

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY
PSYC 4104EL 02: FOURTH YEAR THESIS: PSYCHOLOGY,
SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY AND BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE 2008-2009

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I. Course Contingencies

A. Calculation of Course Grade: The final grade is proportioned as follows: 70% (the thesis document), 10% (proposal), 10% (oral defence) and 10% (examination/course evaluation by each professor.

B. Loss of Points: Attendance for all proposals and orals is mandatory. Verification of attendance will be determined by class list. If you miss a proposal, 1 pt will be removed from your equivalent grade; if you miss 5 orals or 5 proposals, 5 points will be removed, etc.

C. Thesis: It must be typed. The style must follow A.P.A. format or an acceptable variant. The thesis is due the last day of class, the year 2009. The thesis must be considered acceptable (composition, style and analyses). If it does not meet these criteria, the thesis will be rejected and you will fail the course. Do not assume that the simple submission of pulp will suffice. The final thesis will be read and evaluated by at least two of the course professors and by the thesis specialty advisor. The average (mean) score will constitute that portion (70%) of your grade.

D. Thesis Topics: T-test designs are not acceptable. Any experiment that involves only a single dependent variable (despite multiple I.V.s) is not acceptable. Correlational questionnaire studies are not acceptable unless they have a specific component of empirical or construct validity.

E. Data Analyses: Statistical analyses of the thesis data must be completed by the student. If your presentation or written documentation clearly suggests that you have not executed the analyses and you cannot interpret them, you are likely to fail the course. If you submit preliminary work (second semester) that indicates plagiarism, you will be reported for cheating and risk dismissal from the university.

II. Procedures

A. The Proposal. Each student must present his/her design orally to the class and attending faculty. The content of the proposal must emphasize a limited number of hypotheses, the design, and the type of statistical analyses that will be utilized and the implication of various results that might be obtained. Each student will be allocated 30 min; 15 min. will be allowed for the presentation. During the remaining 15 min. you will answer questions from the audience. In order to facilitate the presentation:

1. We recommend that the student meet with a designated professor at least 7 days before the proposal is given. The purpose of the brief meeting is to insure the general validity of the design/ experiment and to reduce the risk of failure of the proposal. If this meeting does not occur, you may not be allowed to present. If you do not present, you fail the course.

2. Each student will prepare a one or two page outline that will be distributed to each member of the audience. The outline will contain at least your name, the title, the hypotheses, the design, and the types of analyses.

3. Overheads and transparencies are encouraged to help explain your research.

4. If you fail the proposal, there is no makeup. However you must meet with at least two professors (or individuals designated by the course professors) to insure that your design is acceptable. This agreement is required before your thesis is considered by the appropriate ethics committee. If there is no approval, you cannot proceed and you fail the course.

B. Introduction: The first and second chapters for your thesis (Introduction, Methods) are due 23 December, 2008 by 2300 hrs. The two professors will read the chapters and offer comments. They will be distributed before 1 February 2009.

C. Statistical Analyses Section: During January through March, 2009, the class will meet weekly in order to complete data analyses. The student will be required to test hypotheses with data sets that will be supplied. Effectively, all of the major hypotheses and designs that will be involved with the theses will be pursued. The deadline for the complete collection of your data for your thesis is 20 February, 2009. After this time, 5% could be removed weekly from your total grade until the collection is completed. Excuses that involve diffusion of responsibility (e.g., "I'm waiting for an agency to give me the scores") are not acceptable.

D. Oral: Each oral will require 20 to 30 min. Half of the amount of time will be allocated to the presentation. The remaining time will involve answering questions from the audience. The presentation must be professional. Orals begin in the spring (March, April, 2009) and will be held on Thursday and Friday afternoons. Specific times will be determined. If you fail the oral, there is no option to repeat. If you do not attempt the oral or do not complete the oral, you fail the course.