

PSC 192: Field Work in Psychology (Fall, 2017)

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PSC 192 provides an opportunity to integrate psychological research and theory with the practical experience and insights you are 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, contact Dr. Lagattuta to check that your internship is appropriate for PSC 192. This is especially important if you will be interning for an organization or agency that is not 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 related to your internship experiences and observations. You will use PsycInfo, recent Psychology textbooks, Google scholar, 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 will 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).

Double-space your paper 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.) You can find additional advice about writing your term paper at the end of this

document. Use direct quotations from scholarly works *very sparingly* in your research paper if at all (2 maximum). Be very careful to avoid plagiarism.

Weekly journal entries. For 7 out of the 10 weeks of the quarter (by Saturday night at 11:59 pm: 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2), you are required to submit a journal entry of 1-2 double-spaced pages as an attachment in MS Word format. Please upload these to the course website via UC Davis canvas. Include your last name in the title of your journal entry. *Protect the confidentiality of people you work with--do not use real names or identifying information.*

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 have found through PsycInfo or Google Scholar, theories you have 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.

As the quarter progresses, your entries should increasingly demonstrate that you are thinking about psychological theory and research and how they relate to your work. *By the third week of the quarter (all journal entries submitted on or later than 10/14)*, you must cite relevant research in all of your journal entries. 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 (maximum score = 10/10). 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, we will evaluate **your weekly journal entries not only for content but also for grammar, spelling, punctuation, writing style, and correct use of APA format sixth edition**. We will return any poorly written journal entry. To receive credit, you will be required to revise and resubmit it.

If you are not 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).

3. **Preliminary outline of your term paper.** By **11:59 pm on Saturday, November 11**, submit a 3- to 5-sentence paragraph describing your paper topic, a preliminary detailed 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 canvas. Include your last name in the title of the submission.

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).

4. **Evaluation by your internship supervisor.** Near the end of the quarter, you will receive an evaluation form from Dr. Lagattuta via canvas. 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: khлага@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
267 Cousteau Place
Davis CA, 95616

The completed form must be *received* by Dr. Lagattuta by **Friday, December 8**. 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 canvas 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 11** to canvas. 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 8**.
- Submit your final paper in MS Word format no later than **11:59 pm on Saturday, December 10** to canvas.

Meeting with Dr. Lagattuta. You are 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 are 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 do not 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 is 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 are 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 process more enjoyable for you. Here are some general suggestions:

* At least 50% 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 are unsure as to whether or not a source is appropriate, contact Dr. Lagattuta.

- Find a topic that directly relates to what you are 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 are passionate about. If you have a strong opinion about some aspect of your work, write about it! You will find the paper-writing process goes much more smoothly if you really believe in the points you are 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 is 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 are not 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; however, 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 are doing. Read the abstracts of journal articles and learn what professionals are saying about your topic. You will 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 are discussing is not 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 is 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 are working with loves chocolate does not mean that all people with schizophrenia are “chocoholics.” Ground your paper 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 Attention Deficit Disorder
- 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 for Children who Have Experienced Trauma
- 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