

Course title	Dissertation Proposal Writing, Presentation & Approval				
Course code	PSY808				
Course type	Core				
Level	PhD				
Year / Semester	Year 2 / Semester 1				
Teacher's name	Supervisors assigned based on dissertation topic				
ECTS	15	Lectures / week	Bi-weekly individual meetings with the supervisor	Laboratories / week	None
Course purpose and objectives	<p>This course supports students in the development of their doctoral dissertation proposal. Working under the guidance of their supervisory committee, students will identify a focused research question, conduct a comprehensive literature review, develop a methodology grounded in ethical research practices, and present their proposal for approval. Emphasis is placed on academic integrity, open science practices, and the ethical and transparent use of digital tools including generative AI.</p>				
Learning outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <p>CILO1: Identify and refine a researchable topic grounded in psychological literature and societal relevance.</p> <p>CILO2: Formulate clear and impactful research questions and objectives.</p> <p>CILO3: Develop and articulate a robust and feasible methodology for addressing the research questions.</p> <p>CILO4: Collaborate effectively with their supervisor to refine their proposal.</p> <p>CILO5: Present and defend their dissertation proposal confidently to an academic committee.</p> <p>CILO6: Obtain formal approval to proceed with their dissertation research.</p> <p>CILO7: Demonstrate academic integrity and transparency in proposal development, including the responsible use of digital tools and AI-assisted writing support.</p>				

Prerequisites	Completion of first-term courses in research methods and academic writing.	Required	None
Course content	<p>This course is structured around individualized, bi-weekly meetings with the student’s supervisor, supplemented by independent research and writing.</p> <p>Bi-Weekly Meetings (2 hours per meeting):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of progress and challenges. • Feedback on drafts of the dissertation proposal. • Refinement of research questions, methodology, and significance. <p>Proposal Development Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 1–2: Identification of Research Area and Initial Literature Review • Week 3–4: Development of Research Questions and Hypotheses • Week 5–6: Methodological Considerations and Ethics Planning • Week 7–9: Drafting of the Proposal – Includes supervisor review of citation practices, Turnitin checks, and discussion on responsible use of generative AI tools. • Week 10–11: Presentation Preparation – Students complete and submit the UoL Declaration of AI Use Form if applicable. • Week 12: Proposal Submission and Oral Defence 		
Teaching methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-to-one supervision with committee members. • Independent literature review and proposal writing. • Presentation and defence preparation workshops. • Supervisor-guided reflection on academic integrity, authorship, and the use of AI in writing proposals. • Optional discussion of pre-registration and open science documentation relevant to proposed methodology. 		
Bibliography	<p>Guidelines and Templates:</p> <p>University of Limassol Dissertation Proposal Guidelines.</p> <p>APA (2020). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).</p> <p>Readings related to the topic of the dissertation. Students are expected to compile and work from a tailored list of readings relevant to their research topic. Key texts on academic writing and research ethics will also be recommended by supervisors.</p>		

Assessment	<p>This course is assessed on a pass/fail basis, contingent on the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Dissertation Proposal (70%): Comprehensive document including background, research questions, methodology, and ethical considerations. • Supervisor Endorsement: Confirmation from the supervisor that the proposal is ready for defense. • Oral Presentation and Defense (30%): Formal presentation of the proposal to an academic panel with Q&A session. <p>Note: Students who use generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, Copilot) to support proposal development (e.g., outlining, paraphrasing, language refinement) must declare this use via the UoL Declaration of AI Use Form. Supervisors will verify proper attribution and Turnitin reports. Failure to disclose AI use constitutes academic misconduct.</p>
Language	English

