

Instructor/TA Info

Instructor Information

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Assignments

Assignment Descriptions

Getting to know your advisor's research

Sep
04

Due: Saturday, Sep 04 at 11:59 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
13

Due: Monday, Sep 13 at 1:00 pm

BEHAVIORAL CONTRACT example.docx [Download \(plugins/Upload/fileDownload.php?fileId=d68006f1-JIXG-Lgwf-1unU-h4e092d35fbf&pubhash=J_nsjRc6WdHUPV76Qleeol7hUAuuUOsyl4XAwJbSoJzUIbPT_lqODZGzAiRRu_c6izQvU9HMOjnXHk_x_gR1vw==\)](https://www.umassd.edu/media/umassdartmouth/honors/pdfs/Thesis-Contract.pdf)
Another thesis contract example online: <https://www.umassd.edu/media/umassdartmouth/honors/pdfs/Thesis-Contract.pdf>

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
20

Due: Monday, Sep 20 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 \(plugins/Upload/fileDownload.php?fileId=04c5bfbcb-jow9-cqR0-RLOE-3Q5aa929d757&pubhash=uXTp7AAxEJ8X5teYB1MMAqbpEytmLXNeLBFyk7XTuEKIN7b22xbsvdOdNI_FvDXWW80ny2GodZYu9hc4PO6aNw==\)](#)

Thesis timeline

Sep
27

Due: Monday, Sep 27 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 2023*. 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 \(plugins/Upload/fileDownload.php?fileId=4bbb6583-MdJR-TEPT-I8HR-Qc81c055d3f6&pubhash=Zxzb88qndmueE9rtXxEBqnvqpwOVomfqaKZIVLN8r2omLzVrD7QKF7ZkiB1ByJ5LWLY2mkkpuoNxlqjSCRDMYA==\)](#) 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.

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

Oct
04

Due: Monday, Oct 04 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
11

Due: Monday, Oct 11 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://irb.byu.edu/citi-training>. 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. 76 from our text) for your proposed thesis study.

Literature review outline

Oct
18

Due: Monday, Oct 18 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 6.2 on p.116 of our text.
- Potential research questions/hypotheses:

Adding to your lit review outline

Oct
25

Due: Monday, Oct 25 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 this week prepared to review your enhanced outline.

Adding a new page of writing

Nov
01

Due: Monday, Nov 01 at 1:00 pm

For this assignment, I would like you to add at least 1 new page of writing to your literature review. Please upload this into Learning Suite and be prepared to review this with your peers this week in class.

Adding to your lit review

Nov
08

Due: Monday, Nov 08 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
15

Due: Monday, Nov 15 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.

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

Nov
22

Due: Monday, Nov 22 at 1:00 pm

You are required to attend (in person or via Zoom) 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. You can find a list of scheduled thesis and dissertation defenses

present a summary of the material. You can find a list of scheduled thesis and dissertation defenses at <https://gradstudies.byu.edu/page/defense-schedule> (<https://gradstudies.byu.edu/page/defense-schedule>) You should contact the chair of the committee at least 24 hours in advance to request permission to attend the defense in person or via zoom.

End of semester extra credit student rating

Nov
29

Due: Monday, Nov 29 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 November 29th. Thank you.

Proposal lit review draft

Nov
29

Due: Monday, Nov 29 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 let me know if you have questions.

Final Proposal Draft

Dec
06

Due: Monday, Dec 06 at 1:00 pm

In lieu of a final exam, 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 you further forward on your thesis proposal. The expectation is for you to have a 12-page document (minimum), inclusive of reference pages. I have provided two examples below. Please let me know if you have any questions. Moya Lit Review.docx [Download \(plugins/Upload/fileDownload.php?fileId=1f49927f-qVrz-RxZF-wlPA-sd4473510d11&pubhash=B4trT7wJVR_jlFJQkfatvQj-VtyG6td4KIGHliHWLEz2SPJgxNACiVUGLMIswXqkSNcF5BookK24cY90bvdIxmQ==\)](#) Vance Lit review.docx [Download \(plugins/Upload/fileDownload.php?fileId=7bc3fda7-JaEz-JaMM-XerR-56723146a0d4&pubhash=QOnqsrU3-Ce0a9ZvKzDV0lclGjN6cOQfzl-pnLn92WcqpaU_WntsQBxHmpMJqVmcBysKglxCptqnUQ_ycn5Y9g==\)](#)

Brainstorming Session

Dec
06

Due: Monday, Dec 06 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.

Chapter Discussion

Dec
06

Due: Monday, Dec 06 at 3:00 pm

You will each lead out on one chapter discussion during the semester lasting approximately 30 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.

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

action by the university. Students are also expected to adhere to the Dress and Grooming Standards. A person 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

Brigham Young University prohibits all forms of sexual harassment—including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking on the basis of sex—by its personnel and students and in all its education programs or activities. University policy requires all faculty members to promptly report incidents of sexual harassment that come to their attention in any way and encourages reports by students who experience or become aware of sexual harassment. Incidents should be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at t9coordinator@byu.edu or (801) 422-8692 or 1085 WSC. Reports may also be submitted online at <https://titleix.byu.edu/report> (<https://titleix.byu.edu/report>) or 1-888-238-1062 (24-hours a day). BYU offers a number of resources and services for those affected by sexual harassment, including the university's confidential Sexual Assault Survivor Advocate. Additional information about sexual harassment, the university's Sexual Harassment Policy, reporting requirements, and resources can be found in the University Catalog, by visiting <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. A disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Whether an impairment is substantially limiting depends on its nature and severity, its duration or expected duration, and its permanent or expected permanent or long-term impact. Examples include vision or hearing impairments, physical disabilities, chronic illnesses, emotional disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety), learning disorders, and attention disorders (e.g., ADHD). If you have a disability which impairs your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (UAC), 2170 WSC or 801-422-2767 to request a reasonable accommodation. The UAC can also assess students for learning, attention, and emotional concerns. If you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, please contact the Equal Opportunity Office at 801-422-5895, eo_manager@byu.edu, or visit <https://hrs.byu.edu/equal-opportunity> (<https://hrs.byu.edu/equal-opportunity>) for help.

Schedule

Date	Topics/Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1		
M Aug 30 Monday	Getting to know each other - Course overview What are Theses?: D & T Chapter 1 - Paul	
Sa Sep 04 Saturday		Getting to know your advisor's research
Week 2		
M Sep 06 Monday	Labor Day No class	
Week 3		
M Sep 13 Monday	Starting out: D & T Chapter 2 - Moroni Time and Trouble Management: D & T Chapter 3 - Haley	Thesis work schedule and contract
Week 4		
M Sep 20 Monday	Literature searching with Emily Darowski	Summarizing research articles
Week 5		
M Sep 27 Monday	Finding topics & collaborators: D & T Chapter 4 - Chloe	Thesis timeline
Week 6		

M Oct 04 Monday	Formulating and Communicating Your Plans: D & T Chapter 5 - Rebecca Paper Elements and Format: APA Manual - Chapter 2 - Jenny	Review and write-up of a completed student thesis or dissertation
Week 7		
M Oct 11 Monday	Reviewing the literature: D & T Chapter 6 - Paige	Ethics training
Week 8		
M Oct 18 Monday	Research methods & ethics: D & T Chapter 7 - Kate	Literature review outline
Week 9		
M Oct 25 Monday	Managing committee meetings: D & T Chapter 13 - Kelsey	Adding to your lit review outline
Week 10		
M Nov 01 Monday	APA format with Emily Darowski	Adding a new page of writing
Week 11		
M Nov 08 Monday	Scholarly Writing and Publishing Principles: APA Chapter 1 - Amy	Adding to your lit review
Week 12		
M Nov 15 Monday	Journal Article Reporting Standards: APA Manual - Chapter 3 - Melia	Adding more to your lit review
Su Nov 21 Sunday	Instructor Ratings Open Fall	
Week 13		
M Nov 22 Monday	Writing Style and Grammar: APA Manual - Chapter 4 - Emily Bias-Free Language Guidelines: APA Manual - Chapter 5 - Megan	Attend and write-up of a student thesis or dissertation meeting
Week 14		
M Nov 29 Monday	Mechanics of Style: APA Manual - Chapter 6 - Paul	End of semester extra credit student rating Proposal lit review draft
Week 15		
M Dec 06 Monday	Works Cited in the Text: APA Manual - Chapter 8 - Paul Reference List: APA Manual - Chapter 9 - Mikko	Final Proposal Draft Brainstorming Session Chapter Discussion
Th Dec 09 Thursday		
Week 16		
M Dec 13 Monday	First Day of Fall Final Exams (12/13/2021 - 12/17/2021)	
W Dec 15 Wednesday	Final Exam Time (if needed): 343 MCKB 11:00am - 2:00pm	

