

**Syllabus**  
**Grant Writing (PSYCH**  
**Spring 2007**

**Course Title:** Grant Writing (PSYC 6960)

**Instructor:** Christopher Newland, Ph.D.  
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844-6479 (office) 844-3295 (lab)

**Meeting Times:** 10-1 on Wed.

**Room:** TBA

**Required Text:** *No text required.*

**Recommended:** *How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing.*  
APA Books. 2007

*On Writing Well.* William Zinsser. Harper Collins. (most recent edition).

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this course you will write a grant application and get some practice in peer review. There won't be time to come up with an entirely new application from scratch. Instead, I expect you to re-work some material that you already have into the form of an NIH grant. If you have a thesis proposal, major area paper, or some similar project completed or nearly so, it's ok to re-work that into the form of an NIH grant. The point is that this is about structuring an application, not creating a new proposal.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Learn the mechanics of an NIH grant application. Produce the different components of an application. Learn to peer-review the applications of others. Learn to identify potential sources of funding within the NIH and from other sources.

**COURSE STRUCTURE.** The course will be structured as a seminar. Class time will be used to talk about the different components of a grant, and to review each other's work.

**GRADING:** You will be asked to write a grant application. Your final grade will be the average of 10 grades as follows:

10 points Form page 1 (front page) and abstract.

10 points Modular budget, budget justification, and resources.

*Note, the following four sections can be no more than 10 pages.*

10 points Specific aims (1-2 pages)

10 points Background and significance (including literature cited, which is included in a separate section and does NOT count toward the page limit).

10 points Preliminary data (one, maybe two pages)

10 points Proposed studies.

- 10 points Vertebrate animals or human subjects (including inclusion of women and minorities) as required.
- 10 points Peer review, including written comments.
- 10 points Class presentation showing of funding sources for your area.
- 10 points Participation.

**Academic Honesty.** For this seminar you are encouraged to talk freely with each other, to share ideas and discoveries and even to help with each other's writing and to bounce ideas off of each others as you see fit. However, work that you turn in must be your own and to do otherwise will constitute cheating and plagiarism. The policies established in the Tiger Cub will serve as guidelines for dealing with dishonesty.

**Confidentiality.** At times during this course there will be occasions where ideas, peer review comments, or other materials that are shared with the class must be treated as privileged information. A violation of this trust will be viewed as academic dishonesty and dealt with harshly. It will be treated as academic dishonesty according to the policies described in that section.

**Students with Disabilities.** Students with a disability documented by Auburn's Program for Students with Disabilities should schedule a meeting with me early in the term. I will work with the student to meet the accommodations recommended by the Program for Students with Disabilities.

### Schedule of Activities

Wk	Class	Date	Topic	Chapter/ Readings
1	1	21 May	Organizational meeting, Thursday, 17 May 3:30	
2	2	23 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NIH grant. What it looks like and what happens to it.</li> <li>How do draft specific aims.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.niaid.nih.gov/n cn/grants/default.htm">http://www.niaid.nih.gov/n cn/grants/default.htm</a>
		25 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Abstract and Specific Aims</li> </ul>	
3	3	30 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Specific Aims.</li> <li>How to write preliminary studies.</li> </ul> Draft Preliminary Studies and Proposed Studies.	
4	4	6 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Preliminary Studies and Proposed Studies.</li> <li>Comments on B and S.</li> </ul> Draft Background and Significance	
5	5	13 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Background and Significance.</li> </ul>	
6		20 June	<b>No class</b>	
			Submit critiques on the entire application.	
7	6	27 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mock peer review session.</li> </ul>	
8		4 Jul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holiday</li> </ul>	
9	7	11 Jul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mock peer review session.</li> </ul>	
10	8	18 Jul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review critiques.</li> </ul>	
11	9	25 Jul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where to find funding.</li> </ul>	

NIH announcements:

[http://www.grants.gov/applicants/email\\_subscription.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/email_subscription.jsp)

NIH web page:

<http://www.nih.gov/>

NIH links to funding information:

<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>

Types of grants:

[http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding\\_program.htm](http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm)

Video of a peer review session:

<http://cms.csr.nih.gov/ResourcesforApplicants/InsidetheNIHGrantReviewProcessVideo.htm>

Resources for new investigators:

[http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/new\\_investigators/index.htm](http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/index.htm)

Forms

<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/forms.htm>

Misc. resources:

[http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/useful\\_links.htm](http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/useful_links.htm)

Tutorial:

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants/default.htm>