

# Term Project Instructions

Professor Morton Ann Gernsbacher

#### PSY 532: Psychological Effects of the Internet

Your Term Project must represent 26 hours of effort and must demonstrate your mastery of the content you learned in our semester-long course.

#### FIRST STEP: Choose Your Breadth

**Whole Course Option**: Do you want to demonstrate your mastery in the course by summarizing all the content you learned in the entire course?

If so, choose the **Whole Course Option** and complete ONE of the following Term Projects:

- Keep a daily journal in which you itemize the content you are learning along with your detailed reflections.
- Assemble a detailed overview of the course for a group of middle school or high school students; for your parents or grandparents; for business professionals; or for another audience (OTHER than college students).
- Create another type of Term Project that demonstrates your mastery of the course by summarizing all of its content and reflecting on that content.

Because your Term Project must represent a total of 26 hours of effort, if you choose the Whole Course Option, you must spend an additional 2 hours during each unit (with the exception of the first unit), conducting your summary type activity.

**Deep Dive Option**: Do you want to demonstrate your mastery in the course by using the knowledge you acquired during the course to guide a deep dive into one of the course's topic?

If so, choose the **Deep Dive Option** and dive deeper into one of the following course topics:

How is the Internet changing the way we learn?

How is the Internet changing the way we educate?

How is the Internet changing the way we communicate interpersonally?

How is the Internet changing the way we communicate to a broad audience?

How is the Internet changing the way we date or connect with romantic partners?

How is the Internet changing the way we entertain ourselves?

How is the Internet changing the way we motivate ourselves?

How is the Internet changing our perception?

How is the Internet changing our attention?

How is the Internet changing our judgment and decision making?

How is the Internet changing the way children develop?

How is the Internet changing the way senior citizens age?

Does a person's personality affect the way they use the Internet?

Can people become addicted to the Internet? If so, how widespread is Internet addiction?

If you choose to deep dive into one of the above course topics, you will need to dive much deeper into the topic than merely re-representing or summarizing the material on the topic that was covered during our course.

To be sure, the material on the topic that was covered during our course should be your starting point. And you should show full mastery of the material that was covered during our course. But after showing full mastery of the material on the topic covered during our course, you must dive much deeper into the topic.

How deep should you dive into the topic you choose? A good rule of thumb is to remember that we spent as much as 8 hours on each of the above topics when we covered the topic during our course. Also remember that your Term Project should represent 26 hours of effort. Therefore, if you choose the **Deep Dive Option** you should be diving three times deeper into the topic.

Remember to dive deeply into one of the topics listed above, not a topic that you create. For example, if you choose the topic "How is the Internet changing the way children develop?," you should dive deeply into that topic, rather than create a new topic that covers only children's texting or only children's bullying.

#### SECOND STEP: Choose Your Medium

Regardless of whether you choose the Whole Course Option or the Deep Dive Option, you must choose the medium in which you will present your Term Project. You may present your Term Project in just about any medium you wish. Below are some suggested media (but these are only suggestions):

- a blog, a Tumblr, or a Pinterest board
- a website
- a video or series of videos; a podcast or series of podcasts
- a PPT presentation, Keynote (Apple's version of PPT) or Google Slide presentation, Slideshare, or Prezi (or a set of PPTs, Keynotes, or Prezis)
- a traditional, research-based term paper (with a suggested length of 5000 words, excluding references). You can use as your model Professor Gernsbacher's article, "Why Internet-based Education?," and Grammarly's "How to Write an Effective Research-based Term Paper" might be helpful.

Each student will be responsible for posting their completed Term Project on the course Discussion Board. Therefore, if you choose to make a blog, a Tumblr, a Pinterest board, or a website, you will embed the link to your blog, Tumblr, Pinterest board, or website in your Discussion Board post.

If you choose to make a video, a series of videos, a podcast, or a series of podcasts, you'll need to upload your videos or podcasts to a video or podcast hosting site (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo, Soundcloud, Podbean). Then, you will embed the link to your videos or podcasts in your Discussion Board post.

Similarly, if you choose to make a Prezi or a Slideshare, you'll need to embed the link to your Prezi or Slideshare in your Discussion Board post. Be sure that you have set your Prezi or Slideshare to public.

However, if you choose to write a traditional, research-based term paper, you must convert your document file to a PDF (and ensure that your PDF opens). Then, you will attach the PDF to your Discussion Board Post. No .doc, .docx, .pages, or other non-PDF files will be graded.

Similarly, if you choose to make a PPT, Keynote, or Google Slides presentation, you must convert your presentation to a PDF before you attach it to the Discussion Board. No .ppt, .pptx, .keynote, or non-PDF files will be graded.

If you've created a PPT, Keynote, or Google Slide presentation, and you've placed animations, videos, or audio narration into your slide show, you'll need to export your slide show into a video, upload the video to YouTube or Vimeo, and then embed the link to your YouTube or Vimeo in your Discussion Board post.

## TERM PROJECT TIMELINE

WHEN	WHAT
Unit 1	[no Term Project related work to do]
Unit 2	Read thoroughly through the Term Project Instructions; email any questions you have about the Term Project; begin thinking about what you'd like to do for your Term Project; write at least 200 words [as part of Unit 2: Assignment #6] describing your initial thoughts about your Term Project.
Unit 3	Identify TWO possible projects and TWO possible presentation media; investigate resources needed for each of the two projects and each of the two presentation media; write at least 200 words [as part of Unit 3: Assignment #6] describing the results of your investigation of the resources you'll need for each of the two possible projects you are considering.
Unit 4	Settle on ONE project and ONE presentation media; if Whole Course, begin overviewing previous Units (i.e., Units 1, 2, and 3); if Deep Dive, begin research; write at least 200 words [as part of Unit 4: Assignment #6] describing the work you've completed thus far.
Unit 5	If Whole Course, continue overviewing previous Units (i.e., Units 1, 2, 3, and 4) and possibly current Unit; if Deep Dive, continue research; present your progress during your Group Chat and receive feedback from your Chat Group members; write at least 200 words [as part of Unit 5: Assignment #6] describing the work you've completed thus far.
Unit 6	Begin mastering your presentation medium. If Whole Course, complete overview of previous Units; continue overviewing current Unit; If Deep Dive, continue research; write at least 200 words [as part of Unit 6: Assignment #6] describing the work you've completed thus far.
Unit 7	Complete mastery of your presentation medium. If Whole Course, continue overviewing current Unit; If Deep Dive, begin wrapping up your research; write at least 200 words [as part of Unit 7: Assignment #6] describing the work you've completed thus far; include a screenshot [in Unit 7: Assignment #6] demonstrating your mastery of your presentation medium.

WHEN	WHAT
Unit 8	Begin using your presentation medium. If Whole Course, continue overviewing current Unit; If Deep Dive, finish wrapping up your research; write at least 200 words [as part of Unit 8: Assignment #6] describing the work you've completed thus far.
Unit 9	Continue using your presentation medium. If Whole Course, continue overviewing current Unit; if Deep Dive, begin outlining your completed research; present your progress during your Group Chat and receive feedback from your Chat Group members; write at least 200 words [as part of Unit 9: Assignment #6] describing the work you've completed thus far.
Unit 10	Continue using your presentation medium. If Whole Course, continue overviewing current Unit; if Deep Dive, finish outlining your completed research; write at least 200 words [as part of Unit 10: Assignment #6] describing the work you've completed thus far.
Unit 11	Continue using your presentation medium. If Whole Course, continue overviewing current Unit; if Deep Dive, begin assembling your completed research; write at least 200 words [as part of Unit 11: Assignment #6] describing the work you've completed thus far.
Unit 12	Continue using your presentation medium. If Whole Course, continue overviewing current Unit; if Deep Dive, continue assembling your completed research; write at least 200 words [as part of Unit 12: Assignment #6] describing the work you've completed thus far.
Unit 13	Continue using your presentation medium. If Whole Course, continue overviewing current Unit; if Deep Dive, finish assembling your completed research; write at least 200 words [as part of Unit 13: Assignment #6] describing the work you've completed thus far; present your progress to you Chat Group, during which each student will receive (amateur) Cognitive Behavior Therapy from other Chat Group members on their own Term Project (or projects and deadlines looming in other courses).
Unit 14	Complete and successfully submit your Term Project! If Whole Course, be sure to include an overview of Unit 14. If Deep Dive, be sure to wrap up your completed research.

### TERM PROJECT GRADING RUBRIC

POINTS	CRITERIA
12	Completed and successfully submitted before deadline (1 point will be deducted for each day late)
	<ul> <li>If WHOLE COURSE OPTION</li> <li>demonstrates an outstanding level of mastery in the course</li> <li>summarizes all content learned in the entire course</li> <li>definitively illustrates a total of 26 hours spent on project (i.e., an additional two hours per Unit spent summarizing and overviewing course content with possible reflections)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>If DEEP DIVE OPTION</li> <li>demonstrates an outstanding level of mastery in the course by diving deeper into one of the course's topics</li> <li>first shows full mastery of the topic's content that was covered during course and then dives three times deeper into the topic</li> <li>definitively illustrates a total of 26 hours spent on project</li> </ul>
10 - 11	Completed and successfully submitted before deadline (1 point will be deducted for each day late)
	<ul> <li>If WHOLE COURSE OPTION</li> <li>demonstrates a good but not an outstanding level of mastery in the course</li> <li>summarizes most but not all content learned in the entire course</li> <li>doesn't quite illustrate the 26 total hours expected to be spent on the project, but close to 26 hours</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>If DEEP DIVE OPTION</li> <li>demonstrates a good but not outstanding level of mastery in the course by diving deeper into one of the course's topics</li> <li>shows mostly full but not completely full mastery of the topic's content that was covered during course</li> <li>dives deeper into the topic, but a bit less than three times deeper</li> <li>doesn't quite illustrate the 26 total hours expected to be spent on the project, but close to 26 hours</li> </ul>

POINTS	CRITERIA
9	Completed and successfully submitted before deadline (1 point will be deducted for each day late)
	<ul> <li>If WHOLE COURSE OPTION</li> <li>demonstrates a fair level of mastery in the course</li> <li>summarizes a lot but not all of the content learned in the entire course</li> <li>illustrates a handful of hours shy of the 26 hours required to be spent on project</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>If DEEP DIVE OPTION</li> <li>demonstrates a fair level of mastery in the course by diving deeper into one of the course's topics</li> <li>shows a fair but not complete mastery of the topic's content that was covered during course</li> <li>dives deeper into the topic but less than three times deeper</li> <li>illustrates a handful of hours shy of the 26 hours required to be spent on project</li> </ul>
8	Completed and successfully submitted before deadline (1 point will be deducted for each day late)  If WHOLE COURSE OPTION  • demonstrates a poor level of mastery in the course  • summarizes incomplete aspects of the content learned in the course  • illustrates only 18 hours (around two-thirds of the 26 required hours) spent on project
	<ul> <li>If DEEP DIVE OPTION</li> <li>demonstrates a poor level of mastery in the course when diving deeper into one of the course's topics</li> <li>shows poor mastery of the topic's content that was covered during course</li> <li>dives only twice, but not three times, deeper into the topic</li> <li>illustrates only 18 hours (around two-thirds of the 26 required hours) spent on project</li> </ul>

POINTS	CRITERIA
7 and below	Completed and successfully submitted before deadline (1 point will be deducted for each day late)
	<ul> <li>If WHOLE COURSE OPTION</li> <li>demonstrates an inadequate level of mastery in the course</li> <li>summarizes an inadequate level of the content learned in the entire course</li> <li>illustrates 13 or fewer hours (half, or less than half, the required time) spent on project</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>If DEEP DIVE OPTION</li> <li>demonstrates an inadequate level of mastery in the course when diving deeper into one of the course's topics</li> <li>shows inadequate mastery of the topic's content that was covered during course</li> <li>dives considerably less than three times deeper into the topic</li> <li>illustrates 13 or fewer hours (half, or less than half, the required time) spent on project</li> </ul>