

RESEARCH PROJECT IN PSYCHIATRY ***PSYT 400 (6 CREDITS)***

Course Outline + Application Forms

PSYT 400D1/D2, Research Project in Psychiatry, (Fall and Winter, 6 credits)

Course Coordinator:

Dr. Kathryn Gill

Psychiatry Department

Allan Memorial Institute (P1.039) or Addictions Unit, McGill University Health Centre (G1.103)

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Information for Supervisors

All potential supervisors must be faculty in the Psychiatry Department at McGill University. The detailed course outline and application form is attached below. The application form should be filled out jointly by the supervisor and potential student, and returned to the course coordinator (Dr. Kathryn Gill at kathryn.gill@mcgill.ca) by **September 8, 2015**. The application approval process involves evaluation of the student (e.g. GPA, prerequisites, restrictions), as well as the suitability of the project (e.g. feasibility, ethics approval obtained). All potential supervisors are encouraged to submit a brief description of projects in advance, in order to compile a list of potential projects for interested students. The description should be brief (250 words), and include a title, research site and contact information.

Information for Students

This course is similar in format to undergraduate research courses offered in other departments, but is specifically designed for projects related to mental health research. We encourage interested students to contact department faculty members directly to enquire about possible research opportunities. A list of faculty members along with information on their research interests can be viewed on the psychiatry department website <http://www.mcgill.ca/psychiatry/research/researchers>. For additional information regarding the type of work done by individual researchers, you may search for representative publications on PubMed. If you would like to work with a specific researcher, please email them directly to ask if they would be interested in supervising you for PSYT 400. We would encourage you to include this course description in your email, as they may not yet be very aware of the course (It might also help to remind them there is no salary commitment on their part, since it is a credit course). Once you find a willing supervisor, you can agree on a project topic/title together and both of you sign the application form below, and return it to the coordinator.

General Information on the Course

Eligibility and Prerequisites: This course is open to undergraduate students in the U2 and U3 years with an interest in topics specifically related to mental health research, either basic or clinical. Students must have completed a course in biostatistics prior to enrollment (eg. Psych 305 or equivalent).

A GPA of 3.0 is required for this course. Exceptional cases may be considered by the course coordinator.

Course approval application forms are included at the end of the course outline below. They must be completed, signed and returned by September 8th, 2015 for fall registration.

Restrictions: This course cannot be taken concurrently by students enrolling for undergraduate honours thesis projects, or other Research Projects Courses (Faculty of Science “396” courses, Psych 395, 450D, 494D, 495D, NSCI 410,420).

McGill Policy Statements

1. “McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.” See www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information. (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003).
2. “In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.” (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)

Learning Outcomes

The goal of this course is to provide students with experience in all aspects of carrying out a research project covering two consecutive terms. Students are expected to research, understand and summarize the background literature of their particular subject area. They will be actively involved in carrying out an experimental project and collecting, analyzing, clearly presenting and interpreting data. They will gain competence in time management and organizational skills as well as scientific writing.

Instructional Method

Under the supervision of a faculty member in the psychiatry department, students will carry out an experimental research project, either fundamental or clinical in nature, to be conducted continuously over the fall and winter terms.

Students are advised to start the application process early during the summer months and to plan for an alternative course in the case that no suitable project/supervisor is available. **Students should contact professors directly** (listed on the department of psychiatry website), who are actively involved in research in an area of potential interest to the student. Researchers who agree to supervise may suggest potential projects or devise one in conjunction with the student. When the student and supervisor agree on a potential project, it should be submitted to the course coordinator (kathryn.gill@mcgill.ca) for approval prior to registration.

****Projects must conform to ethical guidelines for animal or human testing, and be approved by the appropriate ethics committees at McGill University or the affiliated hospitals. (To prevent delays in commencement of research projects, ethics approval for all procedures or protocols to be used in the student’s project should already be obtained. (Or require only very minor amendments).***

Course Work and Requirements (NB approval must be obtained using application forms below):

- 1) A Research Proposal Abstract (500 word max) to be submitted by October 15th, summarizing relevant background, research questions to be addressed, methods/experimental design and hypothesized outcomes.

2) A 1-2 page Progress Report to be submitted by the last day of classes in the fall 2015 term.

3) A final Written Report submitted by the last day of regular classes of the winter 2016 term. This should be in the form of a research report typically submitted for journal publication (12 page minimum double-spaced, not including references, figures, etc.). The final report will include an introductory review of the relevant literature, a description of the methods and procedures, results and discussion.

All three should be submitted to the research supervisor and the course coordinator (kathryn.gill@mcgill.ca)

Evaluation

- Proposal Abstract – 5%
- Progress Report – 5%
- Research Performance – 40%
- Final Written Research Report – 50%

Research performance grades (40%) are determined entirely by individual supervisors working with the students during the year. The grade should reflect general performance and research aptitude. The following areas of assessment are each given a rating from fail to exceptional:

Understands background literature and objectives
Understands methodology
Laboratory skill/attention to methodological detail
Work ethic/Perseverance
Effective documentation of data
Effective analysis of data
Team work & Interpersonal maturity

Final written reports (50%) will be evaluated by both the supervisor and course coordinator, with the final report grade being an average of the two. Each of the following areas are given a rating from fail to exceptional:

Abstract
Introduction
Methods
Results
Discussion - findings
Figures and Tables
Overall quality & clarity

PSYT 400 Course Approval Application Form (2 pages)

**Research Project in Psychiatry
Fall and Winter Terms (6 credits)***

Deadline to submit form: **September 8th, 2015.**

Open to U2 and U3 students not enrolled in concurrent research project courses. Background in statistics is required, as is a GPA of 3.0 or greater. Please include a copy of your unofficial transcript.

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Student Number: _____

McGill E-mail Address: _____

Project Title: _____

Supervisor: _____ **Supervisor's e-mail:** _____

Brief outline of project:

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Does this project involve?

Animal subjects? []

If yes, animal use protocol approval obtained [] Expiry Date: _____

Human subjects? []

If yes, human ethics approval obtained [] Expiry Date: _____

Biohazardous substances? []

Radioactive materials? []

Handling chemicals? []

Use of lasers? []

* A 6-credit year-long course should represent an average of 9 hours of work per week. Students and supervisors should discuss work expectations and scheduling accordingly. It is to be understood that any work done as part of PSYT 400 cannot be submitted or used for credit for any other course.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Supervisor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

NB. Send the filled and signed forms to the coordinator by email (kathryn.gill@mcgill.ca) or by FAX 514-934-8262. Include a copy of your McGill transcript – in order to confirm GPA (at least 3.0), and statistics background (PSYCH 305 or equivalent).