

Junior Capstone in Cognitive Psychology
Tuesday and Thursday 8:15-10:00; Olin 103

Instructors:

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Course Description: This section of the Junior Capstone seminar focuses on cognitive and developmental projects. The structure should enable student participants to develop an effective proposal that sets them on the pathway to a successful comps project during the fall (and winter) of their senior year. The focus will be development of an effective research question, discussion and evaluation of supporting literature that informs the investigation, presentation of effective arguments that convey the merit of the proposal, detailed consideration of how the question is to be addressed (e.g., method or where the review goes), and finally communication of your ideas (both oral and written).

Course Objectives:

- To combine skills and knowledge acquired in the psychology major.
- To develop expertise in a particular subfield.
- To practice effective communication of research hypotheses and support both orally and in written form.
- To write a 10 page thesis proposal by the end of the term.

Course Evaluation:

- 50% final proposal, 40% coursework, 10% final presentation

Course Schedule:

Thurs, 4/12: Group meeting – orientation; recommended tools

Tues, 4/17: Group meeting – exploring research topics

Thurs, 4/19: Group meeting – defining research questions

Fri, 4/20: Super Friday! Watch seniors present their comps projects

Tues, 4/24: Group meeting – writing introductions

Thurs, 4/26: Group meeting – organizing evidence and arguments

Tues, 5/1: Individual meetings

Thurs, 5/3: Group meeting – discuss outlines

Tues, 5/8: Group meeting – methods, predictions and models

Thurs, 5/10: Individual meetings

Tues, 5/15: Group meeting – discuss methods, predictions and models

Thurs, 5/17: Individual meetings

Fri, 5/18: Submit proposal draft

Tues, 5/22: Individual meetings – review draft

Thurs, 5/24: Group meeting - practice presentations

Tues, 5/29: Super Tuesday!

Mon, 6/4, 5pm: Submit final draft of comps proposal