

## PSY 5002

### Grant Proposal Assignment due April 2nd

This project is to familiarize you with the grant-writing process. You will create a mock grant proposal for a 3-year planned research project. So you will have to think about a series of experiments that can be targeted to address a major theoretical issue in your area of research. You will be asked to complete most of the components of a grant proposal such as would be submitted to NSF or NIH. Your documents should be single-spaced and you should use a font size Arial 10 or larger (or another standard font such as Times, Courier, Calibri) with 1" margins all around. It is important that you have thought carefully about how knowledge in your area of research will be advanced by the series of studies you propose, so it is essential that your proposal is theory-driven. Also, ensure that your project is feasible to be completed in a 3 year period. Overambitious grant proposals fare no better than uninspired ones. Your grant proposal should not include your actual thesis, which you have already presented. You may build on your thesis with a series of follow-up studies, in which case you can present hypothetical (or actual if you have it) pilot data from your thesis in the project description. Consider various possible outcomes for your project and how you might plan additional studies to resolve possible ambiguities in the data or extend findings that are reasonably straightforward. You should be the only PI on the project. You can pay consultants for things like computer programming. Consultant fees do not involve fringe.

Prior to submitting the written components outlined below, you will present your proposed series of studies to the class in a 25 minute presentation including time for questions (Plan to talk for about 20 minutes, reserving the rest of the time for discussion). Remember your goal is to convince a committee to give you \$500,000 to conduct these experiments so you should present the project with that goal in mind. In your presentation, you will focus on the series of experiments you are proposing rather than other components like the budget. But be prepared to answer questions about how you will afford the project given the budget constraints and time-line etc.

**You will each be asked to submit feedback on each other's presentations** so that the feedback can be used to strengthen the written proposal before the deadline. **Your feedback will be evaluated as your "peer review of grant proposals" worth 10%.** You will judge the intellectual merit and broader impact of the project both on a scale from 1-5 and include any comments regarding weaknesses or strengths of the design. It is important to consider strengths as well as weaknesses in your review. Your feedback on the presented proposals will be due by the end of the day following the presentation (thus, feedback on Tuesday presentations will be due by 5pm on Wed). Please email me typed commentaries and include your name. Feedback will be summarized for presenters so that it is anonymous.

A research grant proposal typically contains the following sections, so yours will too:

1. 1 page single-spaced **Project Summary** including overview, intellectual merit and broader impacts of the proposed research (all 3 components must be included with headings). This should be written in 3<sup>rd</sup> person.

2. 10 pages maximum single-spaced **Project Description**, which should include an: introduction; background and rationale, detailed methodology for a large-scale 3-year research project, timeline for proposed studies, and plan for dissemination of results (proposed outcomes, audience, and future professional development). This does not include references. You should attempt to fill 10 pages – otherwise you have not taken full advantage of the space limitations. You may include pilot data. Suggest potential problems and resolutions. Remember your proposal may be reviewed by those who are not expert on your particular topic so you should make all theoretical and methodological decisions very explicit. Do not expect the reader to know why something is important. Be sure to be very clear about hypotheses (involving hypothetical constructs) and predictions (involving operational variables). Be very clear about how variables are operationalized. You should also include a plan for analyzing the data. The project description should include intellectual merit and broader impacts sections.

3. A **budget** indicating number of units and unit cost for items such as travel, printing and other services, equipment (big ticket items > 5000), materials (Smaller items), salary and fringe benefits, along with a budget justification (explanation for the items requested). You should use excel and submit a separate budget for each year of the grant. I have placed a template, which you can download, on my web page. The budget should not exceed \$500,000 across all 3 years including 48% F&A.

4. A one-two-page **bibliographic sketch** (essentially a brief C.V.) including education and academic employment history, key publications and products produced (copyrighted software etc.).

5. **References** – a list of all references cited in the Research Description, APA style and single-spaced. Maximum 4 pages.

The written proposal is worth 25% of your final grade.

Please submit your proposals as a single word file (except the budget can be attached as a separate excel file) including all elements **via email by 5pm ET on Tues April 2nd**.