

**Course Number:** PSY 4200

**Course Title:** Senior Seminar in Psychology

**Course Description:**

Discussion and exploration of current topics in the field of psychology. Specific topics selected for study vary from year to year. An APA formatted research proposal with IRB approval and subsequent presentation is required. Emphasis on allowing students to pursue research in areas of specific interest.

**Prerequisites:** PSY 1700; PSY 1750; PSY 2520; and PSY 3780.

**Credit hours:** 3

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze, interpret and discuss (orally and in writing. the merits and limitations of contemporary topics in the field of psychology.
2. Demonstrate competency of correct APA documentation procedures relevant to research writing.
3. Develop an APA formatted research proposal document on an approved psychological construct, concept or problem with an accompanying proposal idea for original research.

**Indiana Tech**  
*College of Professional Studies*  
**PSY 4200 Senior Seminar**  
**Online Syllabus Course Content**

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor Information found in the Professor Profile tab on the Blackboard site for this course.

**Course Schedule:**

The Course Schedule can be found in the Course Syllabus tab of the Blackboard site for this course.

**Online Course Policies:**

All the online courses taken by students at Indiana Tech are required to follow the policies posted online at <http://online.indianatech.edu/tech-policies/>. Please carefully review the posted policies. If you are unable to abide by the policies listed, please contact the Warrior Information Network (WIN) at 888-832-4742 and request to withdraw from the course.

**Required Texts:**

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

**GRADING EVENTS:**

**Unless otherwise specified, all assignments must be submitted via Blackboard.**

Course Preparation Quiz (1 @ 25 points)

Two peer reviewed research article reviews (1 @ 50 points and 1 @ 150 points = 200 points) Topic Selection (20 points)

Hypothesis Testing (150 points)

Proposal Mini Draft (80 points)

APA formatted research proposal (500 points)

Discussion Board/Participation weeks 1-4 (20 points per week = 80 points)

Discussion Board Proposal Presentation week 5 (40 points)

APA documentation competency exam (80 points)

Course value total is **1175** points

## **Grading Events/Course Requirements:**

### **I. 2 peer reviewed research article reviews (200 points total)**

- a.** Research article review #1
- b.** Research article review #2

You will find additional details about this activity under the Assignments folder under the syllabus tab for Modules One and Two.

### **II. APA formatted research proposal, 10-13 pages (750 points total, including Topic Selection, Hypothesis Testing, Mini Draft)**

APA formatted research proposal (10-13 pages, excluding cover page, abstract, table of contents and reference page)

**a.** Proposal should include:

- i.** Title page **ii.** Abstract **iii.** Table of Contents
- iv.** Introduction (including definition section) (sometimes referred to as Chapter 1)
- v.** Literature review (sometimes referred to as Chapter 2) **vi.** Method (including):
  - 1.** Research hypothesis or research questions
  - 2.** Description of procedures needed to collect data
  - 3.** Description of the research participants
  - 4.** Description of the research measurement (tool, questionnaire) used to collect data
  - 5.** Relevant information about instruments' reliability and validity
  - 6.** Step by step directions on how researcher will conduct the study & collect the data necessary to study the topic being investigated

### **III. Exam (80 points total)**

During week 4, you will be responsible for completing an examination of your knowledge and understanding of the proper use of APA formatting for creating a research proposal. The exam will comprise of multiple choice and true and false questions, including the assigned chapter readings and the supplemental materials available in the course.

You will have two attempts to complete the assignment and your highest score will be factored into computing your final grade for the course. You will need a reliable computer with stable internet access because resetting the exam is limited to certain, documented emergencies and the instructor's discretion.

You will find additional details about this activity under the Module Four Assignments folder within the Module Four tab. Due Module 4.

### **IV. Discussion Board/Participation (Weeks 1 – 4) (4 x 20 points each = 80 points total)**

During each of the first four weeks of the session, your instructor will start a thread on the

discussion board on a topic (s) pertaining to the lectures and assignments being addressed that week. You are required to post at least ONE original response based on your thoughts, attitudes if the board is an opinion-based question or post one original response based on the reading (s), research materials read if the question is more technical in nature.

You are also required to post TWO separate comments to 2 of your peers' original post.

**V. Discussion Board Research Proposal Presentation (Week 5) (40 points total)** During week 5 of the course, you are required to post an overview of your research proposal, including a summary of your Introduction, Literature Review and Methods sections. You are also required to provide constructive feedback to the overview of the proposal posted by two of your peers.

You will find additional details about this activity under the Assignments folder under the syllabus tab.

### **GRADING SCALE**

90.00 – 100%	= A
80.00 – 89.99%	= B
70.00 – 79.99%	= C
60.00 - 69.99%	= D
59.99% or less	= F

### **Late Assignments:**

All assignments and required online activities are due according to the deadline listed in the course schedule. Granting a deadline extension is up to the course instructor's discretion.

### **Incompletes:**

If you are unable to complete the requirements for this course due to extenuating circumstances, an Incomplete grade (I) may be granted if you meet the general guidelines stated below:

General Guidelines for submitting a course incomplete request:

- More than 50% of the course session has elapsed.
- The student has encountered an unexpected situation that is beyond his or her control.
- The student is:
  - In good academic standing – up to date on all of the course assignments and has at least an overall passing grade,

- Able to complete all the remaining coursework within a session (5 weeks for an undergraduate course and 6 weeks for a graduate course) that immediately follows the session the student is currently enrolled, and;
- Able to provide support documentation to substantiate the need for extra time should a session not be sufficient to complete the course requirements.
- If an incomplete is granted, the instructor will set a deadline for all work to be completed. **The deadline cannot go past (1) session.** All incomplete grades are subject to approval by the designated university authority.

### **Course Related Communication:**

Students are REQUIRED to use their Indiana Tech email account for all course related communication. The most direct and effective way to email your course instructor, and classmates, is by using the Send email function from the Blackboard course site. When you use the Send Email function, you automatically receive a carbon copy of the email you sent. In the event you need to substantiate your claim that you emailed your classmate or instructor, you may show that carbon copy to the person(s) who requested it.

Please note that Blackboard only permits you to send email, it does not provide you with the check email function. All of the emails your classmates and instructor send to you will be delivered to your Indiana Tech email account. You are strongly encouraged to check your Indiana Tech email account regularly, preferably several times a week, to minimize the likelihood of miscommunication.

The University policy requires each online course instructor to respond to a student's email within 24 hours. Unless there is an extraneous situation that prevents the instructor from following this rule, you can expect to hear from the instructor within 24 hours. If you don't receive a reply within 24 hours, please do not hesitate to follow up with another email or forward the carbon copy of the email you sent to [OnlineSupport@IndianaTech.edu](mailto:OnlineSupport@IndianaTech.edu) with a note "Please help. It's been 24 hours and I have not heard from my instructor" and the University support staff will act on your behalf to contact your course instructor.

### **Recommended Readings:**

Jackson, S.L. (2009). Research Methods and Statistics: A Critical Thinking Approach. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Leong, F.T.L., & Austin, J.T. (2006). The Psychology Research Handbook: A Guide for Graduate Students and Research Assistants. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, Inc.

Pyrczak, F. & Bruce, R.R. (1992). Writing Empirical Research Reports: A Basic Guide for Students of the Social and Behavioral Sciences. Los Angeles, CA: Pyrczak Publishing.

**Recommended internet sources:**

Purdue OWL Powerpoint Lecture on APA style:

[https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/ppt/20081208070939\\_560.ppt](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/ppt/20081208070939_560.ppt)

APA.org sample paper:

<http://sup.apa.org/style/PM6E-Corrected-Sample-Papers.pdf>