**PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH SEMINAR**

**Psychology 26 830 675**

**Spring, 2013**

Professor Kent Harber

Department of Psychology

Room 352 Smith Hall

(973) 353-3955

[kharber@psychology.rutgers.edu](mailto:kharber@psychology.rutgers.edu)

<http://nwkpsych.rutgers.edu/~kharber/>

**Class Meeting:** Thursday, 1:20-2:20

Smith Hall, Room 371

**Office Hour:** Tuesday, 1:30-3:00 and by appointment.

**Overview:** A major part of academics is communicating; about one's own research and interests and about those of others. As in most other important parts of our lives, we want to understand and be understood. This seminar focuses on research communication skills. During our weekly meetings we will each lead discussions on research topics related to our interests (writ large), and will practice presenting and critiquing research. By doing so we will get practice explaining ideas and methods (useful for teaching, professional presentations, and collaboration), get a broadened sense of psychology research, and I greatly hope and expect, have fun.

**Evaluation:** There are not tests, exams, or major projects in this class. Evaluation will be based solely on class participation. This means: showing up for class, reading all materials before class and being prepared to discuss them in depth, preparing the discussions you elect to lead, being actively engaged in class. I don't want to coax anyone to participate in discussions; if you hear me do so repeatedly, that's not a good sign.

**Activities:**

1. Literature discussions: Each of us will provide one research article of our choosing (not a

review article and not a chapter, but an empirical article with at least one study). And, we

will also present on non-research essay, short-story, poem, art piece, YouTube piece, etc.

related to the selected research topic. You should have discussion questions prepared.

2. Graphing conceptual models: Each of us will create "box and arrow" graphical models of our

research, showing causal paths from stimuli to behavior. This will be done in class; no

prior preparation is necessary.

3. Poster critiques: I will bring in a set of poster presentations from a recent conference, and we

will review and critique them.

4. Poster preparation and presentation: You will prepare posters on your research (on

8.5 X 11 inch paper) before class, will present your posters, and will answer questions regarding the poster, and will comment/critique posters.

5. Abstracts: You will draft 250 word (max.) abstracts of your research before class, for class presentation, discussion, and critiques. Also, you will present the core of your research in

4 sentences (and these cannot be Proustian sentences!).

6. End of Year Talk presentations: You will present a 15 min. PowerPoint presentation on your

research.

**CLASSES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **TOPIC** |
| 1. Jan. 23 | Introductions and "Partnered Descriptions" of Research |
| 2. Jan. 30 | Lit. Discussion: Kent – *Negative Social Support; Half Gone* |
| 3. Feb. 06 | Lit. Discussion |
| 4. Feb. 13 | NO CLASS – SPSP CONVENTION |
| 5. Feb. 20 | Lit. Discussion |
| 6. Feb. 27 | Lit. Discussion |
| 7. Mar. 06 | Lit. Discussion |
| 8. Mar. 13 | Lit. Discussion |
| 9. Mar. 20 | NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK |
| 10. Mar. 27 | Graphing conceptual models |
| 11. Apr. 03 | Poster critiques |
| 12. Apr. 10 | Poster presentations |
| 13. Apr. 17 | Abstracts and the "4 sentence research summary" |
| 14. Apr. 24 | Research Presentations |
| 15. May 01 | Research Presentations |