

*Research, practice and preparation of dissertation in organizational and occupational health psychology*  
**Master: ORGANIZATIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY**  
 2nd year / 2nd semester

<b>Teacher:</b>	<b>Florin Alin Sava, Associate Professor, PhD in Psychology</b>
<b>Subject type:</b>	Compulsory
<b>Hours Total:</b>	42 hours
	Intensive teaching covering two subsequent weeks
<b>Credits:</b>	6

***A short description***

Students studying in the second year master program will be given the necessary information to help them writing proper dissertation. They include details with regard to: (a) the style of writing dissertations as compared to empirical scientific articles; (b) understanding the most important validity issues in a research; (c) presenting additional data analysis techniques involved in non-experimental studies such as linear regression and various correlation techniques.

***The aims of the subject***

- ✓ To use critical thinking when reviewing empirical papers
- ✓ To edit the master dissertation according to APA standards
- ✓ To use proper statistical analysis in correlation design studies

***Aquired competencies***

**1. Knowledge and understanding**

- Understanding the basics of research design
- Understanding the most common statistical techniques
- Knowing how to edit a manuscript according to APA standards

**2. Explanation and interpretation**

- Evaluating the quality of a research proposal based on its main components
- Assessing and interpreting the relationship between various variables based on statistical results.

**3. Instrumental and applied**

- Using statistical software for data analysis (e.g. SPSS)
- Editing dissertation according to international standards
- Knowing to peer-evaluate an empirical paper

**4. Attitudinal**

- Development of an ethical approach when conducting research;
- Promoting the concept of „scientist practitioner”

***Contents of topics***

Theme	Contents and recommended readings
<b>Unit 1 – Validity of a research</b> (9 hours)	Types of quantitative research, internal and external validity, construct and statistical validity  Readings: Brewer, M.B. (2000). Research Design and Issues of Validity (p. 3-16). În H.T. Reiss și C.M. Judd (eds). <i>Handbook of Research Methods In Personality and Social Psychology</i> . Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Shadish, W.R., Cook, T.D., Campbell, D.T. (2002). Experimental and quasi-experimental designs for generalized causal inference. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company, 33-63.
<b>Unit 2 – Editing and empirical article</b> (6 hours)	The anatomy of an empirical article, choosing a title, abstracts checklist, types of introductions, method section requirements, presenting results, components of discussion section, references, style of editing, conflict of interests. Readings: Girden, E.R. (2004). <i>Evaluating research articles from start to finish</i> . Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1-8. APA (2009). <i>Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association</i> . Washington DC: APA, 9-60, 247-253.

<b>Unit 3 – Editing a master dissertation</b> (3 hours)	Particularities of a dissertation writing as compared to empirical article writing, understanding the process of defending the dissertation  Readings: none
<b>Unit 4 – Statistical techniques for correlation research</b> (12 hours)	Linear correlation, partial correlation, Spearman correlation, linear regression, interaction effects, mediation, moderation, spurious correlation, causal relationships, path analysis  Readings: Pedhazur, E.J., Schmelkin, L. (1991). <i>Measurement, design, and analysis: an integrated approach</i> . Hillsdale, USA: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc. Sava, F.A. (2004). <i>Data analysis for psychological research. Complementary statistical techniques</i> . Cluj-Napoca: ASCR, chapters 3 and 6.
<b>Unit 5 – Critical review of peer-contributions</b> (12 hours)	The peer-review process, checklists for appraising an empirical contribution, using literature review limitation as a source for new studies  Readings: Jordan, C.H., Zanna, M.P. (2000). Appendix: How to read a journal article in social psychology. In C. Stangor (ed.). <i>Stereotypes and prejudice: essential readings</i> . Hove: Psychology Press.

## EVALUATION

The final mark represents the average obtained based on the following two main tasks.

### 1. A critical review of a scientific article - Art

Each master student will have to write a peer-review evaluation on a given empirical article. The review will focus both on the editing style and on the validity of the research (strengths and limits). A specific mark from 1 to 10 will be provided for this task. The students will hand out their review to the teacher at least five working days before the exam date. To consider this task as passed, a minimum of 5 (five) is required as a passing mark.

### 2. A 6 hours individual task – 6h

In this task students will be confronted with a series of exercises (e.g. SPSS outputs, article excerpts, specific questions). Their task is to solve independently these exercises in a six-hour session by using any kind of help they can have access to (e.g. reference texts, internet searching and so on).

The test will be scheduled on an agreed day during the exams period. A specific mark from 1 to 10 will be provided for this task. To consider this task as passed, a minimum of 5 (five) is required as a passing mark.

## Evaluation policy at later times

The same evaluation system will be used for each subsequent exam for those students who do not manage to get the exam after the first (regular) evaluation period. However, a task for which a passing mark was obtained is taken into consideration during the next evaluations. Therefore students in subsequent examinations have to work only at those tasks they have not passed previously.