

(Revised Spring 2018)

PREREQUISITES:	PS 3018 Research Methods in Psychology – Level 5 PS 3134 Experimental Psychology – Level 5 Plus and two Level 6 courses in Psychology
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	A comprehensive coverage of the procedure required for the development of a thorough research proposal. Components of this procedure are the following: (a) identification of the research problem; (b) literature review and background to the research problem; (c) objectives of the research project; (d) research design; (e) significance of the research; (f) feasibility of the research; (g) ethics.
RATIONALE:	This course aims at preparing the students to carry out successfully their thesis project. Students will gain theoretical and practical knowledge on the procedure that is required in order to formulate a research hypothesis that is based on a viable and researchable problem. Main part of this process is the detailed and thorough investigation of the relevant literature in order to identify and state clearly the research problem that warrants further investigation. In addition, an acceptable plan of action for undertaking the research should be proposed that has a feasible chance of leading to the successful completion of the research.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Choose and explain a specific research problem2. Synthesize and evaluate the findings of previous research as well as integrate successfully conflicting views in the literature3. Formulate research hypothesis/questions that are clearly linked to the research problem that is explored4. Support the importance of the research project that will be carried out5. Choose and describe a research design that is relevant and acceptable in terms of the research problem that is explored
METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: ➤ Supervision: Over the course of the preparation of the research proposal the students will receive individual tutorial time (supervision sessions) with their supervisor. This is something that is flexible and that will vary depending on the nature of the project. As a guide, they can expect up to 3 hours of supervision time (in the form of individual meetings and online support) during the semester.

	➤ Use of Blackboard site, where the instructor will post relevant materials.		
ASSESSMENT:	Summative: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Research proposal for the dissertation: short literature review, hypothesis, methodology, expected results (2,000 words)</td><td>100%</td></tr> </table> <p>The research proposal assesses learning outcomes 1-5</p>	Research proposal for the dissertation: short literature review, hypothesis, methodology, expected results (2,000 words)	100%
Research proposal for the dissertation: short literature review, hypothesis, methodology, expected results (2,000 words)	100%		
INDICATIVE READING:	REQUIRED READING: American Psychological Association. (2009). <i>Publication manual of the American psychological association</i> . Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 6 th edition. Field, A. (2009) <i>Discovering Statistics using SPSS</i> . 3rd edition. London: Sage Publications. Field, A. & Hole, G. (2003) <i>How to Design and Report Experiments</i> . London: Sage publications. Forshaw, M. (2004) <i>Your Undergraduate Psychology Project: a BPS guide</i> . Oxford: Blackwell. Peter Levin. (2011) <i>Excellent Dissertations</i> . Open University Press. McGraw-Hill Education 2 nd Edition.		
INDICATIVE MATERIAL: (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)	REQUIRED MATERIAL: N/A RECOMMENDED MATERIAL: N/A		
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	Individual project submitted in Word Academic use of English, both oral and written.		
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	Blackboard, MS Office, search engines, SPSS		
WWW RESOURCES:	APA electronic style guide www.docstyles.com/apaquick.htm American Psychological Association www.apa.org British Psychological Society www.bps.org Wadsworth Higher Education Learning www.wadsworth.com The Purdue Online Writing Lab		

	<p>owl.english.purdue.edu</p> <p>Writing Research Reports methods.fullerton.edu/appa.html</p>
INDICATIVE CONTENT:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What to expect 2. Exploring the literature. 3. Choosing a research topic. 4. Reviewing previous research. 5. Defining the research problem/develop hypothesis (-es). 6. Decide on the appropriate methodology. 7. Ethical issues in research 8. Time management & planning