

Course description Thesis

Aim of the course

The aim of the course:

The thesis is a *portfolio* which consists of the four research papers from each of the fields of psychology (Developmental Psychology, Cognitive/Affective Psychology, Personality Psychology, and Social Psychology). The purpose of the research papers is for the student to show the way they are able to apply their theoretical knowledge and methodological skills, which they have acquired in the relevant field of psychology for research on a scientific topic.

Learning outcome, competences

knowledge:

- Students will be familiar with the most current scientific literature related to the studied psychological topic, phenomenon
- Students will have knowledge about different research methodologies, they will be familiar with methods' applicability, with their advantages and limitations.

attitude:

- Students will show sensibility and curiosity to scientific studying of a psychological phenomenon
- Students will be able to think critically about scientific literature, research methods and their own results related to the topic.

skills:

- Students will be able to integrate the most relevant scientific literature related to the studied topic
- Students will be able to form research questions, hypothesis
- Students will be able to study a psychological phenomenon using adequate methods and statistical analysis methods as well
- Students will be able to interpret the results on the base of the most current literature
- Student will be able to evaluate objectively their own work.

Content of the course

Topic of the course

- Aspects of the definition of a research topic: relevancies and background of a topic, possibilities of studying of a scientific questions, possible circumstances of a research, overview of research methods
- Background of the studied phenomenon: looking for relevant sources, articles; aspects of the selection of the most relevant literature. Correct interpretation of the literature.
- Definition of the research questions; aspects related to the content, style of questions and hypothesis
- Literature analysis related to the research methods; aspects of selection and application of different methods
- Definition of a sample, different possibilities of data collection
- Correct elaboration of data and correct and creative, but professional interpretation of results on the base of the most relevant literature
- Aspects of writing discussion; support for making self-reflection related to the own research

- Aspects of presentation of research and results.

Learning activities, learning methods

individual research, consultation

Evaluation of outcomes

Learning requirements, mode of evaluation, criteria of evaluation:

requirements

- submission of the thesis

mode of evaluation: mark

criteria of evaluation:

- the chosen topic and a justification of the paper's goal;
- the presentation of the referenced literature, the level of analysis-interpretation-application;
- the justification and novelty of the examined question, the accurate statement of the hypothesis (hypotheses);
- the choice of relevant research method(s) and statistical procedure(s) for verifying the hypothesis, and a clear presentation of their application;
- the presentation of the results in a transparent and justified from statistical methodological and professional point of view way;
- the placing of one's own results within the research topic and reflection on the strengths and weaknesses of the study.

Reading list

Compulsory reading list

- The most relevant articles, sources related to the topic of thesis.
- Denzin, N., K.; Lincoln, Y., S. (Eds.) (2011). *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Field, A. (2009): *Discovering Statistics Using SPSS*. Third Edition. London: Sage.
- Flick, U., (ed.) (2014). *The SAGE handbook of qualitative data analysis*. Los Angeles: Sage.
- Kaplan, D. (ed.) (2004). *The SAGE handbook of quantitative methodology for the social sciences*. London: Sage.
- Millsap, R.E.; Maydeu-Olivares, A. (Eds.) (2009). *The SAGE handbook of quantitative methods in psychology*. London: Sage.

Recommended reading list

1. Altermatt, B. (2008). The Scientific Literature in Psychology. URL: http://psych.hanover.edu/classes/ResearchMethods/Readings/The_scientific_literature.pdf
2. American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. (Chapter 1, 2, 7, 8.)
3. Biggerstaff, D. (2012). Qualitative research methods in psychology. In G. Rossi (ed.) *Psychology – Selected Papers* (pp. 175-206). Rijeka: InTech. URL: <http://cdn.intechopen.com/pdfs-wm/36452.pdf>
4. Cohen-Swerdlik (2009). *Psychological Testing and Assessment: An Introduction to Tests and Measurement (7th Ed.)*. The McGraw-Hill Companies. (Chapter 1, 2, 5, 6)

5. Gosling, S. D., Vazire, S., Srivastava, S., & John, O. P. (2004). Should We Trust Web-Based Studies? A Comparative Analysis of Six Preconceptions about Internet Questionnaires. *American Psychologist*, 59 (2), 93-104.
6. Konradt, U., Syperek, S., & Hertel, G. (2011). Testing on the Internet: Faking in a Web-Based Self-Administered Personality Measure. *Journal of Business and Media Psychology*, 2(1), 1-10.
7. McBride, D. M. (2012). *The Process of Research in Psychology*. Thousand Oaks, Ca: Sage Publications, Inc. (Chapter 1. **Psychological Research**. The Whys and Hows of the Scientific Method.)
8. McGuire, W. J. (1997). Creative hypothesis generating in psychology: Some useful Heuristics. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 48, 1-30. URL: http://sing.stanford.edu/cs303-sp11/papers/mcguire_hypothesis_gen.pdf
9. Overview of Psychology Research Methods. URL: <http://my.fit.edu/~gabrenya/IntroMethods/eBook/methods.pdf>
10. Riva, G., Teruzzi, T., & Anolli, L. (2003). The Use of the Internet in Psychological Research: Comparison of Online and Offline Questionnaires. *Cyber Psychology & Behavior*, 6(1), 73-80.
11. Sukamolson, S. (2007). Fundamentals of quantitative research. Bangkok, Thailand: EJTR. URL: <http://www.culi.chula.ac.th/Research/e-Journal/bod/Suphat%20Sukamolson.pdf>
12. Urbina, S. (2004). *Essentials of psychological testing*. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (Chapter 1, 4, 5, 7.)