Course syllabus for the discipline
“Research Seminar – Economic and Organizational Psychology”

For the students of the MSc program “Applied social psychology”
(specialization 37.04.01 “Psychology”)

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1. **The main objectives of the course are:**
1) introducing students with main research directions in the field of economic and organizational psychology;
2) developing skills for theoretical analysis in the field of economic and organizational psychology;
3) developing skills to conduct surveys and data processing;
4) preparing students’ master theses.

2. **Novelty of the course:**
1. Training students to use in their research the latest methods of mathematical-statistical data (SEM, multilevel analysis).
2. Training students to use databases of the international sociological surveys to prepare their home task.
3. Using techniques of group discussions, brainstorming to discuss novelty of master dissertation, formulation of research problem, and research hypotheses.

### Thematic Plan

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<td>Development of presentation skills thesis and scientific discussion</td>
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<td>on the theme of the dissertation research</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total for the first year of studying</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>198</td>
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</table>
**The second year of studying**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The formulated problem in the master study. Discussion of the tasks in the master study</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Writing and discussing the plan-prospect of the research in the master thesis</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Developing skills of analysis and review of scientific works, writing and discussion review of the scientific works</td>
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<td>Critical analysis of planned master study methodology</td>
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<td>Discussing research design of the master thesis</td>
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<td>Analysis and discussion of sampling plan of the master study</td>
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<td>Discussing final plan of empirical study of master thesis</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Presentation of first results of mathematical-statistical analysis from empirical study</td>
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<td>Presentation of final results of mathematical-statistical analysis from empirical study</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Preliminary defense of the master thesis</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total for the second year of studying</strong></td>
<td><strong>342</strong></td>
<td><strong>104</strong></td>
<td><strong>238</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**FIRST YEAR OF STUDYING**

**Topic 1. Requirements for scientific writing, process and stages of writing research works: theses and articles**

Basic requirements for scientific writing are discussed with students. Discussion of the structure of various types of scientific papers: articles, dissertations. Consideration of types of papers (literature review, a full-length research article, short message) and requirements for them. Discussion of the content of each section of research work.

**Literature:**

**Basic:**

**Additional:**
**Topic 2. Planning the study in the field of economic and organizational psychology**

Students are told how to formulate research problems, how to set correctly main purpose of the study and formulate topic. All discussions are devoted specifically to the subject of economic and organizational psychology. As result of this seminar students have to formulate the problem of their own research and the topic.

**Literature:**

**Basic:**

**Topic 3. Formulation of research problem and research hypotheses**

Rules of formulating research hypotheses are discussed. Hypothesis as logical construct. Rules of formulating hypotheses and counter-hypotheses. Verification and falsification of hypotheses.

**Literature:**

**Basic:**

**Additional:**

**Topic 4. Pre-experimental plan, Quasi-experimental plan, and True-experimental plan of research and its application in the field of economic and organizational psychology**

Main research types in social psychology: pre-experiment, quasi-experiment, and true experiment. Possible validity threats in each type of study.

**Literature:**

**Basic:**

**Topic 5. Developing practical skills of data processing in the field of economic and organizational psychology using special software**
Students practice in data processing with help of SPSS and learn how to format and present correctly results of their work in accordance with APA standards.

**Literature:**

**Basic:**


**Topic 6. Introducing international sociological data bases**

Students are introduced to worldwide sociological databases: ESS, WVS, ISSP. Students are told about tools to gather such databases, structure of databases, and the concept of such researches. Students analyze database of the European Social Survey (ESS): comparing various research waves, finding relationships and cross-country differences. Analysis of the World Values Survey (WVS): comparing various research waves, finding relationships and cross-country differences. Working with database of the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP): comparing various research waves, finding relationships and cross-country differences. Each student is assigned to propose a hypothesis and test it using data from these databases, and describe the results.

**Literature:**

**Basic:**


**Additional:**


**Topic 7. Discussing theoretical part of the future master thesis**

Discussion about logic of the theoretical part of students’ researches. Discussion on how to build a logical connection between analysis of the literature in theoretical part and hypotheses. Discussion on structure of the theoretical part of the study. Rules of making references on the various sources of literature.

**Literature:**

**Basic:**


**Additional:**

Topic 8. Analysis of main terms and concepts of the thesis

Discussion of key terms used in the thesis, key words are highlighted. Basic concepts are operationalized. Identification of the key concepts of the study.

Literature:
Basic:

Additional:

Topic 9. Methods of studying entrepreneurial activity

Entrepreneurial behavior research methodology. Using qualitative methods for studying entrepreneurship. Ethnographic methods in entrepreneurship research. Methods of data collection in the study of entrepreneurial activity (method of collecting verbal histories, collecting qualitative data by e-mail). Methods for studying motives of choosing entrepreneurship, attitudes to risk and competition. Methods of studying trust in business environment, state. Scenario method of research in economic psychology. Psychological techniques for the diagnosis of specifics of individual moral sphere, as well as the level and structure of trust.

Literature:
Basic:

Additional:

Topic 10. Research methods of economic behavior and psychology of decision making

Methodological specifics of studies on economic behavior and psychology of decision making. “Inside the Economic Man”: behavioral economics and consumer behavior. The role of intuition and emotions in the measurements of behavioral economics. Economic way of thinking and the psychological model of human: preferences, utility and rationality vs. perception, memory and emotion. Human behavior and its measurement: theoretical and experimental methods. Rational choice theory. Experiment as a method in psychology of decision making. Methods of studying the models of decision-making in economic psychology. In-depth interviews as a way of understanding of economic reasoning. Experiment classification in behavioral economics.

Literature:
Basic:

Additional:

**Topic 11. Development of presentation skills thesis and scientific discussion on the theme of the dissertation research**

Students present theoretical part of their theses, this part is an actual result of their work during the first year of studying. Theoretical background, hypotheses, and chosen methods of their work are put under discussion. Critical discussion of their works.

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

1\textsuperscript{st} module – review one scientific paper from the peer reviewed journals;
2\textsuperscript{nd} module – project proposal;
3\textsuperscript{rd} module – report on the hypotheses testing using open-access databases;
4\textsuperscript{th} module – year essay.

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

- Grade for 1\textsuperscript{st} semester = 0.5\textsuperscript{O\textsubscript{class}}+0.5\textsuperscript{O\textsubscript{hw}}
  - \textsuperscript{O\textsubscript{class}} = 0.4*attendance + 0.6*participation
  - \textsuperscript{O\textsubscript{hw}} = 0.4*review + 0.6*project proposal

- Grade for 2\textsuperscript{nd} semester = 0.3\textsuperscript{O\textsubscript{class}}+0.3\textsuperscript{O\textsubscript{hw}} +0.4*exam
  - \textsuperscript{O\textsubscript{class}} = 0.4*attendance+ 0.6*participation
  - \textsuperscript{O\textsubscript{hw}}: report on open-access databases
  - Exam: pre-defense of year essay
SECOND YEAR OF STUDYING

**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.

**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 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**

1\textsuperscript{st} module – project proposal;
2\textsuperscript{nd} module – report on the methodology and hypotheses;
3\textsuperscript{rd} module – report on the analysis of the dissertation research data;
4\textsuperscript{th} module – defending master dissertation.

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

- Grade for 1\textsuperscript{st} semester = 0.5*O_{class}+0.5*O_{hw}
  - O_{class} = 0.4*attendance + 0.6*participation
  - O_{hw} = 0.4* project proposal + 0.6* report
- Grade for 2\textsuperscript{nd} semester = 0.5*O \text{ data report} +0.5*O_{pre-defense dissertation}
Literature for the discipline:

Basic:

Additional:
39. Ryff, C.D. Happiness is everything, or is it? Exploration on the meaning of psychological well-being. Journal of Personality and Social psychology, 1989a), 57 pp. 1069-81,
Approximate tasks for quality control of knowledge

Assignment: students should plan a study on proposed topics and answer questions on each topic.


1. Design a correlational study to investigate the relationship between these two variables. What is your hypothesis? How will you operationally define and measure the two variables?
2. How will you obtain a random sample of participants?
3. Assume that your study produces a correlation of .56 between the two variables. What are at least three possible causal explanations for this relationship?
4. Now design an experimental study to investigate these variables. What is your hypothesis? What type of hypotheses does the experimental method allow you to test that the correlational method does not?
2. **Research Topic: The relationship between the amount of time couples spend together and their relationship satisfaction**

1. Design a correlational study to investigate the relationship between these two variables. What is your hypothesis? How will you operationally define and measure the two variables?
2. How will you obtain a random sample of participants?
3. Assume that your study produces a correlation of .56 between the two variables. What are at least three possible causal explanations for this relationship?
4. Now design an experimental study to investigate these variables. What is your hypothesis? What type of hypotheses does the experimental method allow you to test that the correlational method does not?
5. What is your independent variable? What is your dependent variable?
6. How will you make sure that the study has high internal validity? Will you use random assignment to conditions?
7. Do any ethical concerns about the treatment of participants emerge from your experimental design?

3. **Research Topic: The relationship between audience members' opinions of a movie and their mood**

1. Design a correlational study to investigate the relationship between these two variables. What is your hypothesis? How will you operationally define and measure the two variables?
2. How will you obtain a random sample of participants?
3. Assume that your study produces a correlation of .56 between the two variables (between liking the movie and audience members' happiness). What are at least three possible causal explanations for this relationship?
4. Now design an experimental study to investigate these variables. What is your hypothesis? What type of hypotheses does the experimental method allow you to test that the correlational method does not?
5. What is your independent variable? What is your dependent variable?
6. How will you make sure that the study has high internal validity? Will you use random assignment to conditions?
7. Do any ethical concerns about the treatment of participants emerge from your experimental design?

4. **Research Topic: The relationship between alcohol consumption and academic performance**

1. Design a correlational study to investigate the relationship between these two variables. What is your hypothesis? How will you operationally define and measure the two variables?
2. How will you obtain a random sample of participants?
3. Assume that your study produces a correlation of .56 between the two variables. What are at least three possible causal explanations for this relationship?
4. Now design an experimental study to investigate these variables. What is your hypothesis? What type of hypotheses does the experimental method allow you to test that the correlational method does not?
5. What is your independent variable? What is your dependent variable?
6. How will you make sure that the study has high internal validity? Will you use random assignment to conditions?
7. Do any ethical concerns about the treatment of participants emerge from your experimental design?

5. **Research Topic: The relationship between time spent listening to Heavy Metal music and aggression**

   1. Design a correlational study to investigate the relationship between these two variables. What is your hypothesis? How will you operationally define and measure the two variables?
   2. How will you obtain a random sample of participants?
   3. Assume that your study produces a correlation of .56 between the two variables. What are at least three possible causal explanations for this relationship?
   4. Now design an experimental study to investigate these variables. What is your hypothesis? What type of hypotheses does the experimental method allow you to test that the correlational method does not?
   5. What is your independent variable? What is your dependent variable?
   6. How will you make sure that the study has high internal validity? Will you use random assignment to conditions?
   7. Do any ethical concerns about the treatment of participants emerge from your experimental design?

6. **Research Topic: The relationship between the physical attractiveness of a political candidate and voters’ opinions of him**

   1. Design a correlational study to investigate the relationship between these two variables. What is your hypothesis? How will you operationally define and measure the two variables?
   2. How will you obtain a random sample of participants?
   3. Assume that your study produces a correlation of .56 between the two variables. What are at least three possible causal explanations for this relationship?
   4. Now design an experimental study to investigate these variables. What is your hypothesis? What type of hypotheses does the experimental method allow you to test that the correlational method does not?
   5. What is your independent variable? What is your dependent variable?
   6. How will you make sure that the study has high internal validity? Will you use random assignment to conditions?
   7. Do any ethical concerns about the treatment of participants emerge from your experimental design?