

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

Утверждена

Академическим советом ООП

Протокол № от «__» ____ 20__ г.

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Number of credits	8
Contact hours	96
Self-Studing (hours)	208
Course	2 for MSc program “Applied social psychology”
Format of studying the discipline	without on-line courses usage

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course prerequisites

The course is designed for the first year master students, and is based on the previously learned courses “Economic psychology”, “Organizational Psychology” and “Experimental psychology”).

Abstract

The research seminar is aimed to introduce to students the international standards of good quality research in the field of economic psychology and organizational psychology, to help them to develop appropriate study design, use appropriate measurement instruments and methodological tools on chosen topic of their own study and to facilitate their work during main and final stages of planning and conducting the research. 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.

Novelty of the course:

- The course is aimed to integrate international and Russian standards of scientific work, which is a new practice in the training of master students in the field of psychology in Russia.
- The integration is achieved through the adjustment of APA standards for conducting and presenting psychological study to the requirements of Higher School of Economics for master’s 2nd year paper and thesis.
- Course format is usual for master students training in Higher School of Economics, however it does not have analogues for master students training in “Economic and Organizational Psychology” area in Russia.

Methodical novelty of the course:

- Group discussions at all stages of the development of students’ research projects. This gives students a unique opportunity to receive feedback not only from teachers, but also from the group, which helps to understand the weaknesses of the project, and improve it.
- All work is organized in a way that students can always connect the tasks with their own research interest, which increases students’ motivation significantly.

II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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.

III. LEARNING OUTCOMES

After fulfilling the course students:

1. Students are able to use in their research the latest methods of mathematical-statistical data (SEM, multilevel analysis).
2. Students are able to use databases of the international sociological surveys to prepare their home task.
3. Students possess techniques of group discussions, brainstorming to discuss novelty of master dissertation, formulation of research problem, and research hypotheses.

IV. COURSE PLAN

Topic 1. Introduction. Presentation of the theoretical bases of master study. Formulation of hypotheses

1st module, 8 contact hours, 18 self-study hours

Introduction to the course: thematic plan, homeworks’ structure and content, methods of assessment and grading procedures. Lecture on APA standard, its requirements for manuscripts. 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. Final discussion of the theoretical foundations of students’ theses, and formulation of the final version of the research hypotheses.

Topic 2. Writing and discussing the plan-prospect of the research in the master thesis

1st module, 8 contact hours, 18 self-study hours

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 3. Measurement instruments

1st module, 18 contact hours, 28 self-study hours

Presentation of the study's hypotheses, variables and questionnaire, designed according to the APA standards. Presentation and discussion of final versions of the questionnaire for the main study.

Topic 4. Methodological part of dissertation.

2nd module, 8 contact hours, 18 self-study hours

During seminar teacher and group critically analyze and discuss empirical methods of each student' thesis. Students need to clearly the sample, procedure, and measures according to the APA standards and explain the whole content and structure of master thesis

Topic 5. Discussing research design of the master thesis

2nd module, 8 contact hours, 18 self-study hours

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 6. Discussing final plan of empirical study of master thesis

2nd module, 8 contact hours, 18 self-study hours

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 7. Presentation of first results of mathematical-statistical analysis from empirical study

3rd module, 8 contact hours, 18 self-study hours

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 8. Presentation of final results of mathematical-statistical analysis from empirical study

3rd module, 22 contact hours, 38 self-study hours

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 9. Preliminary defense of the master thesis

3rd module, 8 contact hours, 34 self-study hours

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 (for the details, see Appendix 2).

IV. READING LIST (RESOURCES)

1. REQUIRED

Core literature

1. APA (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. 6th Ed. Washington, DC: APA. <http://www.apastyle.org/>
2. Baumeister, R.F., Leary, M.R. (1997). Writing narrative literature reviews. *Review of General Psychology*, 1, 311-320.
3. Levitt, H. M., Motulsky, S. L., Wertz, F. J., Morrow, S. L., & Ponterotto, J. G. (2017). Recommendations for designing and reviewing qualitative research in psychology: Promoting methodological integrity. *Qualitative Psychology*, 4(1), 2-22.
4. McGuire, W. J. (1997). Creative hypothesis generating in psychology: Some useful heuristics. *Annual review of psychology*, 48(1), 1-30.
5. Rosenthal, R., & DiMatteo, M. R. (2001). Meta-analysis: Recent developments in quantitative methods for literature reviews. *Annual Reviews in Psychology*, 52, 59-82.
6. Siddaway, A. P., Wood, A. M., & Hedges, L. V. (2018). How to Do a Systematic Review: A Best Practice Guide for Conducting and Reporting Narrative Reviews, Meta-Analyses, and Meta-Syntheses. *Annual review of psychology*.
7. The International Test Commission Guidelines on the Security of Tests, Examinations, and Other Assessments. (2016). *International Journal of Testing*, 16(3), 181–204.
8. White, L. (2005). Writes of Passage: Writing an Empirical Journal Article. *Journal of Marriage & Family*, 67(4), 791–798.

2. OPTIONAL

Additional literature

1. Balian, E. S. (1994). *The graduate research guidebook*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America.
2. 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.
3. Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. C., & Williams, J. M. (1995). *The craft of*

research. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

4. Campbell D.T., Stanley J.S. (1966) Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research (1966). Houghton Mifflin Company Boston.
5. Cone, J. D., & Foster. S.L. (1993). Dissertations and theses from start to finish: Psychology and related fields. Chicago, IL: American Psychological Association.
6. Coolican, H. (2009). Research methods and statistics in psychology. 5th ed. London: Hodder Education, 703p.
7. Gay L. R., Airasian P. Educational research: Competencies for analysis and applications. 2003. Merrill Prentice Hall
8. 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.
9. Howell D.C. Fundamental statistics for the behavioral sciences. 2004. Belmont. CA: Brooks/Cole
10. Ylijoki, O.-H. (2001). Master’s thesis writing from a narrative approach. Studies in Higher Education, 26, 20-34.

VI. GRADING SYSTEM

Course grade consists of cumulative grade and the final exam grade. The cumulative grade is calculated as the weighted total of grades received for all ongoing assessments. Ongoing assessment methods are conducted for such activities as class participation and four home tasks, final examination is pre-defense of master thesis. Examples of all the assessment tools and criteria of evaluation are presented in the appendix 1.

Formula for the grades

- Grade for 1st module = 0.1 *attendance + 0.2 presentation+0.4*HW1 (MT proposal) + 0.3* questionnaire
- Grade for 2nd module = 0.1 *attendance + 0.2*sample description + 0.3*revised theory+ 0.4* pilot study.
- Grade for 3rd module = 0.1*attendance + 0.2*HW2(results) + 0.3*empirical part+ 0.4*Grade for preliminary defense .
- Final Grade = 0,5 Grade for 1st year + 0,1*Grade for 1st module + 0,2* Grade for 2nd module +0,2* Grade for 3rd module.

There are no blocking elements among the forms of assessment for the course.

Knowledge are assessed in 10-point scale: “Excellent” – 8 to 10 points (on a 10-point scale); “Good” – 6-7 points (on a 10-point scale); “Satisfactory” – 4-5 points (on a 10-point scale); “Fail” – 0-3 points (on a 10-point scale).

Student gets 0 point if at least one the following conditions is relevant for his answer/written work: (1) student refuse to give an answer (in case of oral form of control) and other cases when no answer is received; (2) student fabricates data or results; (3) student delivers written work without answers to the proposed tasks; (3) percent of plagiarism on written task is higher when 20; (4) student makes a forgery in written task; (5) double submission of written work is detected; (6)

An academic failure includes a final grade of less than four (4) points (on a 10-point scale) for a final grade or the result of a student’s absence from the examination without a valid reason.

If student failed the course, two (2) retakes are permitted. Retake is organized in a form which are the same to the final examination: student should present his/her year master thesis. At the first retake, only a grade received at the examination is eligible for revision. At the second retake, conducted by a special examination board, consisting of at least three examiners, as an exception, ongoing assessment results may be disregard and a final grade may be given on the basis of the evaluation of master thesis.

VII. EXAMINATION TYPE

Final examination is arranged in a form of oral presenting a draft of year essay (in ppt or pptx format) and answering the questions about it as well as demonstrating the preparedness of the text.

VIII. METHODS OF INSTRUCTIONS

The course is arranged in forms of seminars. Lecturers in form of presentations provide key information, but the majority of work is done during discussions in small groups. Materials for class activities are provided in printed and electronic form.

If necessary, for students with different disabilities (visual impairments, hearing impairments, disorders of the musculoskeletal system) and students who are undergoing the individual programs of rehabilitation, the following options may be offered (taking into account their individual psychophysical characteristics): materials in printed form and in the form of an electronic document; individual tasks and consultations.

IX. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE SUPPORT

Classrooms for lectures on the discipline enable the use and demonstration of thematic illustrations that correspond with the program disciplines and includes:

- Personal computers with Internet access (operating system, office software, antivirus software);

- Multimedia projector with the remote control.

Classrooms for practical and laboratory classes of the discipline have the Internet access to the electronic informational and educational environment of the HSE.

Appendix 1 - Examples of assessment tools

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

1st module – project proposal and questionnaire;

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

3rd module – defending master thesis.

Form of the assessment	Criteria
1) Homework 1. Project proposal MT and final version of questionnaire. Students should plan their research: formulate a research question, develop hypotheses, find appropriate research methods, and present this plan and final version of questionnaire in a written form. Project proposal should also be presented in the class and final version of questionnaire.	1. Adequacy of the research question(s). 2. Quality of the theoretical overview. 3. Adequacy of hypotheses. Connection of hypotheses with the theoretical overview. 4. Appropriateness of the research methods chosen to test the hypotheses. 5. Quality of the written form of the questionnaire and project

<p>2) Homework 2. The report describing the main results of the empirical study This chapter addresses the results from your data analysis only. This chapter does not include discussing other research literature or the implications of your findings.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adequacy of the descriptive or exploratory/confirmatory analyses (e.g., reliability tests, factor analysis) 2. Appropriateness of the statistical methods chosen to test the hypotheses. 3. All results concerning the research problem that are part of the empiric verification of the hypothesis must be shown. 4. The statistical study should start from the values of descriptive statistics that further statistical tests refer to. The analysis results must contain the full information that is the value of the statistical test, the number of degrees of freedom, and the accurate level of significance. 5. Tables and/or figures should be used to illustrate and summarize all numeric information. 6. The tables and drawings should be formatted in the same way throughout the whole thesis. The student must also remember that titles of tables are given above them, and captions of drawings – below them. 7. For qualitative and historical research, this chapter usually is organized by the themes or categories uncovered in your research. 8. If you have conducted focus groups or interviews, it is often appropriate to
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	<p>provide a brief descriptive (e.g., demographic) profile of the participants first.</p>
<p>Preliminary defense of master thesis</p>	<p>The text should include the following sections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction (the importance of the study is clearly described; the goal of the study; the research question(s) are clearly reported). 2. Theoretical chapter (chapters should be logically ordered; the literature should be sufficient in terms of number and relevance of references; all of the key concepts should be clearly defined; the literature should be integrated and critically described; concise but complete evidence should be provided for the hypotheses; if the logic of your theoretical chapter allows, it would be good to finish this section with a chapter “The present research”, where you develop the hypotheses for your empirical study. 3. Study method (the sample; the instrument(s), and procedure are concisely, clearly and completely described). 4. Results. This chapter addresses the results from your data analysis only. This chapter does not include discussing other research literature or the implications of your findings. 5. Discussion. This chapter include discussing results of your study and other research literature and/or the implications of your findings.

	<p>Limitations and future directions of your study.</p> <p>6. Conclusions. Make a brief conclusions based on research results, describe obtained new facts.</p> <p>7. References should be executed in accordance with the APA style (http://www.apastyle.org/).</p> <p>8. Quality of the presentation</p>
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Appendix 2 – Structure of the Master’s Thesis

1st page: Title page

Title page should include:

- a. Name of the institution (Higher School of Economics), the department (Psychology), and the Master’s Program (Applied Social Psychology)
- b. Title of the study
- c. Author’s (student’s) full name
- d. Supervisor(s)’ second name and initials
- e. Year

You can find the title page template at the end of this document.

2nd page: Table of contents

3rd page: Abstract and key words

Introduction (around 10% of the text)

1. Brief overview explaining the background and importance of the study
2. Problem statement (explanation of the problem and what the researcher hopes to achieve by conducting the study);
3. The research question(s) (specifically what the researcher wants to know);
4. The goals and objectives of the study
5. Novelty and scientific significance of the study, how will your study contribute to the existing literature on the topic?

Note that the introduction should give a concise overview of your study. Reader should understand from your introduction what you are going to do, and why and how you are going to do that.

Chapter 1: Theoretical background (around 30% of the text)

- a. A brief introduction of the objective (problem) of the thesis.
- b. A history of research on the problem and the most important successes (results).
- c. The theoretical and methodological context of the chosen research problem.
- d. Research hypothesis (or questions) that clearly relate to the presented earlier review of literature

Theoretical chapter should include several logically ordered subchapters, each of which can consist of a number of more detailed subchapters. The structure and the content of this chapter depend on your research topic/question(s)/hypotheses, but below you can find some general guidelines how this chapter should be written.

1. Chapters should be logically ordered;
2. The literature should be sufficient in terms of number and relevance of references;

All of the key concepts should be clearly defined (a list of definitions of terms that directly pertain to this study should be provided. The list should include definitions of terms that might be unclear to the reader);

3. The literature should be integrated and critically described;
4. Concise but complete evidence should be provided for the hypotheses;
5. If the logic of your theoretical chapter allows, it would be good to finish this section with a chapter “The present research”, where you develop the hypotheses for your empirical study.

Chapter 2: Method (around 15% of the text)

1. Sample description (Participants). Justification of the sample size;
2. Variables: operationalization of the constructs (description of dependent & independent variables, if applicable);

3. Procedure (design) of the study;
4. The research scheme (model)
5. Materials/methods used (please specify sources of your methods, information about their validity and reliability);
6. Statistical Analysis (Provide a clear description of the statistical process used for analysis of data. The type of statistical tests should be reflective of the research hypothesis or question(s)).

Chapter 3: Results (around 25% of the text)

- This chapter addresses the results from your data analysis only. **This chapter does not include discussing other research literature or the implications of your findings.**
- All results concerning the research problem that are part of the empiric verification of the hypothesis must be shown.
- Usually you begin by outlining any descriptive or exploratory/confirmatory analyses (e.g., reliability tests, factor analysis) that were conducted.
- Then, address the results of the tests of hypotheses.
- Tables and/or figures should be used to illustrate and summarize all numeric information.
- The tables and drawings should be formatted in the same way throughout the whole thesis. The student must also remember that titles of tables are given above them, and captions of drawings – below them.
- The statistical study should start from the values of descriptive statistics that further statistical tests refer to. The analysis results must contain the full information that is the value of the statistical test, the number of degrees of

freedom, and the accurate level of significance.

- For qualitative and historical research, this chapter usually is organized by the themes or categories uncovered in your research.
- If you have conducted focus groups or interviews, it is often appropriate to provide a brief descriptive (e.g., demographic) profile of the participants first.

Chapter 4: Discussion and conclusion (around 20% of the text)

- The purpose of this chapter is not just to reiterate what you found but rather to discuss what your findings mean in relation to the theoretical body of knowledge on the topic and your profession.
- The discussion of results should be started with a reminder of the objective and research problem.
- Begin by discussing your findings in relation to the theoretical framework introduced in the literature review.
- This chapter also should address what your findings mean for communication professionals in the field being examined. In other words, what are the study's practical implications?

Conclusion - Summary of entire thesis in a few pages.

1. Conclusions (a summary of the most important conclusions of the thesis and their meaning).
2. Implications. Speculate about broadest possible consequences, both theoretical and practical.
3. Limitations (factors that were not under the control of the researcher).
Theory, method.
4. Suggestions for future research.

References

Provide a list of references used for this paper

Min. 40 references.

Appendix (optional)

Questionnaires; stimuli materials; data, large tables or sheets.

The paper should be **5-8 thousand words** (18-30 pages, not including the references and appendix).

The text has to be in **Times New Roman, 12pt, double spaced**. For formatting please use **APA style**: <http://www.apastyle.org/> or <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Appendix 3 – Title page template

FEDERAL STATE AUTONOMOUS EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION
«NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS»
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
Master's Program «Applied Social Psychology»

Last Name, Name

Name of Your Topic

Master’s Thesis

Reviewer

MSc,

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PhD in Soc. Psych.,

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Tatarko A.N.

Moscow, 2019