

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK



MASTER SYLLABUS

PSYC 421 – Honors Thesis

CIP Code: 42.2799 Research and Experimental Psychology

Created by: Barat Wolfe, PhD

**School: Business and Liberal Arts
Department: Applied Psychology
Implementation Semester/Year: Fall 2026**

A. TITLE: Honors Thesis

B. COURSE NUMBER: PSYC 421

C. CREDIT HOURS (Hours of Lecture, Laboratory, Recitation, Tutorial, Activity): 3

# Credit Hours per Week	7.5
# Lecture Hours per Week	
# Lab Hours per Week	
Other per Week	

D. WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:

Yes	
No	X

E. GER CATEGORY: N/A

Does course satisfy a GER category(ies)? If so, please select all that apply.

[1-2] Communication	
[3] Diversity: Equity, Inclusion & Social Justice	
[4] Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning	
[5] Natural Science & Scientific Reasoning	
[6] Humanities	
[7] Social Sciences	
[8] Arts	
[9] US History & Civic Engagement	
[10] World History & Global Awareness	
[11] World Languages	

F. SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:

Fall	
Spring	
Fall and Spring	X

G. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students will complete an honors thesis based on their area of interest in Applied Psychology. Under the guidance of a faculty mentor, the student will submit a research proposal, conduct research, prepare a thesis style report, and present a defense to a thesis committee.

H. PRE-REQUISITES: HUSV 420

CO-REQUISITES:

Although not required, it is recommended that students complete MATH 341

I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]	Program Student Learning Outcome [PSLO]	GER	ISLO & Subsets
a. Critically evaluate existing literature to identify a topic of special interest	2 Scientific Inquiry & Critical Thinking		2 [CA]
b. Design a research methodology to answer a relevant research question	2 Scientific Inquiry & Critical Thinking		2 [PS]
c. Collect and analyze data	2 Scientific Inquiry & Critical Thinking		2 [IA]
d. Demonstrate independent research skills, adhering to ethical research practices	3 Ethical & Social Responsibility		4 [ER]
e. Communicate research outcomes both orally, and in writing, using APA standards	4 Communication		1 [O, W]

KEY	<u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes</u> <u>[ISLO 1 – 5]</u>
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking <i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	Foundational Skills <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit, /Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	Social Responsibility <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i>
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:

Yes	X
No	

If yes, select [X] one or more of the following categories:

Classroom / Lab		Community Service	
Internship		Civic Engagement	
Clinical Practicum		Creative Works/Senior Project	X
Practicum		Research	X
Service Learning		Entrepreneurship [program, class, project]	

- K. TEXTS: N/A
- L. REFERENCES: As applicable, determined by student and thesis supervisor
- M. EQUIPMENT: computer, internet, SUNY Canton email, Microsoft Office
- N. GRADING METHOD: A-F
- O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS: Honors thesis grade based on average cumulative scores determined by members of committee in review of oral defense and written report.
- P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:
- I. **Application for thesis and assigning faculty supervisor**
 - A. Students should inform their academic advisor of intent to complete thesis during HUSV 420 (and preferably before – end of junior year). Students should complete CITI trainings during HUSV 420 (and preferably before)
 - B. Students should reach out to a faculty member to supervise their research during HUSV 420 (and preferably before). If primary supervisor is outside of Applied Psychology faculty, they must identify a co-supervisor from Applied Psychology Department
 - C. Application must be approved by Department Chair
 - II. **Thesis Guidelines**
 - A. A discipline-related topic must be selected. Existing research and publication must be collected and evaluated. Students can use prior work (e.g., a literature review completed for another course; previous work as a research assistant or intern) to complete project, with approval.
 - B. Students will follow APA guidelines. If appropriate, an IRB must be submitted
 - III. **Committee Selection and Oral Defense**
 - A. Review committee will be comprised of three SUNY Canton faculty members: research supervisor, faculty member from Applied Psychology, faculty member from another program. If the primary research supervisor is from outside of the department, the other two members of the program can be from Applied Psychology. Final composition of committee approved by Department Chair
 - B. Student will arrange location and time of oral defense. Student will additionally present work at Scholarly Activities Day as a course expectation
 - C. Committee will use standardized rubric to evaluate student.
 - IV. **Timeline**
 - A. During HUSV 420 – identify topic and supervisor, complete CITI trainings (if not done already), complete application for thesis
 - B. Weeks 1-2: Select committee, topic exploration, submit IRB if applicable
 - C. Weeks 3-7: Data collection, continued work on literature review
 - D. Weeks 8-11: Data analysis and findings
 - E. Weeks 12-14: Draft of report, oral presentation
 - F. Week 15: Final submission
- Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: