

Introduction to Research Methods

Psy 3001W, Summer 2009

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Office Hours: 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M, Tuesday & Thursday
Location: S160 Elliott Hall
Days/Times: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 A.M. – 12:50 PM.
Website: Accessible through Moodle (www.moodle.umn.edu)

Overview: This course is designed to introduce undergraduate students to the basic concepts and procedures used in psychological research. As a writing intensive course, emphasis is placed on instructing students on how to communicate research findings in the style described by the American Psychological Association (APA). Students will complete a number of writing assignments that correspond with the sections of an APA style paper. The main objectives of this course are to enhance students' ability to think scientifically in regard to psychological topics and to demonstrate this ability by critically evaluating evidence as well as conducting their own research and communicating their findings. This course meets twice per week over 10 weeks. Class periods will involve lecture, lab activities, quizzes, exams, and group project meetings.

Textbook: Cozby, P.C. (2007). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (8th ed.). Boston, MA: McGraw Hill.

Assignments: There will be a number of reading, lab, and writing assignments. Due dates for these assignments are indicated on the course schedule. Readings will involve chapters for the course textbook and should be completed by the assigned due date. Lab assignments will involve lab demonstrations or activities and will be turned in during class. Writing assignments will be completed outside of class and are due by the start of class on the due date. Many of the writing assignments will correspond with the Term Project. The Term Project will involve students designing and conducting a small research study, in groups of three to four students. Each group will select a research topic, identify research hypotheses, determine a research design, collect data from their classmates and other volunteers, analyze their data, and present their research. Individually, students will report their research findings by writing sections of an APA style paper. Every week, students will be given class time to meet with their group and activities will be assigned to guide progress on project.

Exams: There will be three exams. Dates for the exams are indicated on the course schedule. The second and third exams will cover material presented in readings and lecture following the previous exam; in other words, the exams will not be comprehensive. All material presented in readings may be tested on exams and not all material from readings will be covered in lecture. The final exam will cover all material presented in the course. The exams will involve a combination of multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions. There will not be any make up exams except under unusual circumstances (see CLA Classroom Grading and Examination Procedures). If you miss an exam, contact the instructor within 24 hours of the time of the missed exam. Failing to do so will lead to a loss of points for the missed exam. Make up exams must be completed within one week of the original exam date.

Evaluation: This course is worth 3 semester credits. Regular class attendance and participation in class discussions are expected. Students who take the course on an S-N basis must earn a grade of "C" to receive an "S" on their transcript. Final grades will be determined as follows:

Lab Assignments	200 points (16%)
Writing Assignments	300 points (37.5%)
Exams	300 points (37.5%)
Total	800 points

A	92 to 100%
A-	90 to 91.9%
B+	88 to 89.9%
B	82 to 87.9%
B-	80 to 81.9%
C	72 to 77.9%
C-	70 to 71.9%
D+	68 to 69.9%
D	60 to 67.9%
F	less than 60%

A-F grading will be based on U of MN senate policy (see <http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/policies/gradingpolicy.html>). Plus/minus grades will be used.

A-range = achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements

B-range = achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements

C-range = achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect

D-range = achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements

F = achievement that is not worthy of credit

S = achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better

The instructor reserves the right to adjust the grade distribution if such an adjustment will improve final grades for a majority of students in the course (for example, if the average grade in the course is low and very few score in the highest range).

Scholastic Dishonesty and Academic Integrity: The University of Minnesota's Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as: *submission of false records of academic achievement; cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement.*

Any act that violates the rights of other students with respect to academic work or that involves misrepresentation of a student's own work is scholastic dishonesty, including (but not limited to) cheating on examinations or quizzes. Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated: students who engage in scholastic dishonesty will be penalized up to an "F" for the course. In addition, instances of scholastic dishonesty will be reported to the Scholastic Conduct Committee.

General expectations of students can be found at:

<http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/policies/classexpectguide.html>.

Students with disabilities or special needs: It is the university policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students who seek special or compensatory arrangements with respect to the course or testing are encouraged to contact the instructor and Disability Services as early as possible. Disability Services: <http://ds.umn.edu>; 180 Gateway -- 200 Oak Street SE, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455; (612) 624-4037 (V/TTY)

ESL Policy: If English is not your first language and you believe you will need more than the time allotted to complete the exams, please see the instructor to schedule an alternative time where you will be given an extended period of time. Foreign language dictionaries will not be allowed in exams but all students may ask for help with words that are not technical psychological terms. Please feel free to discuss any concerns with the instructor.

SCHEDULE:

Week	Date	Day	Topics	Reading Assignments	Writing Assignments
1	16-Jun	Tuesday	Syllabus. Scientific Understanding of Behavior.		
	18-Jun	Thursday	Hypotheses, Library Research, PsychInfo.	Chapters 1 & 2.	WA 1: List of Five Ideas for Project.
2	23-Jun	Tuesday	Ethics in Research. APA format.	Chapter 3. Appendix A.	WA 2: Mozart Effect
	25-Jun	Thursday	Operational Definitions & Relations between Variables. Writing Introductions.	Chapter 4.	WA 3: Bibliography
3	30-Jun	Tuesday	Experiments, IV's and DV's, Causality, Validity.		
	2-Jul	Thursday	Reliability, Construct Validity, Reactivity.	Chapter 5.	WA 4: Practice Introduction
4	7-Jul	Tuesday	<i>Exam 1</i> . Peer Review Activity.		
	9-Jul	Thursday	Naturalistic & Systematic Observation, Case Studies, Archival Research	Chapter 6	
5	14-Jul	Tuesday	Constructing Surveys, Sampling	Chapter 7	WA 5: Project Introduction
	16-Jul	Thursday	Experimental Design, confounding, independent, repeated, and matched pairs	Chapter 8	
6	21-Jul	Tuesday	Sample Selection, manipulating IV, controls	Chapter 9	
	23-Jul	Thursday	Single Case, Quasi-experimental Research, & Developmental Research.	Chapter 11	WA 6: Project Methods
7	28-Jul	Tuesday	<i>Exam 2</i> . Collect project data.		
	30-Jul	Thursday	Descriptive Statistics & Correlation.	Chapter 12	WA 7: Evaluating Study
8	4-Aug	Tuesday	Statistical Inference.	Chapter 13	
	6-Aug	Thursday	No Class.		
9	11-Aug	Tuesday	Statistical Inference. Peer Review Activity.		WA 8: Project Results & Discussion
	13-Aug	Thursday	Complex Designs.	Chapter 10	
10	18-Aug	Tuesday	Generalizing Results.	Chapter 14	WA 9: Final Paper
	20-Aug	Thursday	<i>Exam 3</i> . Presentations.		