

# Instructor/TA Info

## Instructor Information

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Or By Appointment

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## Assignments

### Assignment Descriptions

#### Getting to know your advisor's research

Sep  
16

Due: Monday, Sep 16 at 1:00 pm

For this first assignment, I want you to get to know your faculty advisor's areas of research better by reviewing research they have published. I would like you to do three things related to this activity:

- 1) schedule a time and meet individually with your advisor,
- 2) ask that they provide you a list of recent publications,
- 3) conduct a Google Scholar, ERIC, and/or PsycINFO search using their name.

Then prepare a 1-2 page double-spaced write-up addressing what you have learned about their research areas. Include topics related to their research that you would be interested in completing your thesis on.

#### Thesis work schedule and contract

Sep  
23

Due: Monday, Sep 23 at 1:00 pm

BEHAVIORAL CONTRACT example.docx [Download \(plugins/Upload/fileDownload.php?fileId=d68006f1-JIXG-Lgwf-1unU-h4e092d35fbf&pubhash=J\\_nsjRc6WdHUPV76Qleol7hUAuuUOsyI4XAwJbSoJzUIbPT\\_lqODZGzAiRRu\\_c6izQvU9HMOjnXHk\\_x\\_gR1vw==\)](#)

For this next assignment, I would first like you to create a thesis work schedule for this semester: 6-8 hours per week that you will block off to work on your thesis (finding written sources, summarizing what you are reading, writing sentences and paragraphs for your literature review, etc.). Include *where* you will do this work (library, home, other).

Second, create a thesis contract that lists your work schedule and specific tasks you will be working on along with consequences.

Include how you will be *reinforced* for meeting your contract goals. Review it with your faculty advisor and a significant other and both of you sign it (see example BEHAVIORAL CONTRACT.docx above). Then use this schedule and contract to help meet your thesis goals this semester.

#### Summarizing research articles

Sep  
30

Due: Monday, Sep 30 at 1:00 pm

Identify a research study related to a thesis topic in which you are potentially interested. Read and review the article and prepare a 1-2 page double-spaced, 12-point font, summary focusing on the following. Be prepared to discuss your summary at our next class period.

- APA reference info for the article
- What was the purpose of the study?
- Why was this study important (hint usually in the lit review section)?
- What questions were the researchers trying to answer?
- What methodology was used? (study design, subjects & setting, measures, etc.)
- What were the findings of this study?
- What were some limitations of this study?
- What were future areas for research noted?
- How does this study fit with the thesis topic in which you are potentially interested?
- Anything else you would like to comment on regarding this article.

See Sample article summary.docx [Download \(plugins/Upload/fileDownload.php?fileId=04c5bfbc-jow9-cqR0-RLOE-3Q5aa929d757&pubhash=uXTp7AAxEJ8X5teYB1MMAqbpEytmLXNeLBFyk7XTuEKIN7b22xbsvdOdNI\\_FvDXWW80ny2GodZYu9hc4PO6aNw==\)](#)

#### Thesis timeline

Oct

07

Due: Monday, Oct 07 at 1:00 pm

Create a thesis timeline for yourself with goals (long and short term). Start with the long-term goal of where you want your thesis to be in *April 2020*. 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
14. thesis article submitted to a journal

Be sure to estimate time requirements (e.g., three months, six months), list sub-goals 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.). See the sample [Sample-Thesis Plan and Time Line.docx](#) [Download \(plugins/Upload/fileDownload.php?fileId=4bbb6583-MdJR-TEPt-l8HR-Qc81c055d3f6&pubhash=Zxzb88qndmueE9rtXxEBqnvqpwOVOfmqKZIVLN8r2omLzVrD7QKF7ZkiB1ByJ5LWLY2mkkpuoNxlqjSCRDMYA==\)](#) The following website also has an interactive timeline you can explore: <http://www.statisticssolutions.com/InteractiveDissertationTimelineprot.htm>  
If you have any questions as you work on completing this assignment, feel free to ask your advisor or me.

### Article coding sheet

Oct

14

Due: Monday, Oct 14 at 1:00 pm

For this assignment, create a coding sheet to try out as you read and review journal articles for your literature review. There is a sample coding sheet on page 108 of our text, but make yours specific to the information you want to glean from the studies you are reading (some of your peers may already be using coding sheets – feel free to find out what they are using). Then choose one empirical article you have found and use your coding sheet to record pertinent information from it. See [sample Coding sheet example.docx](#) [Download \(plugins/Upload/fileDownload.php?fileId=97d26a9d-cR1A-T2Xu-AHgs-Zp85e1c31bca&pubhash=KJLkGkFmHJOI5DpwDEzmV3PQxQQ4zahq1VBDoWUouV65k2r5hwKdyXBs4PdljShWWfp5gRMavYE7CycjshgPg==\)](#) Be prepared to discuss this completed coding sheet next week in class.

### Review and write-up of a completed student thesis or dissertation

Oct

14

Due: Monday, Oct 14 at 1:00 pm

You are required to review a completed thesis or dissertation and write-up a 2-page summary (double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font) of your impressions of the thesis, highlighting strengths and weaknesses you noticed as well as what you learned from reviewing it. You will also present a summary of this in class.

### Ethics training

Oct

21

Due: Monday, Oct 21 at 1:00 pm

For this assignment, I would like you to complete the ethics training required by the Brigham Young University Institutional Review Board (IRB). All researchers using human subjects are required to complete the training by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). It is the gold standard for IRB researcher training. Once the training has been completed the certification lasts for 5 years. Register/login at <https://orca.byu.edu/IRB/irbtutorial.php> Allow 2 to 3 hours to complete the training – take your time to learn as much as you can from this experience. A certificate of completion will be issued at the end of the training. Please submit a copy of the certificate upon completion of this assignment by the beginning of class next week. You should keep an electronic copy for your records, as you will need it again when you submit your IRB thesis proposal.

If you have already completed this BYU ethics training in the past, write out the three specific research question(s) you are planning to address in your proposed thesis. Next, develop carefully worded hypotheses (see Exhibit 4.1 p. 73 from our text) for your proposed thesis study.

### Literature review outline

Oct  
28

Due: Monday, Oct 28 at 1:00 pm

For this next assignment, I would like you to complete a 1-2 page double-spaced outline addressing the following. I realize that you may still be trying to figure out the answers to some of these questions - try your best.

- Thesis chair and topic:
- Major headings/sections of your literature review: Use outline format and the funnel shape as illustrated in Exhibit 6.3 on p.111 of our text.
- Potential research questions/hypotheses:

### Beginning to think about methods

Nov  
04

Due: Monday, Nov 04 at 1:00 pm

For this assignment I would like you to address some aspects of your thesis methods section:

- What type of research design might you use?
- Who might the participants be?
- What may be the setting for your study?
- What independent variables might you use?
- What dependent variables or measures might you use?

Provide your best guess (at this point) as to what these sections might look like, realizing they will likely change as your writing and thinking progress. Feel free to talk with your advisor and peers as you sketch this out. Be prepared to hand in and discuss these at the start of class next week.

### Adding to your lit review outline

Nov  
11

Due: Monday, Nov 11 at 1:00 pm

By now you have identified a probable thesis advisor, thesis topic, completed a literature review outline, are thinking about methods, and are reading/reviewing related articles. For this assignment begin putting some “meat” on the literature review outline you created, by adding sentences to it. The best way to do this is to create empirically supporting sentences. For example, if you put something like “Onset of major mental illness often occurs in childhood” you could add (Kessler, R.C., Beglund, P., Demler, O., Jin, R., & Walters, E. E., 2005) after this statement. If you can’t find empirical sources, write down sentences you hope to be able to support later with the empirical literature. Come to class next week prepared to review your enhanced outline.

### Adding to your lit review

Nov  
18

Due: Monday, Nov 18 at 1:00 pm

For this assignment, I would like to you further develop your literature review by adding at least 2 new pages of content between now and next week. This new content could be direct quotes from appropriate sources or, better yet, paraphrasing content in your words with proper referencing. Focus also on ensuring there is logic to the flow of your writing; that the headings make sense and that your writing/outline follows the funnel shape we have discussed in class (see Chapter 6 for a review). The idea behind this assignment is to move your writing forward.

### Adding more to your lit review

Nov  
25

Due: Monday, Nov 25 at 1:00 pm

For this assignment, I would like to you further develop your literature review/outline by adding at least two new pages of content between now and next week. This new content could be direct quotes from appropriate sources or, better yet, paraphrasing content in your words with appropriate referencing. Focus also on ensuring there is logic to the flow of your writing; that the headings make sense and that your writing/outline follows the funnel shape we have discussed in class (see Chapter 6 for a review). The idea behind this assignment is to move your writing further forward.

### Adding still more to your lit review

Dec  
02

Due: Monday, Dec 02 at 1:00 pm

I would like you to submit an updated version of your thesis writing for this semester. At a minimum, add in two new pages of content to the writing you submitted last week. Even better if you can polish your writing and submit a more complete draft.

## Final proposal lit review draft

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Dec  
09

Due: Monday, Dec 09 at 1:00 pm

For this final submission, please add at least two new pages of written content to create your best draft for the semester. Please also use a thesis template (e.g., title page, reference pages, etc.) and APA format in your submission. The goal is to move further forward on your thesis proposal. Please let me know if you have questions.

### Attend and write-up of a student thesis or dissertation meeting

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Dec  
09

Due: Monday, Dec 09 at 1:00 pm

You are required to attend one graduate student defense or proposal meeting during the semester and write-up a 2-page summary (double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font) of your impressions of the meeting, highlighting strengths and weaknesses you noticed as well as, what you learned by attending. You will also present a summary of this in class.

### End of semester student rating

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Dec  
09

Due: Monday, Dec 09 at 1:00 pm

We are now entering the final weeks of class. I hope you have found your experience this semester to be helpful in getting you started on thinking, reading, and writing about your thesis topic. For this last assignment (extra credit) I would like you to complete the online student rating of your learning experience available at the following website: <http://studentratings.byu.edu/> (<http://studentratings.byu.edu/>) I value and carefully review these ratings to learn how to improve my teaching. I look forward to receiving your anonymous feedback and will give you extra credit for completing this by December 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

### Chapter Discussion

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Dec  
09

Due: Monday, Dec 09 at 3:00 pm

You will each lead out on one chapter discussion during the semester lasting 30-40 minutes. I can assist you as you plan and carry out this assignment. Please include a 2-5 minute spiritual thought prior to the discussion.

### Brainstorming Session

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Dec  
09

Due: Monday, Dec 09 at 3:00 pm

Each week students will be given the opportunity to present their thesis ideas in a class brainstorming session. The purpose of these sessions is to help give you ideas on areas of your project where you may be stuck or struggling, as well as to help us all learn more about your particular thesis topic.

### Final Exam

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Dec  
17

Due: Tuesday, Dec 17 at 2:30 pm

The Final Exam will cover the chapter readings and class discussions. More information about the exam will be provided in class.

## University Policies

### Honor Code

In keeping with the principles of the BYU Honor Code, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. Academic honesty means, most fundamentally, that any work you present as your own must in fact be your own work and not that of another. Violations of this principle may result in a failing grade in the course and additional disciplinary action by the university. Students are also expected to adhere to the Dress and Grooming Standards. Adherence demonstrates respect for yourself and others and ensures an effective learning and working environment. It is the university's expectation, and every instructor's expectation in class, that each student will abide by all Honor Code standards. Please call the Honor Code Office at 422-2847 if you have questions about those standards.

### Preventing Sexual Misconduct

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Brigham Young University prohibits unlawful sex discrimination against any participant in its education programs or activities. The university also prohibits sexual harassment-including sexual violence-committed by or against students, university employees, and visitors to campus. As outlined in university policy, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are considered forms of "Sexual Misconduct" prohibited

by the university.

University policy requires all university employees in a teaching, managerial, or supervisory role to report all incidents of Sexual Misconduct that come to their attention in any way, including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Incidents of Sexual Misconduct should be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at [t9coordinator@byu.edu](mailto:t9coordinator@byu.edu) or (801) 422-8692. Reports may also be submitted through EthicsPoint at <https://titleix.byu.edu/report> (<https://titleix.byu.edu/report>) or 1-888-238-1062 (24-hours a day).

BYU offers confidential resources for those affected by Sexual Misconduct, including the university's Victim Advocate, as well as a number of non-confidential resources and services that may be helpful. Additional information about Title IX, the university's Sexual Misconduct Policy, reporting requirements, and resources can be found at <http://titleix.byu.edu> (<http://titleix.byu.edu>) or by contacting the university's Title IX Coordinator.

### **Student Disability**

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (UAC), 2170 WSC or 422-2767. Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified, documented disabilities. The UAC can also assess students for learning, attention, and emotional concerns. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the UAC. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures by contacting the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-285 ASB.

### **Academic Honesty**

The first injunction of the Honor Code is the call to "be honest." Students come to the university not only to improve their minds, gain knowledge, and develop skills that will assist them in their life's work, but also to build character. "President David O. McKay taught that character is the highest aim of education" (The Aims of a BYU Education, p.6). It is the purpose of the BYU Academic Honesty Policy to assist in fulfilling that aim. BYU students should seek to be totally honest in their dealings with others. They should complete their own work and be evaluated based upon that work. They should avoid academic dishonesty and misconduct in all its forms, including but not limited to plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, cheating, and other academic misconduct.

### **Devotional Attendance**

Brigham Young University's devotional and forum assemblies are an important part of your BYU experience. President Cecil O. Samuelson said, "We have special and enlightening series of devotional and forum assemblies...that will complement, supplement, and enrich what will also be a very productive period in your classrooms, laboratories, and libraries. We look forward to being with you each Tuesday...and hope that you will regularly attend and bring your friends and associates with you...A large part of what constitutes the unique 'BYU experience' is found in these gatherings where the Spirit has been invited and where we have the opportunity to discuss and consider things of ultimate worth and importance that are not afforded to the academic community on almost any other campus" (from the address "The Legacy of Learning", 30 August, 2005). Your attendance at each forum and devotional is strongly encouraged.

### **Mental Health Concerns**

Mental health concerns and stressful life events can affect students' academic performance and quality of life. BYU Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS, 1500 WSC, 801-422-3035, [caps.byu.edu](http://caps.byu.edu)) provides individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as stress management services. These services are confidential and are provided by the university at no cost for full-time students. For general information please visit <https://caps.byu.edu> (<https://caps.byu.edu>); for more immediate concerns please visit <http://help.byu.edu> (<http://help.byu.edu>).

### **Plagiarism**

Intentional plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft that violates widely recognized principles of academic integrity as well as the Honor Code. Such plagiarism may subject the student to appropriate disciplinary action administered through the university Honor Code Office, in addition to academic sanctions that may be applied by an instructor. Inadvertent plagiarism, which may not be a violation of the Honor Code, is nevertheless a form of intellectual carelessness that is unacceptable in the academic community. Plagiarism of any kind is completely contrary to the established practices of higher education where all members of the university are expected to acknowledge the original intellectual work of others that is included in their own work. In some cases, plagiarism may also involve violations of copyright law. Intentional Plagiarism-Intentional plagiarism is the deliberate act of representing the words, ideas, or data of another as one's own without providing proper attribution to the author through quotation, reference, or footnote. Inadvertent Plagiarism-Inadvertent plagiarism involves the inappropriate, but non-deliberate, use of another's words, ideas, or data without proper attribution. Inadvertent plagiarism usually results from an ignorant failure to follow established rules for documenting sources or from simply not being sufficiently careful in research and writing. Although not a violation of the Honor Code, inadvertent plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct for which an instructor can impose appropriate academic sanctions. Students who are in doubt as to whether they are providing proper attribution have the responsibility to consult with their instructor and obtain guidance. Examples of plagiarism include: Direct Plagiarism-The verbatim copying of an original source without acknowledging the source. Paraphrased Plagiarism-The paraphrasing, without acknowledgement, of ideas from another that the reader might mistake for the author's own. Plagiarism Mosaic-The borrowing of words, ideas, or data from an original source and blending this original material with one's own without acknowledging the source. Insufficient Acknowledgement-The partial or incomplete attribution of words, ideas, or data from an original source. Plagiarism may occur with respect to unpublished as well as published material. Copying another student's work and submitting it as one's own individual work without proper attribution is a serious form of plagiarism.

### **Respectful Environment**

"Sadly, from time to time, we do hear reports of those who are at best insensitive and at worst insulting in their comments to and about others... We hear derogatory and sometimes even defamatory comments about those with different political, athletic, or ethnic views or experiences. Such behavior is completely out of place at BYU, and I enlist the aid of all to monitor carefully and, if necessary, correct any such that might occur here, however inadvertent or unintentional. "I worry particularly about demeaning comments made about the career or major choices of women or men either directly or about members of the BYU community generally. We must remember that personal agency is a fundamental principle and that none of us has the right or option to criticize the lawful choices of another." President Cecil O. Samuelson, Annual University Conference, August 24, 2010 "Occasionally, we ... hear reports that our female faculty feel disrespected, especially by students, for choosing to work at BYU, even though each one has been approved by the BYU Board of Trustees. Brothers and sisters, these things ought not to be. Not here. Not at a university that shares a constitution with the School of the Prophets." Vice President John S. Tanner, Annual University Conference, August 24, 2010

## Schedule

Date	Chapter Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1		
M Sep 09 Monday	Getting to know each other - Course overview - Review of Syllabus	
Week 2		
M Sep 16 Monday	What are Theses?: D & T Chapter 1 - Misty Starting out: D & T Chapter 2 - Emily	<b>Getting to know your advisor's research</b>
Week 3		
M Sep 23 Monday	Literature searching with Emily Darowski	<b>Thesis work schedule and contract</b>
Week 4		
M Sep 30 Monday	Time & trouble management: D & T Chapter 3 - Paul	<b>Summarizing research articles</b>
Week 5		
M Oct 07 Monday	Finding topics & collaborator: D & T Chapter 4 - Julia	<b>Thesis timeline</b>
Week 6		
M Oct 14 Monday	The proposal: D & T Chapter 5 - Paul	<b>Article coding sheet Review and write-up of a completed student thesis or dissertation</b>
Week 7		
M Oct 21 Monday	Reviewing the literature: D & T Chapter 6 - Danielle	<b>Ethics training</b>
Week 8		
M Oct 28 Monday	Research methods & ethics: D & T Chapter 7 - Saanya	<b>Literature review outline</b>
Week 9		
M Nov 04 Monday	Measurement: D & T Chapter 8 - Oscar	<b>Beginning to think about methods</b>
Week 10		
M Nov 11 Monday	Collecting, Managing, and Analyzing the Data: D & T Chapter 10 - Ben	<b>Adding to your lit review outline</b>
Week 11		
M Nov 18 Monday	Managing committee meetings: D & T Chapter 13 - Chelsey	<b>Adding to your lit review</b>
Week 12		

M Nov 25 Monday	Presenting your project to the world: D & T Chapter 14 - Stephen	<b>Adding more to your lit review</b>
Week 13		
M Dec 02 Monday	Writing for the behavioral and social sciences: APA Manual - Introduction and Chapter 1 - Candice	<b>Adding still more to your lit review</b>
Week 14		
M Dec 09 Monday	Manuscript structure and content: APA Chapter 2 - Greer Writing clearly and concisely: APA Chapter 3 - Emily	<b>Attend and write-up of a student thesis or dissertation meeting</b> <b>Brainstorming Session</b> <b>Chapter Discussion</b> <b>End of semester student rating</b> <b>Final proposal lit review draft</b>
Week 15		
M Dec 16 Monday		
T Dec 17 Tuesday	2:30pm in MCKB 343	<b>Final Exam</b>