



Center for HIV Educational Studies & Training
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HUNTER
The City University of New York

PSYCH 395-Independent Research Syllabus

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CHEST Intern Coordinator: Dasha Kouznetsova

dkouznetsova@chestnyc.org

Office Hours by appointment

All students must have completed the online course in the protection of Human Subjects (www.citiprogram.org) before beginning the intern experience. Students must turn in a copy of the completion certificate to the Intern Coordinator on their first scheduled day to work as an intern. Students who previously completed this online training for other course simply must provide CHEST with a copy of their completion certificate.

Student grades for Psych 395 will be based 50% each for Part A and B. Completion of Internship Hours and the Writing Assignment do not automatically result in a grade of A for the course. You will also be graded on the quality of your work.

A. Research Hours

- Students are required to work 60 hours (one 4 hour work day per week for 15 weeks) at CHEST for the course of the semester. Students will arrange their work schedules with the Intern Coordinator. Students will be given an INCOMPLETE if the required hours are not completed.
- All students will be given a copy of the CHEST Policy and Procedure Manual before their first scheduled day of interning and must return to the Intern Coordinator the signed form on the last page stating that they have read and agreed to these policies.
- The internship experience is professional development. Students are expected to approach the internship as such. Therefore students' conduct is part of their evaluation for this part of their grade, which will be determined through input from the Intern Coordinator and other CHEST staff you work with.
- Conduct that is in conflict with the stated policies and procedures (e.g., excessive breaks, disturbing others, improper use of cell phones, doing personal work on CHEST time, etc.) as outlined in the CHEST Policy and Procedure Manual as well as lack of progress in accomplishing tasks, will negatively impact your final grade.

B. Writing Assignment

Due to the nature of the work at CHEST, this assignment asks you to become an expert in a specific area of HIV research. Adherence to APA style, proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling will be considered in grading, as will the quality of the paper. It is suggested that you speak to the Intern Coordinator about your ideas for this paper prior to beginning the writing process. For this assignment you will:

- Describe the population in question and why they are at risk (2 pages). You *may* need some additional references for this.
- Review at least 5 psychology articles from research journals that focus on HIV-related *risk taking* (*drug use or unsafe sex*) in this group and *why* researchers think it occurs (specific factors/variables. You must discuss each research article fully (e.g., sample and methods) in at least one page and discuss the findings, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the research.
- Discuss what the 5 articles had in common and what was different about them (e.g., sampling, methods used, etc). Minimum 2 pages.
- Write a short discussion advising other psychologists what we need to be doing in the future (overlooked factors, recommendations for improving future research) based upon what you have learned from the five research articles. Minimum 2 pages.
- Final product should be 11-15 pages (not including cover page or references, etc). Citations and references should be in APA format.
- Students are expected to complete their hours and turn in their paper by the LAST DAY OF CLASSES for the semester. Submit your paper to Dr. Parsons *by email*.

Revised Fall 2009