

From: [Vasey, Michael](#)
To: [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)
Cc: [Alfonzo, Juan](#); [Turro, Claudia](#); [Braumoeller, Bear](#); [Fink, Steven](#); [Wong, Wynne](#); [Judd, Robin](#); [Kerler, Thomas](#); [Woliver, Charles](#); [Piperata, Barbara](#); [Hogle, Danielle N.](#)
Subject: Psychology 6650 Clarification
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 2:13:39 PM

Hi All -

Wynne Wong raised a question about how Psychology 6650 can be repeatable course. I sought clarification from the professor who developed the new course, Julie Golomb. Her response appears below. I hope that clears things up adequately.

Regards, Mike

Hi Mike,

The course is intended to be a seminar-style course on Advanced fMRI techniques. fMRI is an extremely complex technique (really, a set of techniques) that takes years to master. There already is a course on the basics (taught by Zhong-Lin Lu) that is a 1-shot course on the *basics* of fMRI. That "Introduction to fMRI" course gives an overview of the fundamentals of fMRI (MRI physics, basic experimental design, and how to run extremely simple analyses). After taking the Intro-level course (which is a prerequisite for mine), students have a basic understanding of what fMRI is, but they are not equipped with enough knowledge to actually run fMRI studies themselves, nor do they have any training on the *advanced* techniques that are becoming increasingly common. These advanced techniques truly are advanced/complex, and they are constantly developing and improving with increases in technology.

The goal of my course is to provide an ongoing discussion/tutorial on these advanced analysis techniques, focusing on new developments in the field. Students are already expected to have a basic understanding of fMRI. The course is NOT textbook-based -- the textbook listed is *recommended*, not required, and is intended mainly as an extra resource for students who may not have as strong of a background (or need a refresher) in the basics before taking the course. The course readings come from the primary literature and will be different every year. The focus is on new techniques or new applications of techniques; the majority of the articles selected for discussion are published within the past year. As described in the syllabus, the course has 2 discussion-based components: journal club discussions about these articles, and student presentations where they present new experiment ideas for class feedback. **Students who repeat the course will not be allowed to choose the same papers for discussion, and they will have to present (and write their paper on) a new research idea each year.**

Students taking the course for repeat credit will benefit in 3 main ways: (1) The content of the course changes dramatically from year to year; (2) As students become more and more advanced in their own knowledge, they are able to appreciate and understand increasingly complex aspects of these techniques; (3) The nature of this rapidly evolving field means that mastering these techniques benefits from ongoing discussion within a community of users -- by allowing students to repeat the course, they become increasingly collaborative and able to learn from each other, and evaluate the newest techniques in the context of what they learned previously. (Note that because the content is different each year, it is equally beneficial to repeat students and new students to the course.)

Please let me know if there are additional questions I can help with.

Best,
-julie

Dear Wynne,

I am including Mike Vasey, who is on our Graduate Curriculum Committee and represents the Department of Psychology.

Mike: Could you please answer to the whole committee (reply to all on my original e-mail) since I suspect that other committee members may have the same question?

My best,
Bernadette

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From: Wong, Wynne
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2014 9:59 PM
To: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette
Subject: RE: Graduate Curriculum Committee Meeting--Tuesday 9/23/14

Dear Bernadette

The new PSYCH 6650 course says it is a repeatable course (under course offering information). I am not seeing how this is a repeatable course. Did I miss something or is this something I should raise when I submit my e-vote?

Thanks!

Wynne

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