

Department.: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 296W

Course Title: Senior Thesis in Psychology

Credits: 3

Contact Person: John Rickards

Catalog Copy: Senior Thesis in Psychology. Either semester. Three credits. Hours by arrangement.
Prerequisite: Three credits of PSYC 297 or PSYC 299; ENGL 105 or 110 or 111 or 250. Open only to Honors students with consent of instructor and Department Head.

W Criteria: Psyc 296W is an Honors course taken by Psychology majors in their last semester of study; the purpose of the course is to write a thesis based on empirical work conducted the previous semester. Successful writing of the thesis, under the supervision of a faculty thesis advisor, is necessary for the completion of the Honors degree requirements in Psychology. Psyc 296W is, thus, an individualized writing tutorial taken by Honors Psychology majors under the direct supervision of a faculty advisor. The minimum length for the final product has typically been 20-25 pages, but many Honors theses are at least 40 pages.

Every thesis goes through multiple drafts, with the faculty advisor providing feedback on basic elements of style, adherence to the publication standards of the American Psychology Association, coherence of ideas from the introductory material through the methodology and results of the study, and presentation and interpretation of data. Because Psyc 296W represents the bringing together and summarizing of empirical research in Psychology, the student's writing is the central element of the curriculum. The thesis advisor is in charge of directing the writing; he or she may require a document to be written in sections (probably the most common approach) or may require the completion of an entire draft document before feedback is given. Clearly, receiving a failing grade on the writing would result in failing the course.

Role of Grad Students: none

