

# ***PSYT 400 - RESEARCH PROJECT IN PSYCHIATRY***

## **Course Outline + Application Forms 2017**

**PSYT 400D1/D2**, Research Project in Psychiatry, (Fall and Winter, 6 credits)

### **Course Coordinator:**

Dr. Kathryn Gill

Psychiatry Department

Allan Memorial Institute (P1.039) or Addictions Unit, McGill University Health Centre (G1.103)

Phone: 514-934-1934 x42395 FAX: 514-934-8262

Email: [kathryn.gill@mcgill.ca](mailto:kathryn.gill@mcgill.ca)

### **Information for Supervisors**

All potential supervisors should be faculty in the Psychiatry Department at McGill University and all projects should be related to mental health research. The detailed course outline and application form are attached below. The application form should be filled out jointly by the supervisor and student, and returned to the course coordinator by **September 8, 2017**. The application approval process involves evaluation of the student (e.g. GPA, prerequisites, eligibility), as well as the project.

In terms of the project requirements, ethics approval should be completed at the time of the application. Note that a 6-credit two term course represents an average of 9 hours of work/week on the part of the student, which includes sufficient time to prepare a proposal, a progress report and the final report at the end of term. The objectives of the course are for undergraduates to learn experimental design, methods, data collection, entry and analysis, as well as the procedures for producing a manuscript-style paper. Ideally, students would have the opportunity to participate in formulating the research question and methods.

### **Information for Students**

This course is similar in format to undergraduate research courses offered in other departments, but is specifically designed for projects related to mental health research, either basic or clinical. Eligible students should contact Psychiatry department faculty members directly to enquire about possible research opportunities. A list of faculty members along with information on their research interests can be found at <http://www.mcgill.ca/psychiatry/research/researchers>. **Students are advised to start the application process** during the summer months and to plan for an alternative course in the case that no suitable project/supervisor is available.

When you contact potential supervisors, please include a copy of these guidelines, and remind them that there is no salary commitment on their part, since it is a credit course. Course approval application forms are included at the end of the course outline below. They must be completed, signed by both you and the supervisor, and returned to the course coordinator by September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for approval prior to fall registration. Please include a copy of your unofficial transcript with the application.

### **General Information on the Course**

**Eligibility and Prerequisites:** This course is open to undergraduate students in the U2 and U3 years with an interest in topics specifically related to mental health research, either basic or clinical. Students must have completed a course in biostatistics prior to enrollment (eg. Psych 305 or equivalent). A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for registration in this course.

***Projects must conform to ethical guidelines for animal or human testing, and be approved by the appropriate ethics committees at McGill University or the affiliated hospitals. (To prevent delays in commencement of research projects, ethics approval for all procedures or protocols to be used in the student's project should already be obtained. (Or require only very minor amendments).***

**Restrictions:** This course cannot be taken concurrently by students enrolling for undergraduate honours thesis projects, or other Research Projects Courses (Faculty of Science “396” courses, Psych 395, 450D, 494D, 495D, NSCI 410,420).

**McGill Policy Statements**

1. “McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.” See [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) for more information. (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003).
2. “In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.” (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)

**Learning Outcomes:** The goal of this course is to provide students with experience in all aspects of carrying out a research project covering two consecutive terms. Students are expected to research, understand and summarize the background literature of their particular subject area. They will be actively involved in carrying out an experimental project and collecting, analyzing, clearly presenting and interpreting data. They will gain competence in time management and organizational skills as well as scientific writing.

**Instructional Method:** Under the supervision of a faculty member in the psychiatry department, students will carry out an experimental research project, either fundamental or clinical in nature, to be conducted continuously over the fall and winter terms.

**Course Work and Requirements:** Three documents should be submitted by the students to the course coordinator, AND their research supervisors by the indicated deadlines:

- 1) Proposal Abstract (500 word max) to be submitted by October 15th, summarizing relevant background, research questions to be addressed, methods/experimental design and hypothesized outcomes.
- 2) Progress Report (1000 word max) to be submitted by the last day of classes in the fall 2017 term.
- 3) A final Written Report submitted by the last day of regular classes of the winter 2018 term. This should be in the form of an article submitted for publication in a scientific journal (12 page minimum double-spaced, not including references, figures, etc.). The final report will include an introduction to the relevant literature, methods and procedures, results and discussion.

**Evaluation:**

- Proposal Abstract – 5%
- Progress Report – 5%
- Research Performance – 40%
- Final Written Research Report – 50%

**NB- Research performance grades (40%)** are determined entirely by individual supervisors working with the students during the year. The grade should reflect general performance and research aptitude, attention to methodological detail, work ethic, effective documentation and data analysis.

**Final written reports (50%)** will be evaluated by both the supervisor and course coordinator, with the final report grade being an average of the two. Each area of the report will be given a rating from fail to exceptional.

NB. The course coordinator will send a grading form to the supervisor on the last day of regular classes in the winter 2018 term. The grades must be submitted by the end of the exam period in April 2018.

**PSYT 400 Course Approval Application Form (2 pages)**

**Research Project in Psychiatry  
Fall and Winter Terms (6 credits)\***

**Deadline to submit form: September 8th, 2017.**

Open to U2 and U3 students not enrolled in concurrent research project courses. Background in statistics is required, as is a GPA of 3.0 or greater. Please include a copy of your unofficial transcript.

**Name:** (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**McGill E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Supervisor:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Supervisor's e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief outline of project:**

Continued next page...

**Does this project involve?**

**Animal subjects?** [ ]

If yes, animal use protocol approval obtained [ ] Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Human subjects?** [ ]

If yes, human ethics approval obtained [ ] Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Biohazardous substances? [ ]

Radioactive materials? [ ]

Handling chemicals? [ ]

Use of lasers? [ ]

\* A 6-credit year-long course should represent an average of 9 hours of work per week. Students and supervisors should discuss work expectations and scheduling accordingly. It is to be understood that any work done as part of PSYT 400 cannot be submitted or used for credit for any other course.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Supervisor Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NB. Send the filled and signed forms to the coordinator by email ([kathryn.gill@mcgill.ca](mailto:kathryn.gill@mcgill.ca)) or by FAX 514-934-8262. Include a copy of your McGill transcript – in order to confirm GPA (at least 3.0), and statistics background (PSYCH 305 or equivalent).**