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Psych 707—Masters Independent Research Syllabus

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Course Description:

Students must first apply to the PRIDE internship program by the specified date. Once selected to the internship program, students will register for the course under either Dr. Starks or Dr. Rendina, depending on their research interests. Intern program staff will work with students during the application and enrollment process to match them with the faculty member who is best fitted to their intended research project.

Examples of current and past projects conducted by Departmental Honors students working with Dr. Dr. Starks include: *stigma and male sex workers, domestic violence among gays and lesbians, open and closed relationships among gay men, sexual risk taking among transgender female drug users*. Please review the listing of PRIDE's research on our website, www.hunter.cuny.edu/PRIDE, to decide what data you would be interested in using for your thesis.

Requirements:

All students must have completed the online course in the protection of Human Subjects (www.citiprogram.org) before beginning the intern experience. Students who previously completed this online training for other courses simply must provide PRIDE with a copy of their completion certificate.

Grading:

Grades for Psych 707/707.2 will be based on: 20% each for Part A and Part B; and 60% for Part C. Completing your Research Hours and Thesis are NOT sufficient for a grade of A for the course. You will also be graded on the quality of your work and attendance.

A. Attendance and Hours (20% of your final grade)

- Students are required to work 112 hours (8 hours a week for 14 weeks, breaks not included, shift minimum length 3 hours) at PRIDE for the course of the semester. Students will set their schedules with the Intern Coordinator. Students will be given an INCOMPLETE if the required hours are not completed by the last day of classes. You will, in most cases, be assigned to work on the project for which you will be using data. However, if you are using data from a completed study, you will be assigned to a different project. The purpose of these lab hours is to understand and be involved in the research process since you will not be collecting your own research data. Students will arrange their work schedules with the Thesis Coordinator. Hours must be completed before the Thesis Defense.

- Conduct that is in conflict with the stated policies and procedures (e.g., excessive breaks, disturbing others, improper use of cell phones, doing personal work on PRIDE time, etc.) as outlined in the PRIDE Policy and Procedure Manual, as well as lack of progress in accomplishing tasks, will negatively impact your final grade.
- In line with PRIDE policies and procedures, non-adherence to expectations regarding tardiness and attendance will negatively impact your grade. Students who are excessively late or who do not show up for their shifts without letting their appropriate supervisors know will have their final grade significantly impacted.
- There will be several mandatory trainings (held once a month in the evenings), including your Orientation. Each of them will be relevant to research, professional skills and/or the area of HIV.
- All students will be given a copy of the PRIDE's Policy and Procedure Manual before their first scheduled day of interning and must return to the Intern Coordinator the signed form on the last page stating that they have read and agreed to these policies.
- The internship experience is professional development. Students are expected to approach the internship as such. Therefore students' conduct is part of their evaluation for this part of their grade, which will be determined through input from the Intern Coordinator and other PRIDE staff with whom you work.

B. Quality of Work (20% of your final grade)

• Throughout the semester, the student will receive project-related tasks from PRIDE staff. Students will be expected to be available for task assignments from any staff member (e.g. Project Coordinators, Research Assistants, etc.), and perform their duties ably and thoughtfully. At the end of the semester, PRIDE staff will send the intern coordinator evaluations for each student, based on their experiences working with said student, as well as general observations regarding their quality of work performed. Final grades will be based on these evaluations, as well as experiences that the student's mentor, task supervisor, and intern coordinator have had with the student.

C. MA Thesis (60% of your final grade)

Students will meet with the PRIDE Research Scientist of the study whose data will be used for the thesis. This includes project conceptualization, feedback on rough drafts, etc. Data from any project may not be taken out of the PRIDE office.

- Students will meet with a PRIDE researcher for data analyses; in some cases students will be conducting data analyses on their own. Regardless, meetings with the researcher you are working with are not included in your research "lab" hours.
- Students are advised to submit the thesis in sections for review to assist in developing the best possible paper (e.g. Introduction submitted for review, followed by methods, results and discussion).
- Once all sections are complete, the paper will then be submitted to Dr. Rendina or Dr. Starks for grading.
- Final product should be agreed upon by your research mentor, but typically may range from 15-20 pages; APA format should be strictly followed.
- **Students are expected to turn in their paper by the LAST DAY OF CLASSES for the semester. Failure to do so will result in loss of 50% of your final grade, at the discretion of your research mentor. Submit your final paper to Dr. Starks, or Dr. Rendina by email.**