

SS5799: CAPSTONE PROJECT IN PSYCHOLOGY

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Capstone Project in Psychology

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

5799

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

12 credits in the programme

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to enable students to demonstrate their ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. It is designed to foster independent thinking and to encourage academic debate on significant issues and principles of

psychological research via group supervision. Students will work in groups of 3-4 students to work on a topic of their choice (the exact number of students per group will be decided by the course leader upon knowing the actual enrolment for this course).

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	design and carry out psychological research under supervision;	20	x	x	x
2	integrate knowledge of psychological theories and research skills into the planning, design and implementation of their research;	40	x	x	x
3	communicate effectively findings of psychological research in a scientific manner and	20	x	x	
4	work effectively in a team.	20	x		

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Supervision	Students learn to integrate knowledge in psychological theories and research to formulate their own research questions/hypotheses via group supervision sessions.	1, 2, 3	

2	Consultation sessions	Consultations on methodological, statistical and other technical issues will be provided by instructors/tutors. These sessions are expected to provide students with the guidance that enable them to process, analyze and interpret findings of their research in the most effective and accurate manner	1, 2, 4	
3	Research seminars	Two research seminars will be organized for all FYP students in each regular semester	2, 3	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Research Report	1, 2, 3	80	-	Yes
2	Peer Review	4	20	Also used to identify free riders	No
3	Reflective Journal (500-800 words)	4	0	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Additional Information for ATs

Permissible AI usage for the Dissertation is strictly limited to: (1) fine-tuning research questions, (2) drafting/refining an outline to organize thoughts, (3) finding information on the topic, and (4) checking grammar and style. Crucially, all research directions and hypotheses must be the student's original work; data interpretation and the subsequent discussion must reflect the student's own intellectual effort. Students must adhere to the APA guidelines for disclosing AI assistance. Furthermore, students are required to retain all interaction logs, including prompts and chat histories, and must provide this evidence upon request to verify that the technology was used within these defined parameters.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Research report peer review, reflective journal (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Effective communication of the findings.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Strong evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Good evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Fair evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Marginal

(D) Limited evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Limited evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Failure

(F) Insufficient evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Insufficient evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Assessment Task

Research report peer review, reflective journal (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Effective communication of the findings.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Strong evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Good

(B+, B) Good evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Good evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair to limited evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Fair to limited evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Failure

(F) Insufficient evidence for the ability to develop, plan and execute psychological research. Insufficient evidence for effective communication of the findings.

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

There is no formal syllabus but the procedure will involve:

- Determination of topic areas for research.
- Reading assignment, development and preparation of a research proposal on a topic in line with the research interest of a supervisor.
- Data gathering and analysis.
- Preparation and presentation of the research report.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	NIL

Additional Readings

	Title
1	American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000 .
2	Baldwin, S. A. (2018). Writing your psychology research paper. American Psychological Association.
3	Christensen, L. B. (2004). Experimental methodology (9th ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.
4	Cohen, B. H. (2001). Explaining psychological statistics (2nd ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons.
5	Fallon, M. (2016). Writing up quantitative research in the social and behavioral sciences. Brill Sense.
6	Gorvine B. J., Rosengren, K. S., Stein, L., & Biolsi K. (2017). Research Methods: From theory to practice. Oxford University Press.
7	Rosenthal, R., & Rosnow R. L. (2008). Essentials of behavioral research: Methods and data analysis (3rd ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.
8	Scott, J. M., Scott, G. M., & Garrison, S. M. (2018). The Psychology Student Writer's Manual and Reader's Guide (Vol. 5). Rowman & Littlefield.