

Neurosc/Psy **NSBV BC3593 & 3594/ Psych BC3591 & 3592**
Instructor: **Peter Balsam**
Office: **415 H Milbank Hall**
Telephone: **854- 5312**
e-mail: **Balsam@columbia.edu**

Overview. The purpose of the seminar is to help you design, implement, write-up and present your year-long research project. During the fall semester you will do a literature review, design your project and begin data collection. In the early spring, you will complete the data collection and use the rest of the semester to analyze data and write your thesis. The course culminates with research presentations at the end of classes in the spring.

Grading. The course grade is based on both an evaluation of your research work and on your performance in the seminar. Seminar attendance is mandatory.

The Research Paper. The thesis is to be written in the standard format for a research paper submitted to a journal. You will need to use a format appropriate for the specific field of your work. As long as your mentor approves the format it will be acceptable as a thesis.

The only difference between writing the thesis and writing a paper to submit to a journal is that the thesis is written with more details. In the thesis, you need to provide enough background so that a non-specialist in your field can understand why the work is important, what you did, and what you found. In your literature review you should place your thesis in a broad intellectual context and return to the broader context in your discussion section. The method section must be written in your own words and not taken from previously published work

Mentor: Your mentor is expected to attend the seminar once each semester. In the fall semester, your mentor will attend the seminar when you present the design of your experiment. In the spring, your mentors will attend the final presentations.

Final Presentation: Wednesday May 2, 2007

Senior Thesis, 2005-2006

Fall Semester, 2005		Spring Semester, 2005	
September 5	Introduction to the Course	January 16	Welcome Back Class
September 12	Discuss projects + experimental design; present seminal papers	January 23	Review intro and method
September 19	Discuss projects + experimental design; present seminal papers	January 30	Parametric Statistics/ SPSS
September 26	Discuss projects + experimental design; present seminal papers	February 6	Non-parametric Statistics/ SPSS
October 3	Experimental design and control/ Endnote	February 13	Discuss data collection and analysis
October 10 & 24	Intro Outlines presented in class	February 20	Data Analysis –individual conferences
October 17	No Class: Soc Neurosc Meeting	February 27	Data Analysis –individual conferences
		March 6	Data Analysis –individual conferences
October 31	What makes for a good presentation?	March 13	No Class – Spring Break
November 7	No Class - Academic Holiday	March 20	How to Present results
November 14	Practice Presentation +individual conferences	March 27	Specific analysis issues
November 21	Practice Presentation + individual conferences	April 3	Results Section of Paper is Due Draft result presentation (in class)
November 28	Present Intro & Methods (mentor present)	April 10	Practice Presentation +individual conferences
December 5	Present Intro & Methods (mentor present)	April 17	Practice Presentation +individual conferences
December 12	No class but Abstract, Corrected Intro, Methods, and Corrected References Due	April 24	Practice Presentation/ Final Paper Due
		May 1	Final Practice Presentation
		May 2	Final Presentations (mentor present)