

Introduction to Research Methods

PSYC 3401-03

Spring 2018

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Office Hours: MWF 11:00 - 12:00

Class Time: MWF 9:00 - 9:50 AM
Class Location: CHSS 140

Lab Time: M 3:00 – 4:50 PM
Lab Location: CHSS 242A

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Course Overview:

This course deals with the principles of research methodology and design in psychological research. Therefore, research approaches and methodologies in a wide range of content areas will be discussed. This course will primarily consist of lectures and reading assignments dealing with research methodology and the applications of these methodologies to various research areas in psychology. This course is designed to accompany the Introduction to Research Methods Laboratory. The lab portion will provide you with hands-on experience with all aspects of psychological research including the collection, analysis, and reporting of behavioral data. Thus, you will learn more about how research methodology works in this course and then apply that knowledge in the lab. As a major part of the lab, you will be required to prepare a complete APA-style laboratory report. The laboratory reports *MUST* be in proper APA-format and *MUST* be typed (reports will not be accepted unless they are typed). See this syllabus for a sample grading sheet for the laboratory reports. The deadline for lab reports is the beginning of the lab period that they are due. Papers that are handed in late will have 10% subtracted for each day (or portion of a day) that they are late. In other words, if a paper is handed in 1 hour after class, 10% will be subtracted from the grade for that paper. There will also be periodic in-class and homework assignments to get you better acquainted with research methodology and design for both the course and lab portions of the course.

Course Goals:

1. Students should gain an understanding of the scientific process involved in conducting psychological research.
2. Students should be able to conduct and understand research in the discipline of psychology.
3. Students should develop the skills necessary to communicate the results of psychological research.
4. Students should learn to apply the course material to improve critical thinking and problem solving skills.
5. Students should develop specific skills and competencies needed by psychology professionals.
6. Students should develop the skills necessary to find and use scientific resources to answer psychological questions and solve problems.

Grading:

Your grade in this course will consist of exams, in-class assignments, homework assignments, unannounced quizzes, laboratory reports, and laboratory assignments. Each of the four exams is worth 10% of your grade in this course. If you miss an exam, you will receive a 0 for that exam. However, you may take the *optional* cumulative exam at the end of the semester to replace that grade. All students are given the option of replacing their lowest exam grade by taking this optional cumulative exam. All other assignments (in-class assignments, homework, quizzes, etc.) are worth 10% of your grade in this course. All assignments are expected to be handed in the day that they are due. Assignments will not be accepted late and you will not be allowed to make up any in-class assignment. Thus, if you miss a class day when an assignment is due, you will receive a 0 for that assignment. Quizzes and in-class assignments on the assigned reading material will be given throughout the term. Therefore, be sure that you are current with your reading assignments.

GRADING

Exams (4 exams)	=	10% each
In-Class/Homework Assignments	=	15%
Lab Draft #1 (Title Page, Intro, Methods, Refs)	=	10%
Lab Draft #2 (Title Page, Results, Disc, Refs, Table)	=	10%
Lab Report (Complete Manuscript)	=	25%

GRADING SCALE

89.5 and above	=	A
79.5 - 89.4	=	B
69.5 - 79.4	=	C
59.5 - 69.4	=	D
below 59.5	=	F

Note: As of the Fall 2009 semester, only grades of C or better will be counted toward the student's major in Psychology. This is a "W" course, which means that at least 50 percent of your course grade will be derived from writing activities designed to help you master course objectives.

Required Text:

- Anastasi, J. S., & Lee, J. R. (2016). *Research Methods in Psychology*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company. ISBN: 978-1-4652-9666-5.

Strongly Recommended Text:

- *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th Ed., 2009). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Research Participation Requirement:

Participation in research or practicum experiences conducted by members of the Department of Psychology and Philosophy is a *requirement* of this class. You can satisfy this requirement in several ways: (1) by participating in research studies being conducted in the department, (2) by participating in mock therapy sessions being conducted by graduate students enrolled in PSYC 6391, Practicum I, or (3) by participating in intellectual assessments being conducted by graduate students enrolled in PSYC 5395. Many different choices scheduled at various times will be available to you, but you must complete **4 hours/credits** of participation in these activities before 5:00 PM on the last day of class. Failure to fulfill this requirement will result in a grade of “Incomplete” in this course. Incomplete grades are governed by University policies. You will need to complete the course requirements by the close of the following semester in order to receive a grade of A, B, C, or D for the course; if you do not complete all course requirements by that time, your incomplete grade will become a failing grade. If you believe that you will be unable to devote four hours to these activities - because, for instance, this class is the only time you are on campus during the week - you should discuss your constraints with me. If necessary, an alternative project, which is likely to be written reports on assigned readings, will be arranged to ensure that the course requirements are met. However, if you seek to arrange alternative activities, you must do so before the end of the second week of classes. More details about this requirement, and instructions about how to get started, are available at the departmental website (<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/psychology-and-philosophy/psychology/research-participation.html>). Please read the guidelines for this requirement carefully.

Class Schedule:

<u>Day:</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Anastasi & Lee</u>	<u>Lab Activity</u>
1/17 (Wed.)	Introduction to the Course	none	
1/19 (Fri.)	Research in the Media Discussion	Chapter 1	
1/22 (Mon.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapter 2	Conduct Experiment
1/24 (Wed.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapter 2	
1/26 (Fri.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapter 2	
1/29 (Mon.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapter 2	
1/31 (Wed.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapter 2	
2/2 (Fri.)	EXAM #1	none	
2/5 (Mon.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 12	Literature Search Lecture (Chp 11)
2/7 (Wed.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 12	
2/9 (Fri.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 12	
2/12 (Mon.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 12	Lit Search, Work on Manuscript
2/14 (Wed.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 12	
2/16 (Fri.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 12	
2/19 (Mon.)	Data and Measurement	Chapter 8	Lit Search, Work on Manuscript
2/21 (Wed.)	Data and Measurement	Chapter 8	
2/23 (Fri.)	Data and Measurement	Chapter 8	
2/26 (Mon.)	Analyzing Results	Chapters 9	Lab Draft #1 Due
2/28 (Wed.)	Analyzing Results	Chapters 9	
3/2 (Fri.)	Analyzing Results	Chapters 10	
3/5 (Mon.)	Analyzing Results	Chapters 10	SPSS Lecture (Chp 9 & 10)
3/7 (Wed.)	Analyzing Results	Chapters 10	
3/9 (Fri.)	EXAM #2		
3/12 (Mon.)	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>		
3/14 (Wed.)	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>		
3/16 (Fri.)	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>		
3/19 (Mon.)	Nonexperimental Research Methods	Chapters 4	Experiment Data Analysis
3/21 (Wed.)	Nonexperimental Research Methods	Chapters 4	
3/23 (Fri.)	Nonexperimental Research Methods	Chapters 5	
3/26 (Mon.)	Nonexperimental Research Methods	Chapters 5	Experiment Questions
3/28 (Wed.)	Between-subjects Designs	Chapter 6	
3/30 (Fri.)	<i>No Class – Good Friday</i>		
4/2 (Mon.)	Between-subjects Designs	Chapter 6	Lab Draft #2 Due
4/4 (Wed.)	Within-subjects Designs	Chapter 7	
4/6 (Fri.)	Within-subjects Designs	Chapter 7	
4/9 (Mon.)	Mixed-factor Designs	Chapter 7	Work on Manuscript/Questions
4/11 (Wed.)	Mixed-factor Designs	Chapter 7	
4/13 (Fri.)	EXAM #3		
4/16 (Mon.)	Presenting & Publishing Research	Chapter 13	Work on Manuscript/Questions
4/18 (Wed.)	Presenting & Publishing Research	Chapter 13	
4/20 (Fri.)	Presenting & Publishing Research	Chapter 13	
4/23 (Mon.)	Ethics in Research	Chapter 3	Work on Manuscript/Questions
4/25 (Wed.)	Ethics in Research	Chapter 3	
4/27 (Fri.)	Graduate School	Chapter 14	
4/30 (Mon.)	Graduate School	Chapter 14	Final Manuscript Due
5/2 (Wed.)	Graduate School	Chapter 14	
5/4 (Fri.)	EXAM #4		
5/9 (Wed.)	Cumulative Final Exam (9:30 AM)		

Paper Grading Criteria

Heading	Criteria	Points	Score
Cover Page (10 pts.)	Does it give title, author, affiliation, running head, etc.?	0-10	_____
Abstract (10 pts.)	Is information from all parts of the experiment presented?	0-10	_____
Introduction (60 pts.)	Is there sufficient general background literature?	0-20	_____
	Is the reader guided to the current study with more specific info?	0-10	_____
	Are the basic methods of your study given?	0-10	_____
	Are the hypotheses/predictions specified?	0-10	_____
	Are proper reasons given for the expected results?	0-10	_____
Method (40 pts.)			
Participants	Is all pertinent subject information provided?	0-10	_____
Design	Is the proper design specified?	0-10	_____
Materials	Is there enough information to replicate?	0-10	_____
Procedure	Is there enough information to replicate?	0-10	_____
Results (50 pts.)	Are the ANOVA, DV, and IVs specified?	0-10	_____
	Have the descriptive statistics been given?	0-10	_____
	Have the inferential statistics been given?	0-10	_____
	Is the reader guided through the findings?	0-10	_____
	Are Tables and Figures provided?	0-10	_____
Discussion (60 pts.)	Are the current results discussed?	0-20	_____
	Are the current findings related to other studies or theories?	0-20	_____
	Are applications or theoretical implications of the research discussed	0-20	_____
References (30 pts.)	Are references in the proper format?	0-10	_____
	Are the citations in the proper format?	0-10	_____
	Do references match citations?	0-10	_____
Total Possible Points:		260	_____
Grade:	(____/260) x 100 = _____		

University Syllabus Guidelines:

SHSU syllabus guidelines can be found at the following website: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus>, and includes information on **academic dishonesty, student absences on religious holidays, accommodations for students with disabilities, and visitors in the classroom.**

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated; this includes, but is not limited to, talking with other students that distracts other students and the use of cell phones or other electronic devices. If you must accept a call during class, turn your ringer off and sit next to an exit door so you can slip out without disrupting others. Students who are disruptive to the class may be dismissed from the classroom for inappropriate behavior and will not be allowed to hand in any assignments due for the remainder of that class. Additionally, students may be withdrawn from the course for repeated disruptive behavior.

Further, any use of a telephone or texting device during a test period is prohibited. These devices should not be present during a test or should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student. Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of these devices during a test is considered *de facto* evidence of cheating and could result in an additional charge of academic dishonesty.

Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual attendance is expected for this course. Although no course points are linked to class attendance, you must be in attendance to hand in assignments, participate in in-class assignments, or take exams. In-class assignments are *only* provided during class, and thus *cannot* be made up at a later time. Although you will not automatically fail this course due to excessive absences nor will you be automatically dropped for excessive absences, failure to attend class will decrease your grade for each assignment missed. Further, information covered in class will be included in exams. Poor attendance is highly correlated with lower grades, so you are strongly encouraged to attend class regularly. If you must be absent, **be sure to arrange for a peer to obtain handouts and/or notes for you.** Notes will not be available from me except on the date initially provided.

Instructor Evaluations:

Towards the end of the semester, students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form. I encourage you to be honest in your evaluations (whether good or bad) and encourage you to make any constructive comments that you'd like concerning the course or how the course could be improved in the future. IDEA is the faculty evaluation system used at SHSU.