

PSY 2206

Semester Essay Guidelines

(Fall 2020)



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HUP

Content

- **Individual Semester Essay**
- **Open Essay:** You choose your Problem Formulation (Theoretical or Applied Question or Hypothesis)
- Your Problem Formulation has to look at the **RELATION** between two of the three following concepts: **Cognition, Emotion and Language:**
 - Cognition & Emotion
 - Cognition & Language
 - Emotion & Language
 - Cognition, Emotion & Language

Content

- **Important Remark:** To look for example at the impact of gender on cognition and emotion without looking at the relation between cognition and emotion is not enough.
- You should **report your choice on the front page** of your essay (i.e. “Cognition & Emotion”, “Emotion & Language”, “Cognition & Language”, or “Cognition, Emotion & Language”)!

Examples of Problem Formulation

“Good”

- Is language a better predictor of children’s theory-of-mind than working memory?
- Can classroom dialogue-based intervention help children to improve their understanding of emotions?
- Can negative emotions have a positive impact on cognitive performances?

“Bad”

- Impact of gender on mood and memory.
- Impact of emotion and cognition on brain activity.
- Impact of genes on verbal and non-verbal intelligence.

Questions



Content

1. **Title** (+ Standard info (i.e. Course code, semester, Candidate number) + Number of words) – *Front page*
2. **Abstracts** = 1 in Scandinavian language + 1 in English / 2 x 200 words (170 – 230) (i.e. **a summary of points 4, 6 & some of 7**) – *2nd page*
3. **Table of content** – *3rd page*

Content

4. A clear **Problem Formulation** (Question, Hypothesis) – *Introduction*

- What is the relation between A & B?
- What is the impact of A on B?
- How does C affect the relation between A & B?

5. A clear **Definition (& Justification)** of the **Concepts** involved in the Problem Formulation – *Introduction*

Content

6. A clear **Justification of the Problem Formulation BOTH** in terms of **Scientific Originality & Interest** – *Introduction*

- Summary of the literature is not enough (interesting but not original)!
- Social & Applied originality & interest is a plus (but not sufficient)
- Your problem formulation might not be original (but then your answer has to be original)!

Content

7. A clear **Answer** to the Problem Formulation
– *Core of the essay.*

- Answer A (thesis), Answer B (anti-thesis),
Discussion (synthesis)
- Concept A, Concept B, Relation A & B,
- etc.

Content

8. The representative & relevant **Scientific & Psychological Literature** to answer to the Problem Formulation (mainly from **PsycINFO**) – *Introduction & Core of the essay*

9. **Conclusion:** Limitations, Prospects, etc. – *Conclusion*

Content

10. List of References (APA standards) – *List of references*

- **References in Text = References in the List of References!**
- No limit both in terms of Number & Age of the references!
- The references must be Representative & Relevant to answer to the Problem Formulation!
- You are not a journalist! You always give your sources!
- You are a journalist! You check your sources!
- **+ Page number**

Length & Language

- **Length: min = 3 000 words & max = 4000 words** (1,5 or 2 lines spacing, Times 12, Standard margins (e.g. 2,5)),
 - List of References, Abstract, Front page & Table of content are not included in the 3/4000 words limit (i.e. only the text)
 - The number of words has to be reported on the *Front page*
- **Language = Scandinavian Languages & English**

References

References = APA norms

(a) Periodical (e.g. journal article)

- Author, A., Author, B., & Author, C. (year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical, Issue*, pages.
- Kiwi, U.I.O., Rema, S.V., & Rimi, P.S.I. (2000). Tomatic innervation of the nucleus ruber. *Journal of Tomatic Psychology*, 666, 123-321.

(b) Non-periodical (e.g. book)

- Author, A., Author, B., & Author, C. (year). *Title of work*. Location: Publisher.
- Venlig, O. N. E., & Hilsen, T. W. O. (222). *To be or not to be a tomato*. Heinz: Ketchup.

References

(c) Part of a non-periodical (e.g. book chapter in an edited book)

- Author, A., Author, B., & Author, C. (year). Title of the chapter. In A. Editor, & B. Editor (Eds.), *Title of book* (pp. pages). Location: Publisher.
- Yes, I., & No, O. (4000). Laminar configuration of the thalomatic relay nuclei. In I. T. Depends, & I. Donotknow (Eds.), *The real tomato story* (pp. 12-34). Spaghetti: Bolognese.

Examples of reference in the Text:

- “The results of Einstein and Zweistein (2000) have been replicated (e.g. Rolling & Stones, 2015 for a review) with some exceptions (e.g. Right, 2001 in Left, 2002)”

Questions



Academic writing

- 2 lectures with Julien Mayor
-
- **Literature search**
 - **Critical reading**
 - **Critical writing**
 - **Writing mechanisms**

Supervisions

- You get **3 hours of Group Supervision**

- The goal of the Supervisions is to help you:
 - (1) to **Formulate a Problem** (Question, Hypothesis, etc.)
 - (2) to **Define the Concepts** involved in your Problem Formulation
 - (3) to **Justify** your Problem Formulation (Originality & Interest)
 - (4) to Identify some of the relevant **Literature** (Keywords)
 - (5) to Define the **Plan** of your Essay
- Come to the Supervisions with suggestions!

Supervisions

- The attendance to the group supervisions is recommended (but not compulsory).
- It is recommended (but not compulsory) to have your Problem Formulation approved by the Supervisor
- This approval can take place only during the group supervisions
- **The Supervisor is not allowed to read anything (e.g. e-mails, etc.)**

Evaluation

- A to F
- **Criteria → Assessment form**

Dimensions	Evaluation					Excellent
	Fail	Sufficient	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	
1. -Title -Table of content; -Abstract: Gives an accurate idea of the essay's content (i.e. Problem formulation, Scientific originality & interest, Answer) before its reading; -Referencing	Title None, Unclear, No-match with the essay's content Table of content None, Unclear, Useless, Not representative of the essay's structure Abstract None, Unclear, No-match with the essay's content Referencing None (= Critical), Several Omissions & Not in accordance with the Guidelines					Title Clear, Match with the essay's content & "Attractive" Table of content Clear, Useful & Representative of the essay's structure Abstract Clear & Match with the essay's content Referencing Perfect (follows the APA's dogma), No omissions & In accordance with the Guidelines
2. - Problem Formulation (PF) - Justification of the Scientific Originality & Interest of the PF or Expected Answer	Problem Formulation None, Unclear, Unconcise, No-match with the essay's content & Not in accordance with the Guidelines Justification None, Unclear, Partial & The PF and Expected answer are not Original & not Interesting					Problem Formulation Clear, Concise & Match with the essay's content & In accordance with the Guidelines Justification Clear & Complete & The PF or Expected answer are Original AND Interesting (also socially)
3. Definition (& Justification) of the main concepts involved in PF	None, Unclear, Partial, (Needed but Unjustified)					Clear, Complete & (Justified when needed)
4. Review of the literature	None, Not exhaustive (several critical omissions), Inaccurate (misunderstanding), Irrelevant, Out-of-date					Exhaustive (no omissions), Accurate (understanding), Relevant (related to the PF), Up-to-date (still they can be very old)
5. Discussion of the literature	None, Unclear, Partial, Unconvincing, Uncritical, Echolalic					Clear, Complete, Convincing, Critical, Creative
6. Answer to the Problem formulation	Unclear, Incoherent & Scientifically not Original & not Interesting					Clear & Coherent & Scientifically Original AND Interesting (& Contribution to Society)
7. Conclusion	None (no limitation, no prospects), Unconvincing, Partial					Clear, Convincing discussion of limitations and prospects
8. Clarity of expression, Structure & Logical argumentation, Independent & critical thinking, throughout the essay	Unclear (hard to understand), Unconcise, Unstructured, Illogical, Dependent & uncritical thinking Plagiarism & Form not in accordance with the Guidelines					Fluent, Clear & Concise, Structured, Logical, Independent & critical thinking & Form in accordance with the Guidelines
9. Overall impression	Fail (crying while reading)	Sufficient	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent (crying while reading)
	F	E	D	C	B	A

Suggestion

Self-Assessment of the semester essay

- Knowledge of the criteria used by the censors
- Check-list!
- Critical thinking & Reflectivity

Common shortcomings

- No justification for the problem formulation
- Descriptive x Reflective
- Absence of contradictory findings/gaps in the literature
- No limitations

Technicalities

- www.ub.uio.no/skrive-publisere/skrivesenter/index.html
- **Course website / studentweb / CANVAS** to see When, Where & How the semester essay has to be delivered.
- **These guidelines are mandatory!**

Questions or Remarks?

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