



# UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑΣ

University of Nicosia, Cyprus

<b>Course Code</b> PSYM-691	<b>Course Title</b> Thesis	<b>ECTS Credits</b> 10
<b>Department</b> Social Sciences	<b>Semester</b>	<b>Prerequisites</b> PSYM-506
<b>Type of Course</b> Elective	<b>Field</b> Educational Psychology	<b>Language of Instruction</b> Greek or English
<b>Level of Course</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cycle	<b>Year of Study</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Lecturer(s)</b> Dr Ioulia Papageorgi
<b>Mode of Delivery</b> Face-to-face tutorials with Thesis supervisor	<b>Work Placement</b> N/A	<b>Co-requisites</b> None

### *Objectives of the Course:*

This course builds on the skills developed in PSYM-506 (Research Methods). The aim of the course is for students, under the guidance of a designated supervisor, to undertake an independent research project from beginning to end. Students will initially develop a research proposal, which will be evaluated by their Thesis committee and the University of Nicosia Ethics committee. Once the proposal has been approved, students may begin their data collection. Students are required to write a Thesis report summarizing relevant literature, research questions, research methodology, data analysis and discussion of findings following APA style. The length of the Thesis is expected to be between 8,000-10,000 words.

An indicative Thesis format is as follows:

<b>Thesis Content and Description</b>	
<b>Title</b>	The Title should be clear, concise and must communicate to the reader the essence and focus of your project. It is advisable to formulate a working title at an early stage as it usually helps to focus the work.
<b>Abstract</b>	The Abstract is a concise statement of what you did and what you found as a result of your research project – it gives the essential points that emerge from your research, such as the rationale for the study your method, the key findings, and a conclusion that relates to the rationale. Although it appears at the beginning of your thesis, it is usually written last.

### **Chapter 1: Introduction**

Chapter 1 serves as a starting point to the thesis and is an introduction to the topic for your readers. It should provide a clear rationale for the study and the context of the work and should also state the “research problem” in practical and theoretical terms.

### **Chapter 2: Literature Review**

Chapter 2 should define the main terms of the study, present a concise and critical review of relevant literature and synthesize existing work in the field, whilst drawing out conceptual and methodological issues. The chapter should end with a discussion of identified gaps in the literature and a presentation of the research questions and hypotheses.

### **Chapter 3: Methodology**

The Methodology chapter presents and justifies the methodology chosen for the empirical part of the study. It is expected that the following sections will be included:

- a. Design
- b. Participants
- c. Materials
- d. Procedure
- e. Ethical considerations
- f. Statistical tests to be used to analyze the data

### **Chapter 4: Pilot Study and Preliminary Data Analysis**

This chapter describes the conceptualization, design and execution of the pilot study, as well as the preliminary data analysis.

### **Chapter 5: Main Study and Final Data Analysis**

This chapter describes the conceptualization, design and execution of the Main Study, and presents the main findings. A discussion of how the design of the Main Study was informed by the Pilot Study (e.g. changes in methodology or data analysis methods) is expected at the beginning of the chapter.

### **Chapter 6: Discussion**

This chapter should start by interpreting your research findings in terms of the research problem and research questions. A discussion of the various findings in relation to the theoretical issues and literature outlined in the Literature Review should follow.

### **Chapter 7: Conclusion**

This is the final chapter, in which the contribution of the work should be summarized, and appropriate conclusions should be drawn. These may include implications for future research and practice, limitations of the project and suggestions for improvements if the study was to be repeated.

### **References**

This section should include an exhaustive and accurate list of the literature

mentioned in the thesis. It should be presented in ascending alphabetical order and using the APA style referencing system.

### **Appendices**

The Appendices should include any useful information for the reader, which is redundant to the main text of the thesis, such as the Informed Consent Form and the Instruments that used to collect data (e.g. questionnaires, interview schedules, observation schedules). It is important to refer to any Appendices in the main text of the Thesis report so that the reader can consult them if necessary.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

On completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Comprehend basic principles of research design, including an understanding of how to conceptualize educational psychology research, formulate researchable problems, and construct and test hypotheses
2. Develop a comprehensive proposal for an original empirical research project by anticipating and addressing major issues in validity and reliability
3. Evidence competence in the use of quantitative and qualitative methodologies in educational psychology enquiry
4. Exhibit skills in the use of quantitative analysis methods, using specialized software such as SPSS
5. Exhibit skills in the use of qualitative analysis methods
6. Write up the research project findings using APA style
7. Anticipate and address major ethical dilemmas that a researcher faces, especially in the design and data collection phases of the project
8. Manage successfully all the stages of a research project, from the research proposal to the write-up phase

### *Course Contents:*

1. Idea-Generating Phase
2. Problem-Definition Phase
3. Procedures-Design Phase
4. Data Collection Phase
5. Data-Analysis Phase
6. Interpretation Phase
7. Communication Phase

*Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:*

Face-to face tutorials
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*Assessment Methods:*

Research Proposal, Research Project Thesis
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*Required Textbooks/Reading:*

<b>Authors</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>ISBN</b>
Graziano, A. & Raulin. M.	Research Methods: A Process of Inquiry	Allyn & Bacon McGraw Hill	2010	ISBN 10: 0205634028
American Psychological Association	Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6 <sup>th</sup> edition)	American Psychological Association	2010	ISBN 10: 1433805618

*Recommended Textbooks/Reading:*

<b>Authors</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>ISBN</b>
Pallant, J.	SPSS Survival Manual (4 <sup>th</sup> edition)	Open University Press	2010	ISBN 10: 0335242391