



Center for HIV Educational Studies & Training
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HUNTER
The City University of New York

PSYCH 707/707.2-MA Thesis Syllabus

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Office Hours by appointment

Dr. Corina Weinberger, CHEST Intern Coordinator

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All students must have completed the online course in the protection of Human Subjects (www.citiprogram.org) **before** beginning the thesis experience. Students must turn in a copy of the completion certificate to the Intern Coordinator on their first scheduled day to work on their thesis. Students who previously completed this online training for other course simply must provide CHEST with a copy of their completion certificate.

Examples of current and past projects conducted by Hunter MA Thesis students working with Dr. Parsons include: *stigma and male sex workers, domestic violence among gays and lesbians, open and closed relationships among gay men, sexual risk taking among female drug users*. Please review the listing of CHEST's research on our website, www.hunter.cuny.edu/chest, to decide what data you would be interested in using for your thesis.

A. Research Hours

- Students are required to work 100 hours (7 hours a week for 14 weeks, breaks not included, shift minimum length 3 hours) at CHEST for the course of the Fall semester. You will, in most cases, be assigned to work on the project for which you will be using data. However, if you are using data from a completed study, you will be assigned to a different project. The purpose of these lab hours are to understand and be involved in the research process since you will not be collecting your own research data. Students will arrange their work schedules with the Thesis Coordinator. Hours must be completed before the Thesis Defense.
- There will be four mandatory trainings (held once a month in the evenings), including your Orientation. Each of them will be relevant to research, professional skills and/or the area of HIV.
- All students will be given a copy of the CHEST Policy and Procedure Manual before their first scheduled day at CHEST and must return to the Thesis Coordinator the signed form on the last page stating that they have read and agreed to these policies.
- Part of the experience is professional development. Students are expected to approach their work at CHEST as such and follow the stated policies and procedures (e.g., excessive breaks, disturbing others, improper use of cell phones, doing personal work on CHEST time) as outlined in the CHEST Policy and Procedure Manual.

B. MA Thesis

- Students will meet with the CHEST Project Director of the study whose data the student will be using for their thesis as needed to work on their paper, e.g., conceptualization, feedback on rough drafts, etc. Data from any project may not be taken out of the CHEST office.
- Data for any project may not be taken out of the CHEST office, without permission of Dr. Parsons and the Thesis Coordinator.
- Students will meet with a CHEST researcher for data analyses, in some cases students will be conducting data analyses on their own.
- Regardless, meetings with the researcher you are working with for your thesis are not included in your research "lab" hours.
- Students are advised to submit the thesis in sections for review to assist you in developing the best possible paper, e.g., Introduction submitted for review, followed by methods, results and discussion.
- Once the all sections are complete the paper will then be submitted to Dr. Parsons for grading.
- APA format must be strictly followed.

Students are expected to complete their hours and turn in their paper by the LAST DAY OF CLASSES for the semester. Submit your final paper to Drs. Parsons and Golub by *email*.