New Senior Requirements

Majors are required to earn two course credits from courses numbered PSYC 400–499.

(490-495 pass/fail courses included)

At least one of these course credits must be taken during the senior year, for which a student must write a substantial final paper (a minimum of 5,000 words)

(not two substantial papers)

and receive a letter grade, which excludes PSYC 490-495 that can only be taken Pass/Fail.
BS vs. BA degree

• BS degree
  – Must conduct an empirical research
  – No need to fulfill stat and research methods requirements before the senior year, but strongly recommended
Directed reading vs. research courses

• Tutorial courses
  – 490, 491, 492, 493, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499

• We will remove directed *reading* courses, and treat directed reading as directed research.

• We will use one course number for both semesters.
  – 493, 495, 499

• So even if you don’t plan on collecting data, take directed research courses.
Distinction

• Same requirements except
• The senior essay must be submitted 1 week before the last day of class in the term you’re taking the course for senior essay
• The senior essay will be graded by the advisor and the second reader
• Must receive an A or A-
- 400, 499
- 493, 499
- 495, 495, 499
- 499, 499

- 400, 400
- 493, 400
- 495, 495, 400
- 499, 400

Not for BS
Not recommended for Distinction

Not allowed because the course with substantial writing should be letter graded.

Red: Substantial Writing,
Underlined: taken during Senior
No-underline: can be taken any time
pre-registering for senior seminars

• Early May this year
• Everybody who enters is guaranteed one senior seminar (either Fall or Spring)
• Read DUS email carefully, and make choices by the due date
• Again, some (most) instructors refuse to advise senior theses for Distinction candidates.
How to choose your senior thesis topic

• Something you are interested in / enjoy
• Useful for your career
• Fits with your senior thesis advisor’s research interest / expertise
How to find advisor for 493, 495, 499

- Through courses
- Research opportunities
- Faculty web page
- Ask current seniors
- Do your HW before contacting them
How to find senior thesis advisor

• Be clear about the expectations
• Start early
  – Faculty members are more likely to say yes.
• Senior Essay plan form due May when pre-registering for a senior seminar
  – Which two 400-level courses?
  – Which course will be a substantial writing course?
  – Tutorial course advisors?
When your advisor is not a faculty member in Psych department

• Do not assume they know the requirements (e.g., 2\textsuperscript{nd} readers) or deadlines.
• Set the deadline for the first draft early on and make sure to receive comments.
• Read sample senior theses (Angier / Crowder awards)
  – Available online under senior requirement