenic patient you're working with loves chocolate doesn't mean that all people with schizophrenia are "chocoholics." Your paper must be grounded in the current empirical research literature.

Sample Topics

Here are some of the topics that PSC 192 students have chosen in the past. They are not the only topics you may choose, and many will not apply to your particular internship or interests. This list may give you some ideas.

- Why Battered Women Remain in Dangerous Relationships
- Bilingual Education
- Strengths and Weaknesses of Peer Counseling
- Health Advocacy: How to Promote Healthy Behaviors
- Treating Alcoholics
- Motivating Student Athletes
- Community Mental Health
- Leadership and Communication in a High Tech Industry
- Effective Preschool Teaching
- Working with Eating Disorders
- Behavior Modification and Autism
- Assessment of a Treatment Program for Autism
- Psychoactive Drugs and the Treatment of Schizophrenia
- Preventing Suicide
- The Psychology of Advertising
- Peer Group Pressure and Conformity in the Middle School
- Best Practices for Helping Children with Dyslexia
- Play Therapy
- Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
- Accepting Death: Life in a Hospice
- Antidotes for Delinquency
- Social Life in a Preschool
- Developing Management Skills
- Principles of Effective Communication in the Workplace
- Strengthening Values in High School Students
- How Gender Roles are Reinforced by Teachers and Counselors in Public Schools
- Attachment Disorder and Speech Delays in Maltreated Children
- Teaching Infants Sign Language to Promote Language Acquisition
- Suicide Among Individuals with HIV/AIDS
- The Benefits of Service Dogs for Assisting Individuals Following Trauma
- The Effects of Cognitive Behavioral Interventions on Depression
- Challenges Refugees Face on the Road to Self-Sufficiency
- Treating ADHD in Primary Schools
- The Benefits of Mindfulness Training