

## Graduate Professionalism Seminar (GPS)

PSYCH 6001: Fall 2022

Instructor: Dr. Alex Ophir  
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Office: 218 Uris, Office hours: By appointment

Monday and Wednesday 12:20-2:15  
Location Uris 211c

### Overview.

This course enhances the graduate experience and prepares first-year psychology graduate students admitted to the program for success. We address departmental expectations and standards by providing: 1) a formal introduction to departmental expertise and capabilities, 2) a platform on which to enhance professional development, and 3) a forum for early stage conceptualization and formulation of research projects and grant proposals. Topics discussed might include: familiarization with funding mechanisms, instruction on finding and securing funding, guidance on how to convert research questions into viable grant proposals, and early exposure to tools and resources available in the department, college and university. The course will serve as an opportunity for preparation, submission and peer review of compelling external grant/fellowship proposals.

The goals for the course will be to 1) propose your ideas for your first-year and second-year research projects, 2) write proposals for the NSF GRFP and NDSEG predoctoral fellowships, 3) learn the skills of researching and writing federal and private foundation grants, and 4) discuss issues of professional development.

### *Text*

**W Strunk Jr. & EB White** (1918) *The Elements of Style* (2000), 4th edition, paperback, [ISBN 0-205-30902-X](https://www.amazon.com/dp/020530902X) (also available on-line <http://www.bartleby.com/141/>)

### *Performance & Evaluation*

This course is designed to evaluate your progress developing and completing a research proposal and competitive grant proposal. Your contribution to improving your peer's proposal (discussion, participation, peer-review), oral presentation, writing skills and scholarly merit will also be assessed.

Research proposal ideas should begin immediately in consultation with your advisor (and lab mates etc). ***It is your responsibility to ensure you are making progress toward a developed research proposal idea.*** Each student will give brief presentations of research ideas, submit a research (or grant) proposal outline, and submit a final research proposal that can also serve as your end of the year writing sample. For those that qualify, these can take the form of an NSF GRFP research statement. For those that choose this option, you must strictly adhere to format specifications (page limit, font, etc) upheld by NSF. Students will exchange and review research proposals (and grants).

*Special Needs*

Students with documented special needs should notify the instructor at the beginning of the course and will be accommodated appropriately.

*Reminder of Academic Integrity*

Attention is drawn to Cornell's Code of Academic Integrity, which you were provided as an incoming student and which can be found here:

<http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html>.

Any student who infringes upon any of these academic dishonesty resolutions will be treated according to published policy:

<http://www.theuniversityfaculty.cornell.edu/AcadInteg/>.

**Academic dishonesty of any kind will be considered deliberate and taken very seriously.** The student is therefore strongly encouraged to have consulted these policies thoroughly. Additional information can be found here:

<http://as.cornell.edu/academics/advising/academic-integrity.cfm>

NOTE: The use of any electrical devices (such as cellular phones or text messaging devices), for any reason, that have not been pre-approved by the instructor during exams will be considered cheating. Plagiarism of any kind is a serious offense and will be considered cheating.

Syllabus

The following is a brief description of the subject matter that will be discussed in each lecture. ***This information is open to change.***

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**Week 1 (Aug 22, Mon):** Introduction

1. Get to know each other
2. Expectations & orientation (you get out what you put in)
3. Discuss time management & habits
4. Discuss papers on professionalism (Read [some/all] Papers Posted on Canvas)

**Homework:** Begin background research to formulate your research proposal

**Homework:** Find 3 relevant resources and post description/contact info

**Week 1 (Aug 24, Wed):** Writing - The Basics

1. Conceiving of a research idea
2. Find your ***theme***
3. Structure in writing - Form and function: How to format a proposal
4. The value of ***outlines***

**Homework:** Continue to formulate your research proposal

**Homework:** Find 3 relevant resources and post description/contact info

**Homework:** Read Strunk & White for next class

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**Week 2 (Aug 29, Mon):** Writing Clarity & Grant Writing

1. Clarity in writing (and Elements of Style)
2. Writing strategies for grants

**Homework:** Continue to formulate your research proposal

**Homework:** Prepare at 10 min Research Proposal Talk

**Homework:** Submit a Research Proposal Outline

**Homework:** Read Strunk & White for next class

**Week 2 (Aug 31, Wed):** First Pitch Proposals:

1. **Research proposal presentations** [10 min talks]
  2. **Research proposal outlines due**
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**Week 3 (Sep 5, Mon):** Labor Day – No Class

**Homework:** Continue to formulate your research proposal

**Homework:** Read Strunk & White for next class

**Week 3 (Sept 7, Wed):** First Pitch Proposals, continued:

1. **Research proposal presentations** [10 min talks]

**Homework:** Use feedback to develop your research proposal

**Homework:** Begin developing your ***personal background*** essay if you are eligible to submit an NSF GRFP application

**Week 4 (Sep 12, Mon):** NSF & NIH Review Criteria:

1. NSF: Review Criteria - What is: Intellectual merit
2. NSF: Review Criteria - What are: Broader impacts
3. NIH: Review Criteria - the 5 (and sometimes 6) points

**Homework:** Use feedback to develop your research proposal

**Homework:** Continue developing your *personal background* essay

**Week 4 (Sept 14, Wed):** Intro to Peer Review:

1. How to Peer Review Papers & Grants
2. How Review Panels Work
3. Responding to Reviewers

**Wednesday by 5pm: Research proposals due:** [E-Mail]

**Homework:** Review your assignments for next week

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**Week 5 (Sept 19 & 21):** Peer Review 1

1. **In Class Research proposal peer review 1.** [10-15 min / proposal]
2. Class discussion: Themes, challenges, & Q&A

**Homework:** Use feedback to develop your research proposal

**Homework:** Use feedback to develop your personal essay

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**Week 6 (Sept 26 & 28):** Writing day (no class)

**Tuesday by 5pm: Research proposal exchange 2:** [E-Mail]

**Homework:** Review your assignments for next class

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**Week 7 (Oct 3 & 5):** Peer Review 2

1. **Research proposal peer review 2a.** [10-15 min / proposal]
2. Class discussion: Themes, challenges, & Q&A

**Homework:** Use feedback to develop your research proposal

**Homework:** Use feedback to develop your personal essay

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**Week 8 (Oct 10, Mon):** Fall Break (no class)

**Homework:** Breathe

**Week 8 (Oct 12, Wed):** Writing day (no class)

**Homework:** Use feedback to develop your research proposal

**GRFs Due this week (Life Science, Oct 17) or (Psychology, Oct 18)**

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**Week 9 (Oct 17, Wed):** Writing day (no class)

**Week 9 (Oct 19, Wed):** Saying What You Mean:

1. Writing exercise: Describe & draw
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**Week 10 (Oct 24, Mon):** no class

**Week 10 (Oct 26, Wed):** Databases and PDF Organization

1. Know the literature - ISI Web of Knowledge, PubMed, CUL Passkey
2. Get organized - PDF Organizers, Citation managers

**Homework:** Look over your CV, identify strengths and weaknesses, and bring it to next class ready to edit

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**Week 11 (Oct 31, Mon):** no class (Happy Halloween)

**Week 11 (Nov 2, Wed):** Elevator Speeches and CV Workshop

1. What is an elevator speech?
2. CV workshop

**Homework:** Develop an elevator speech

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**Week 12 (Nov 7, Mon):** no class

**Week 12 (Nov 9, Wed):** Conferences & Presentations

1. How to give a presentation (Poster and Talk)
  2. Conference strategies
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**Week 13 (Nov 14, Mon):** no class

**Week 13 (Nov 16, Wed):** Elevator Speeches

1. **Present 2 min elevator speech.** [2 min / person + Feedback]
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**Week 14 (Nov 21, Mon):** Web Presence

1. Importance of webpages: Advertise yourself, your lab, your Dept.
2. Develop your web profiles
3. Social media and your professional life (Twitter, FB, Research Gate, Loop, etc)

**Week 14 (Nov 23, Wed):** Thanksgiving (No Class)

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**Week 15 (Nov 28, Mon):** no class

**Week 15 (Nov 30, Wed):** Metrics

1. Impact factors, H-index, and other metrics 'they' want you to care about

**Week 16 (Dec 5, Mon): Dystopian Future & Silver Lining**

1. Welcome to the real world of science
  2. Rejection rates (grants & papers)
  3. The (Postdoc and PI) job market (a preview of what to worry about in 4-5yrs)
  4. Who are your competitors? (Answer: You, and students across the world)
  5. You get out what you put in.
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***It's over***

*Other topics that can be covered*

- A) Broader impacts opportunities
- B) Balancing teaching, research, service, and life
- C) RCR
- D) Mentoring