

## **FINAL PROJECT – ORIGINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

You may propose research on any topic in cognitive development that interests you. It must be on cognitive development but it does not have to be a topic specifically covered in the course.

### **Requirements**

You will need to submit a Project Proposal, a Literature Review draft and a Final Paper, and attend your Topic Seminar.

The project proposal is a two-page description of your proposed research plan, including:

- The list of resources you plan to use for the lit review
- The basics of the proposed experiment, including the hypothesis and experimental design
- A sketch of the conclusions you plan on drawing

The topic seminar will be a group discussion of about 8 students, Dr. Schulz and the TAs. You should be comfortable discussing and explaining your project proposal to the group.

The final paper has four parts:

1. A 4-5-page literature review of your topic ending with the specific question you'd like to address and an explanation of its connection to the literature. The format should be APA style and comparable to Introduction of the articles you will read in class. A draft of this will be returned to you with comments (but no grade).
2. A 3-4 page description of your proposed experiment. The experiment should specify the population to be tested, the materials and procedure you will use, and the conditions you hope to test. The format should be comparable to the Procedures section of the articles you will read in class.
3. A 3-4 page discussion section. This section should discuss the conclusions you would draw if your hypothesized results were confirmed. It should also discuss alternative results and conclusions you might draw from those. Finally, it should anticipate possible objections to your approach and suggest areas for further study. The format and tone should be comparable to the Discussion and General Discussion section of the articles you will read in class.
4. A reference section (APA style; not counted in 13-page limit).
5. All papers must be submitted both in hard copy and electronically. Please keep this between 11-13 pages (Times, 12-font, double-space, 1" margins).

## **Important Dates**

Session 9: Two-page proposal description due in class

Sessions 10–14: Topics seminars

Session 18: Draft of literature review due in class

Before session 21: Drafts returned

Session 25: Final paper due in class

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9.85 Infant and Early Childhood Cognition  
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