**Thesis**

EdS School Psychology 699R

Winter Semester 2014

**Class Meetings:**

**Professor**: G. E. Kawika Allen, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Please email for appt.

**Textbooks:**

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| **Image** | **Item** | **Vendor** | **Price (new)** | **Price (used)** |
| 217WOdq0HlL._SL75_.jpg | New Edition: Publication Manual [Pub Manual] of the American Psychological (Psych) Association Sixth (6th) Edition Requiredby -APA-6th Edition; Edition 6 (1380593400)ISBN: 9781433805615 | BYU Bookstore | [29.95](https://booklist.byu.edu/item/9781433805615) | [22.50](https://booklist.byu.edu/item/9781433805615) |
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**Selected Readings:**

Heppner, P. P. & Heppner, M. J. (2004). Writing and publishing your thesis, dissertation and

research: A guide for students in the helping professions. Brooks/Cole-Thomson Learning. Belmont, CA.

Specific chapters will be provided by professor.

**Course Description and Objectives**

This is the second in a series of three courses designed to support you through the conception, development, and writing of your theses. The goal is to provide you with support and a forum in which to facilitate the progress of writing your theses. This course will provide didactic instruction as well as discussion and applied writing assignments to achieve the course objectives. Prerequisite is admission to the CPSE graduate program in school psychology.

**Learning Outcomes**

**Master's Thesis**. This course is designed to prepare students in the M.S. program to prepare a professional manuscript (e.g., prospectus, thesis, journal article) for publication based upon students' thesis research.

**Research Project.** Students will demonstrate the ability to work empirically by completing a research project that involves the measurement and interpretation of data.

**Thesis Document Describing Research.** Students will demonstrate advanced critical thinking and writing skills by producing a well-crafted document to describe the rationale, methods, results and implications of their research.

**Defense of Thesis**. Students will learn how to eventually and successfully defend a master's thesis before a faculty committee based on their agreed upon readiness and date of defense by the chair and thesis committee.

**Grading Policy**

**Grading:** “T” grades for CPSE 699R are entered on the student’s transcript until the thesis is successfully defended. After completing the thesis, official grades are entered. The expectation is that all work will be submitted on or before the date it is due. A grade of incomplete (I) may be awarded, but only in extraordinary cases. Insufficient time, poor time management, or course/work overloads are NOT sufficient reason for awarding an incomplete (I).

**Your final grade in the course will be determined as:**

A 93 - 100% C 73 - 76%

A- 90 - 92% C- 70 - 72%

B+ 87 - 89% D+ 67 - 69%

B 83 - 86% D 63 - 66%

B- 80 - 82% D- 60 - 62%

C+ 77 - 79% Fail 00 - 59%

**Late Work**

Late work will not be accepted for any reason.

**Thesis Part 1:**

* The *Title Page, Abstract, Introduction, Literature Review, Purpose of the Study (Rationale), Research Questions, and Hypotheses* sections of the **1st half of your Thesis** is due on **March 7.**

**Thesis Part 2:**

* The *Methods* (Participants, Procedures, Instruments) and *Data Analysis* (your statistical plan of how you will measure, test, observe etc. the variables of the participants in your study) sections of the **2nd half of your Thesis due by April 15**.

**TIP**: Start gathering and reading articles and writing your abstract, introduction, literature review, methods, and data analysis sections **as soon as possible!** I will not accept the 1st or 2nd halves of your research reports late.

**Mock Prospectus Defense**

In keeping with my belief that “doing” is one of the best ways of learning, you will be required to present the work you have done over the semester in a ***mock prospectus defense***. I will simulate as close as possible what the prospectus will be like (perhaps even invite your chair in to watch and ask you questions). You will prepare yourself as if you are going in to defend your thesis proposal. Take this opportunity to present research in front of other professors and students in the department seriously if you are planning on successfully defending your prospectus and ultimately your Thesis.

**Class Assignments**

Writing assignments are due at the beginning of each class. You will be paired with students in the class in which you will exchange your writing assignments with each for positive and constructive feedback on your writing. Your assignment is to bring 1 page of your writing every week to receive feedback. The writing has to be new work you have done during the previous week. You cannot hand in previous work you already received feedback on. This will help you to maintain a strict writing schedule every week, whether it’s the pits or pretty decent writing – nonetheless you are **WRITING!! Be courageous!** Yes, it might be horrendous…so what!! There’s no such thing as a perfect writer or writing – no such thing as a perfect anything for that matter. Just bring in what you have written during the previous week! Just do it!:)

**Attendance Policy**

Class attendance is **strongly encouraged** to take advantage of the time and fine-tuning of your Thesis. If you attend and do the work, you are more likely to have a successful experience with your Thesis journey.

**Academic Integrity**

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. Do your own work. **Plagiarism is taking someone’s written work and/or ideas without proper citations.**

**Points for Class Activities**

Writing Assignments 50 points

1st part of the Thesis 50 points

2nd part of the Thesis 50 points

Mock Prospectus Defense 50 points

**Grading 200 points total**

**Disclaimer**

Information contained in this syllabus may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

From Paul’s syllabus last semester:

“Create a thesis plan for yourself with goals (long and short term). Start with the long term goal of where you want your thesis to be at in *April 2015*. Then work through the intermediate steps it will take you to get there. Below are some common hurdles in the thesis process:

1. thesis topic identified
2. literature review completed
3. thesis committee solidified
4. methods section completed
5. thesis prospectus meeting held\*
6. IRB approval obtained
7. school district approval obtained
8. data collection completed
9. data analysis completed
10. results section completed
11. discussion section completed
12. final thesis defense meeting held
13. deans' office approval

Be sure to: estimate time requirements (e.g., 3 months, 6 months) , list subgoals you will need to meet to achieve your long term goals, and build in some reinforcement for yourself along the way (movies, dinners out, etc.).

If you have any questions as you work on completing this assignment, feel free to ask me, your advisor, or a peer. Good luck!”

**I encourage you to stick to this Thesis schedule plan!**