

Culture and Social Psychology Empirical Research Workshop (CASPER)
SOC 563 – Spring 2010
Dr. Timothy Dowd and Dr. Cathryn Johnson
Monday 1:00-4:00; Tarbutton 206

Office Hours: Dr. Timothy Dowd
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Purpose of the Course:

This workshop focuses on teaching graduate students how to produce research, ranging from the initial design of a study to eventual submission for publication. The following types of graduate students will be eligible for participation in the workshop: (a) those who specialize in culture and/or social psychology; *and* (b) those who are currently involved in some stage of the research process (e.g., beginning a project, revising a paper, conducting data analysis, working on a dissertation proposal). Throughout the semester, we will address the particular efforts of each student. Each workshop member will provide constructive comments at our meetings.

Motivations and Goals of CASPER:

First, in recent years, we have found an overlap in the students that we each advise – with the most notable development being those who work at the intersection of culture and social psychology. We have also had a number of students publishing during this time frame, with these students increasingly seeking more publications. CASPER, then, provides an opportunity for us to address student projects in both areas in a collective context. This is the sixth time we have taught CASPER. We have found that hashing out ideas in a group context is highly productive and invaluable because it provides an opportunity to get feedback from individuals with different points of view and expertise (as the groups literature shows). In addition, CASPER provides a context where new and older graduate students share ideas and learn about the research process together.

Second, CASPER fills a notable gap in our graduate curriculum. We have venues for learning about research in a general sense (e.g., various methods courses and the second-year research seminar) but not in ways that are specifically linked to the particular research agendas of students.

Third, CASPER helps students go through the graduate program in a more timely fashion. By guiding students who are in the early years to students working on their dissertation proposals, we are helping students keep on track. As important, we know that graduate students are more successful on the job market if they have publications. CASPER aids in helping students to prepare their papers for publication.

Grading: The student's grade will be either Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory. The students are required to attend each session, provide comments, and participate in the discussion of each student's project. In addition, each student will present their own project and receive and respond to feedback provided by the workshop members. As long as they meet these criteria responsibly, they will receive a Satisfactory.

The Schedule:

The workshop will meet for three hours on a bi-weekly basis. These meetings will occur on a Monday afternoon. Students will enroll for 2 hours credit, Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory. One or two students will provide their papers/materials (e.g., outlines, preliminary drafts, revised drafts, questionnaires, transcribed interviews, and codebooks) to the workshop members a week before the Monday meeting (via an emailed attachment sent to all CASPER participants). All participants, in turn, will review the written materials and then provide comments/questions/suggestions to the presenter(s) at the workshop.

Course Schedule

January 25:	Introduction to the Course
February 1:	Lesley Watson
February 15:	Christie Parris
March 1:	Brandy Simula
March 15:	Caddie Putnam Rankin
March 29:	Yun Tai
April 12:	Sonal Nalkur
April 26:	Kevin Greene
May 3:	Jin Won Chung