
SENIOR SEMINAR in Spring 2021 (PY4090)

Course Code	PY4090	Professor(s)	Jens Brockmeier
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	PL- 102
Class Schedule	T: 15:20-18:15 in PL-4 T: 15:20-18:15 in RMOTE-00	Office Hours	by appointment
Credits	4	Email	jbrockmeier@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

Course content

The purpose of this class is to challenge advanced psychology students to improve their knowledge about social-scientific research methods in general and their individual skills to independently engage in research activities – activities that lead to the composition of a research thesis on a self-selected topic. The course will encourage them to explore and practice all components of social-scientific research activities, such as identifying, defining, and operationalizing a research topic, empirical or theoretical; critically analyzing research literature, including primary and secondary source articles; gathering or re-assessing data; designing, drafting, and elaborating a research thesis based on arguments that build on scholarly articles and empirical data as evidence. Finally, students will learn to strengthen their ability to effectively discuss and communicate their scholarship.

In conjunction, students will have the opportunity to practice their skills reading and critiquing primary and secondary source articles, to discuss the ins and outs of writing in APA (American Psychological Association) style.

The bulk of the course will consist of working independently on a self-developed theme, individually and in small groups, closely advised and supported by the course instructor.

Course Learning Outcomes

Improve their ability to read, understand and critically evaluate research articles
Develop their research analytic skills

Strengthen their ability to construct convincing arguments using scholarly articles and empirical data as evidence

Develop their ability to communicate their work on various levels, including discussions with other seminar participants and the instructor

Practice all these essential components of social scientific research in order to compose a publishable-ready APA style research paper

Students will apply knowledge and skills acquired through both the core curriculum and their major requirements to a disciplinary or interdisciplinary, cumulative, or project-based experience to express their growth and the totality of their learning while at AUP (CCC LO1)

Students will engage in the self-assessment, reflection and analysis of this process that prepares them for future success and be able to articulate this to future educational and professional interlocutors (CCC LO2)

General Education

Course Outline

Schedule

The schedule is flexible and subject to change.

Weeks 1-5 Introduction, review of research ethics, finding of a topic, design, and outline of the research study, design of time schedule, review of APA Style Manual. Research and writing methods and strategies.

Weeks 6-7 Individual meetings with instructor. Psychological research and its problems (incl. Film + discussion).

Weeks 8-10 Project presentation and discussion in class.

Weeks 9-13 Discussion of / and “work in progress”: problems and solutions. Presentations and discussions in class. Hands-on research and writing methods and strategies.

Important Dates

January 19, 2021:	First class (Introduction)
February (t.b.a.):	3 talks: "Psychological research programs"
February 9:	Break
April 6:	Break
May 4:	Due date final paper
May 4:	Final research presentation

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

AUP's Policies (as stated by the central University Administration)

English Language Proficiency Statement. As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

Attendance Policy. Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend all scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

In all cases of missed course meetings, the responsibility for communication with the professor, and for arranging to make up missed work, rests solely with the student.

Covid-19 temporary amendments. Students studying at The American University of Paris are STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example, when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.

Academic Dishonesty. Please take the time to learn about academic dishonesty and plagiarism. Plagiarism includes handing in work that is not your own and cutting and pasting passages (from the internet, journals, books, etc.) without citing the original source. These are very serious academic offenses and could lead to an "F" in the course, suspension, or expulsion from the university. If plagiarism is detected (among others, by appropriate technologies), the least serious consequence is failing the course. Helpful advice on avoiding plagiarism and related AUP policy can be found at <http://www.ac.aup.edu/~writelab/>.

Grading Policy

Important Dates

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February 9:	Break
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Requirements

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- Proposal (First project idea) Due: Mid-End February
 - Outline Research Study (Draft) Due: Mid-March
 - Art-based Research PP Presentation (10%) April
 - Final PP presentation in class (15%) May 4, 2021
 - Final Research Paper (50%) Due: May 4, 2021
 - Active attendance of all classes, which includes both visual and audio online participation (only visual and audio participation counts as attended) (25%)

Participation

Attendance and active participation are integral to this course. This course is not a typical one. There are no formal tests and assignments.

Instead, you will be working individually (finding and defining your topic, designing your study, searching for literature, gathering data and/or other research material, analyzing data, and writing up your research paper), and presenting and discussing your work in class.

More specifically, you are expected to contribute

- A Proposal (First project idea) – in writing,

that is a one paragraph / max. one-page sketch of a subject you might want to elaborate for the final research paper;

- an Outline of your research study,

that is a 2-3-page summary of the intended research, with a working title;

- an Art-based research presentation,

that is a PowerPoint supported a 5-photograph interpretation of your research study;

- a Final Research Paper.

The length of the Final Paper, or Thesis, is 25 pp. The model is a publishable journal article. In other words, quality is more important than quantity or length. The Final Paper and all other course documents are to be handed in in a printed version and must conform to APA style.

- And a final (oral) Research Presentation (supported by PowerPoint) in class (of 10 min) during the final exam period.

Other
