

PSC 192: Field Work in Psychology (Spring, 2020)

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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 30 hours of supervised internship work during the quarter. This amounts to a weekly average of 3 hours per 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 two or more empirical papers in psychological science. This assignment requires that you identify a psychological research topic or question related to your internship experiences and observations. You will use PsycInfo and Google scholar to locate specific research studies 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 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 (7th 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 information on 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.

3. **Weekly journal entries.** For 7 weeks of the quarter (by Saturday night at 11:59 pm: 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/23, 5/30, 6/6), 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 4/18)*, 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, 7th 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 seventh 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 **tutoring.ucdavis.edu**. Writing specialists and tutors are available 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 7th edition (both in text and in your References).

4. **Topic proposal.** By **11:59 pm on Saturday, May 2**, provide a preliminary title, write a paragraph that describes the specific topic of your research review, include the references for the empirical studies you will review and evaluate. *Attach copies* of your articles. **Take the time to carefully choose articles that go together well and that you can understand—it**

will make writing the paper much easier. This assignment is worth 20 points and is due on **5/2**. Points will be deducted for failure to include all sections or for inappropriate topic and/or articles. If you do not meet this **5/2** deadline, you are still required to turn in a paper topic using this format (title + paragraph + reference + copies of articles), you will just receive fewer points on the assignment.

5. **Evaluation by your internship supervisor.** Near the end of the quarter, Dr. Lagattuta will email your supervisor an online Qualtrics survey. Your supervisor will report the number of hours that you have interned (or will complete by 6/4) as well as evaluate your performance. Dr. Lagattuta will alert you when the email has been sent so that you can inform your supervisor. The survey must be submitted by **Wednesday, June 10**.

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 topic proposal of your term paper in MS Word format by **11:59 pm on Saturday, May 2** to canvas. In-text citations and References must conform to APA format 7th edition.
- Submit your final paper in MS Word format no later than **11:59 pm on Saturday, June 6** to canvas.
- The online evaluation from your supervisor must be completed no later than **Wednesday, June 10**.

Meeting with Dr. Lagattuta. You are welcome to arrange meetings with Dr. Lagattuta during the quarter, 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 Empirical Sources
2	60 hours total (on average, 6 hrs. per week)	8 Pages	2 Empirical Sources + 1 Review Source
3	90 hours total (on average, 9 hrs. per week)	10 Pages	3 Empirical Sources + 1 Review Sources
4	120 hours total (on average, 12 hrs. per week)	12 Pages	4 Empirical Sources + 1 Review Source
5	150 hours total (on average, 15 hrs. per week)	14 Pages	4 Empirical Sources + 2 Review Sources
6	180 hours total (on average, 18 hrs. per week)	16 Pages	4 Empirical Sources + 3 Review Sources

Writing Your Psychology 192 Term Paper

Elements of the Paper:

Title Page: The title page should include the running head, the title of the manuscript, your name, the date, the professor's name, and the course name. The title should clearly and precisely identify the topic of investigation (about 10-12 words). (See APA template on class website for more details or APA manual)

Introduction: Introduce your topic by establishing its significance. Briefly introduce the studies you will be summarizing and evaluating. Make sure to clearly state the main point or central question of your paper.

Body of the paper: The table above shows the minimum number of empirical sources you must compare and contrast as well as the minimum number of review sources you must use for additional support in your research paper. As you can see, the paper requirements vary by the number of units. **Empirical sources** are journal articles that present *original data*. They include sections describing participants, methods, and results. **Review sources** (journal articles, book chapters, books) differ from empirical articles in that they *summarize and evaluate several studies*; they do not present original data.

In addition to reviewing the relevant literature, you should discuss how your internship experiences relate to each of the articles (i.e., how they align with versus diverge from what empirical research has shown). Organize the body of your paper into meaningful topics and

subtopics—you may use headings if you find them helpful. Headings should be centered using uppercase and lowercase letters. **Do not use the title of the article as a heading.**

One suggested organizational strategy would be the following: (1) summarize the first empirical article; (2) evaluate the empirical article; (3) relate the first empirical article to your internship experiences; (4) summarize the second empirical article; (5) evaluate the second empirical article; (6) relate the second empirical article to your internship experiences; (7) repeat these steps for each of your empirical articles; (8) integrate the set of empirical articles (compare and evaluate the methods and findings, talk about points of agreement or disagreement between or among studies, formulate your central conclusions about this area of research, raise unanswered questions that should be addressed in future research).

For students who also must include references to review articles, a good place to include this information would be in the Introduction and Conclusions of your paper. You could also use the review sources in the body of your paper when comparing and contrasting different empirical articles to suggest, for example, that some of the findings from one empirical article do not fit well with the larger literature.

Note: When summarizing articles you need to include only the most significant, important details of the purpose, methods, and findings. Do not exhaustively summarize every detail.

Make sure to describe the methods and research findings in your own words and be extremely wary of plagiarism. Direct quotations should be used only sparingly (0-2 for the entire paper).

Conclusion: The conclusion of your paper should summarize the main points of your paper and discuss areas of future research needed to address problems or resolve remaining issues.

References: Your reference section must include all works cited in your paper. This needs to be written in APA style (See APA template on class website for more details or APA manual).

Purpose of the assignments. 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 have 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 empirical articles).

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 topic proposal is due. 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:

- 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 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.
- 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 research paper. 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