**National research university “Higher School of Economics”**

**Department of Psychology**

Course syllabus for the discipline

**“Research Seminar – Applied social psychology”**

For the students of the MSc program “Applied social psychology”

(specialization 37.04.01. “Psychology”)

Authors:

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**1. The main objectives of the course are:**

1) introducing students with main research directions in the field of applied social psychology;

2) developing skills for theoretical analysis in the field of applied social psychology;

3) developing skills to conduct surveys and data processing;  
4) preparing students’ master theses.

**2. Preliminary note:**

During the second year, students consistently prepare their master's theses and discuss with teacher and group parts of their work: plan of empirical research, research tools, results of preliminary mathematical processing, final results of mathematical processing, text of the dissertation. There is no special literature for each of the topics proposed due to students work on and discuss their theses at seminars for the second year.

**Thematic Plan**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| № | Topic | Total number of hours | Class hours | Self-Studying |
| seminars |
| **The second year of studying** | | | | |
| 1 | The formulated problem in the master study. Discussion of the tasks in the master study | 20 | 2 | 18 |
| 2 | Presentation of the theoretical bases of master study. Formulation of hypotheses | 24 | 8 | 16 |
| 3 | Writing and discussing the project proposal of the research in the master thesis (Appendix) | 24 | 6 | 18 |
| 4 | Developing skills of analysis and review of scientific works, writing and discussion review of the scientific works | 24 | 8 | 16 |
| 5 | Critical analysis of planned master study methodology | 24 | 8 | 16 |
| 6 | Discussing research design of the master thesis | 28 | 8 | 20 |
| 7 | Analysis and discussion of sampling plan of the master study | 28 | 8 | 20 |
| 8 | Discussing final plan of empirical study of master thesis | 28 | 8 | 20 |
| 9 | Presentation of first results of mathematical-statistical analysis from empirical study | 28 | 8 | 20 |
| 10 | Presentation of final results of mathematical-statistical analysis from empirical study | 30 | 8 | 22 |
| 11 | Preliminary defense of the master thesis | 30 | 8 | 22 |
| Total for the second year of studying | | **288** | **80** | **208** |

**Topic 1. The formulated problem in the master study. Discussion of the tasks in the master study**

Discussion on the subject, object, objectives and hypotheses of the study. Discussion about novelty of master's research, as well as its practical and theoretical significance.

**Topic 2. Presentation of the theoretical bases of master study. Formulation of hypotheses**

Final discussion of the theoretical foundations of students’ theses, and formulation of the final version of the research hypotheses.

**Topic 3. Writing and discussing the plan-prospect of the research in the master thesis**

Students prepare and present the plan-prospect of empirical research. This plan should include description of methods, sample and time frames of the empirical study.

**Topic 4. Developing skills of analysis and review of scientific works, writing and discussion review of the scientific works**

**The class focuses on the critical analysis of empirical studies of master's theses of students from previous years of studying. Students need to prepare a critical review of received theses and make a presentation of their review. It is assumed that ability to see an errors and omissions in existing dissertations will reduce the likelihood that students will make similar mistakes in their own works.**

**Topic 5. Critical analysis of planned master study methodology**

**During seminar teacher and group critically analyze and discuss empirical methods of each student’ thesis.**

**Topic 6. Discussing research design of the master thesis**

**Discussion on the design of the whole study. During the discussion, it is important for students to understand whether the selected design is adequate to test the proposed hypotheses.**

**Topic 7. Analysis and discussion of sampling plan of the master study**

**Discussion on the ways of collecting data, sample characteristics, required sample size, socio-demographic composition of the sample. Discussion on possible ways of recruiting respondents.**

**Topic 8. Discussing final plan of empirical study of master thesis**

**Discussion of the final and complete version of study plan: tools, sample, time frame. Students begin to collect empirical data after approval of the study plan at the workshop.**

**Topic 9. Presentation of first results of mathematical-statistical analysis from empirical study**

**Students present preliminary results of mathematical and statistical processing of collected data. The results are put under critical analysis and discussion at the class. Further ways of data processing are outlined.**

**Topic 10. Presentation of final results of mathematical-statistical analysis from empirical study**

**Discussion of the final results of mathematical and statistical processing. Assessed the correctness of applying the selected processing methods to the data, which were obtained by the student.**

**Topic 11. Preliminary defense of the master thesis**

Students pass the standard procedure of preliminary defense of their theses, including report on the main results of student research work, questions, and free discussion.

**Intermediate tasks that have to be done within the second year of studying**

1st module – project proposal (report on the methodology and hypotheses);

2nd module – report on the analysis of the dissertation research data;

3rd module – defending master dissertation

**Grading system for the second year of studying**

* Grade for 1st semester = 0.5\*Оclass+0.5\*Оhw
  + Оclass = 0.4\*attendance + 0.6\*participation
  + Оhw = 0.4\* project proposal + 0.6\* report
* Grade for 2nd semester = 0.5\*О data report +0.5\*Оpre-defense dissertation

**Basic literature for the discipline:**

1. Dunleavy, P. (2003). Authoring a PhD thesis: How to plan, draft, write and finish a doctoral dissertation. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.
2. Campbell D.T., Stanley J.S. (1966) Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research (1966). Houghton Mifflin Company Boston.
3. Publication manual of the American psychological association – 6th edition. Washington DC : American Psychological Association, 2011.

**Additional literature for the discipline:**

1. Bolker, J. (1998). Writing your dissertation in fifteen minutes a day: A guide to starting, revising, and finishing your doctoral thesis. New York, NY: H. Holt.
2. Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. C., & Williams, J. M. (1995). The craft of research. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
3. Cone, J. D., & Foster. S.L. (1993). Dissertations and theses from start to finish: Psychology and related fields. Chicago, IL: American Psychological Association.
4. Cryer, P. (2000). The research student's guide to success. Buckingham, UK: Open University Press. Davis, G. B., & Parker, C. A. (1997). Writing the doctoral dissertation: A systematic approach. Hauppauge, NY: Barron's.
5. Glatthorn, A. A. (1998). Writing the winning dissertation: A step-by-step guide. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.Newman, I., Benz, C. R., Weis, D., & McNeil. K. (1997). Theses and dissertations. Lanham, MD: University Press of America.
6. Ogden, E. H. (1997). Completing your doctoral dissertation or master's thesis in two semesters or less. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press.
7. Rudestam, K. E., & Newton, R. R. (2000). Surviving your dissertation: A comprehensive guide to content and process. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
8. Secrist, J., Wright, D. J., & Fitzpatrick, J. (1998). Secrets for a successful dissertation. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
9. Shadish, W.D. Cook, T. D., & Campbell, D. T. (2002). Experimental and quasi-experimental designs for generalized causal inference. Wadsworth Cengage learning.
10. Tabachnick B.G., Fidell L.S. Using Multivariate Statistics. 2007. Pearson Education. Inc Boston, MA
11. Teitelbaum, H. (1998). How to write a thesis. New York, NY: Arco Publishers.
12. Thomas, R. M., & Brubaker, D. L. (2000). Theses and dissertations: A guide to planning, research, and writing. Westport, CT: Bergin & Garvey.
13. Thomas, R. M., & Brubaker, D. L. (2001). Avoiding thesis and dissertation pitfalls: 61 cases of problems and solutions. Westport, CT: Bergin & Garvey.
14. Walters, D. L. (1999). The readable thesis: Clear and effective writing. Gilsum, NH: Avocus Publishers.
15. Webster, W. G. (1998). Developing and writing your thesis, dissertation or project: A book of sound advice about conceptualizing, organizing, developing and finalizing your terminal graduate research. San Ramon, CA: Academic Scholarwrite.
16. Zerubavel, E. (1999). The clockwork muse: A practical guide to writing theses, dissertations and books. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

## Appendix

## Project Proposal

Project Proposal should be done in two forms:

(a) printed form includes the time-table of the research project signed by the supervisor;

b) oral presentation with following discussion at the seminars 17.09 and 24.09.

***Structure and content***

Title page should include:

1. Name of the institution (Higher School of Economics), the department (Psychology), and the name of Master Program (Applied Social Psychology)
2. Title of the study
3. Author’s (student’s) full name
4. Supervisor(s)’ second name and initials
5. Year of the defense

**First part**

Introduction

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| 1. The importance of the study is clearly described 2. Problem statement, 3. Goal of the study, 4. Research question(s) and/or the hypotheses are clearly reported 5. Novelty of research: what new things do you learn from your research 6. Scientific and societal relevance: Where the results of this study can be applied? |

Background:

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| 1. Definitions of basic notions (with references) 2. Major theories or concepts underlying the research 3. Hypothesis of the research |

**Second part**

Study design:

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| 1. Sample, 2. Variables (dependent & independent, if applicable) should be concisely, clearly and completely described 3. Research design: detailed description of methods, questionnaire, description of experiment (if you use it in the work). Deadline for the 1st version of questionnaire is 17.09, the sooner, the better! |

Procedure & materials:

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| --- |
| 1. Materials (questionnaires, methods), 2. Procedure.   Both should be concisely, clearly and completely described |

Proposed statistical analyses:

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| Clear argumentation for all statistical procedures should be given |

**Third part.**

Time-table

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| - Time-table represents the individual plan of the student's work on a dissertation during 3 modules, itemized by dates.  **-** Don`t forget about the main deadlines:   * deadlines for data collecting and finishing data file are December 10 * presenting the results on research seminar – 18-25 of February * the deadline for finishing work on the master thesis is March 10 * preliminary defense is on March, 17.   - The time-table should be discussed with the supervisor and signed by him/her |

**Please, take into account main checkpoints of Master thesis preparation time-table, when you prepare yours. You have to discuss deadlines for each checkpoints with your scientific supervisor.**

1) discussion of the research project with the supervisor (structure, list of the main sources, expected outcome should be submitted);

2) preliminary presentation of the MT on the research seminar;

3) first presentation of the final paper to the supervisor, with subsequent correction (if necessary);

4) discussion of the final version of the work with supervisor;

5) loading of MT in LMS for further verification for plagiarism by "Antiplagiat" system

6) review of the MT;

7) supervisor`s evaluation;

8) public defense.