

Research Methods in Psychology
SS 3610
Fall 2008
Tues & Thurs 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
SS 317

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I. Required Materials

- A. Textbook: Mitchell, M. & Jolley, J. (2007). *Research Design Explained*. 6th Ed. Thompson Wadsworth: Belmont, CA.
- B. Supplemental Text: Mitchell, M., Jolley, J., & O'Shea, R. (2007). *Writing for Psychology*. 2nd Ed. Thompson Wadsworth: Belmont, CA.
- C. USB Flash Memory Stick
- D. MUST have completed Psych 3600 or equivalent with a C or better
- E. \$0.30 for exams (to purchase scan-trans)
- F. A GREAT attitude and a readiness to THINK AND WORK!

II. Course Grade

NO assignments will be accepted after the last day of classes (December 5th). There are NO exceptions! The course grade will be determined by:

A. Examinations

Two preliminary exams and one comprehensive final exam will be given, with each exam counting 10% of your final grade. See course outline for exam dates. All exams will be either take-home exams or given in the testing center in the Social Sciences basement. See the end of the syllabus for the testing center hours.

B. Research Experiments and Papers

This course will assess knowledge of research design and methods through a series of experiments, papers, and presentations. Each student will conduct 2 research experiments with the class. Each student will write a unique paper to

report each experiment. The specific instructions for each paper can be found in a separate handout. The experiments and their respective papers are worth:

Experiment 1 10% of final grade
Experiment 2 20% of final grade

In addition to these experiments, students will be required to write an abstract (5%), perform an SPSS and statistics review (10%), and prepare and present a PowerPoint presentation (5%). All of these assignments will contribute to the research experiments done for class, especially the last one. Specific details for each of the writing and presentation requirements can be found in a separate handout. **All papers and assignments are due IN CLASS in the first 5 minutes of class. If they are not turned in within the first 5 minutes, they will be counted late!!! Assignments turned in late count 5% points off per day, beginning 5 minutes after the start of class on the due date.**

C. Other Assignments:

There will be numerous other assignments (besides exams and research papers) that will help to prepare you to be successful on your research projects. These assignments include APA-style assignments, ethics assignments, and numerous other in-class assignments. A listing of some of these assignments and their due dates can be found in the course outline. In-class assignments will vary throughout the semester, and these will count 5% of your final grade.

D. Make-up Examinations/Missing Exams

If you miss an exam for any reason, the highest grade you may receive on that exam is an 80%. **ALL make-up exams must be made up within one week of the due date of the exam.** It is your responsibility to take the exam that you missed during this time, and it is also your responsibility to make sure that I know you plan to take that exam. You may take an exam a day or two early, if you have a conflict with the exam schedule, but you must notify me in writing at least one week prior to the start of the exam. Remember, you have three days to take each exam, so there is no reason why you should not be able to complete the exam during that time. Also, there is no class scheduled on exam day, so I know you have time in your schedule to take it. Even if you are ill, it is best to take the exam and **NOT** get the 20% reduction. The final exam cannot be taken late.

E. Grading Scale

The course grade will be assigned according to the scale indicated below:

<u>Numeric Score</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
90-100	A
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
60-66	D
Below 60	E

III. Course Outline

The following provides an outline for the course. Each section is listed with its corresponding book chapters, assignments, and due dates. Some in-class assignments are not listed below. *Research Design Explained* text chapters are listed below. *Writing for Psychology* readings will be assigned in class to supplement assignments.

Section 1

Chapters 1, 2 & APP C, D

Statistics & SPSS assignment

Experiment 1

DUE 9/16

Rough Draft DUE 9/18

Proofreading DUE 9/23

Final draft DUE 9/30

9/25 - 9/27

EXAM 1

Section 2

Chapters 3*,4*,5-9

Abstract

Outline of Exp. 2

Results Practice

DUE 10/14

DUE 10/16

DUE 10/21

EXAM 2

10/23 - 10/25

Section 3

Chapters 10-14

IRB

DUE 10/30

Outline of Exp. 2 (part 2)

DUE 11/4

Literature Review for Exp. 2

DUE 11/11

Experiment 2

Rough Draft DUE 11/18

Proofreading DUE 11/20

Final draft DUE 11/25

PowerPoint Due

DUE 12/2

Class Presentations

Due 12/2 - 12/4

FINAL EXAM

Due Dec 5th by 4:00 PM

*These chapters will NOT be covered in class. You are responsible for reading the text and getting the information outside of class. Chapter 15, Appendix A, and Appendix B are to be used as needed, as is *Writing for Psychology*.

**Note on all papers. Ten points of the paper grade comes from YOUR proofreading of another's paper. Also, after your paper is returned to you, you have one week to fix any problems found with your paper. You may earn up to 15 points extra on your paper's grade by correcting the problems and returning the corrections within one week of the paper being handed back to you. You cannot improve your proofreading grade after you have turned it in, so make sure you do a good job! More info will be given on this.

IV. Additional Information

A. Attendance

Attendance is incredibly important for your success in this class. Attendance is **required** for this course. If you miss a class in which you or your group are to present, you will receive a zero for that assignment. EVERY class is important, as we frequently work in groups. You are allowed 3 absences throughout the semester. If you miss more than 3 classes you will have 5 points deducted from your final grade for each additional class missed. There are in-class assignments that can only be completed IN class, and if you miss that class, you may not make-up the missed assignment. Please see me if you have concerns about this policy.

B. Class Courtesy

This is a small class with lots of discussion and interactions, so please be courteous of others when coming in to class late or leaving early. Please respect other people's opinions in class (or at least their right to share them). Also, please refrain from talking during class lecture. Eating and drinking in class is allowed, as long as it is not disruptive to the learning environment. **PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES. THERE SHOULD BE NO PHONE CALLS OR TEXT MESSAGING IN CLASS.**

C. Grade Appeals

If, after receiving an exam or paper back during class, you think a mistake has been made in the grading of your exam, please do not ask about this during class. Write down on a sheet of paper what your questions are, provide reference to notes in class or specific pages from the book, and turn in these questions at the end. You will receive a response, and any grade adjustment necessary, by the next class period. If you do not follow this format your concern will not be addressed.

D. Plagiarism/Cheating

Whenever you try to pass off someone's work that is not your own, that is cheating. If you cheat on a homework assignment or exam, you will receive a grade of **E (Failing) for the course**. Please refer to the following web site for a complete listing of infringements (including plagiarism) that constitute cheating. <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>. For specifics about plagiarism, please refer to the **PLAGIARISM** link on the WebCT site. You are responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism. If you have **ANY** questions, please make sure you ask prior to turning in an assignment. **ANY** assignment that is plagiarized (even unintentional) will result in a failing grade for the course. Remember, every paper that you turn in should be **YOUR** paper, not anyone else's. You may share data with your groups, you may use the same references, and you may even share ideas and hypotheses, but the write up for each experiment should be uniquely yours. If you and other members of your group have any portion of your paper the same, this constitutes plagiarism. Please see me if you have concerns and I will be happy to help you figure out how **NOT** to plagiarize!

E. Students with Disabilities

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

F. Students' Rights and Responsibilities

Please refer to the following web site for a complete listing of all WSU student rights and responsibilities.

<http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>

IV. Course Objectives

- A. Students will acquire both conceptual and procedural knowledge about research methods, measurement, design, statistical, and presentational issues in psychology.
- B. Students will design, carry-out, analyze, write-up, and present two different research projects in order to gain an understanding of how to apply their knowledge in psychology.
- C. Students will gain an understanding of how research methods and design fits in the "Big Picture" of psychology.
- D. Students will become researchers, designers, data collectors, analysts, and authors of experiments of their own design.

VI. Grade Record

Experiments:

Experiment 1 _____ (10%)
Experiment 2 _____ (20%)

Exams

Exam 1 _____ (10%)
Exam 2 _____ (10%)
Final Exam _____ (10%)

Other

SPSS & Stats _____ (10%)
Abstract _____ (5%)
Exp. 2 Outline _____ (5%)
Results Practice _____ (5%)
Literature Review _____ (5%)
PowerPoint _____ (5%)
In-Class Assignments _____ (5%)

VII. Testing Center Hours

All exams will be taken in the Social Sciences Testing Center, located in the basement of the Social Sciences building (SS 036). In order to take an exam, you must show up on the correct date at the appropriate times (listed below) with a form of picture ID. You will not be allowed to take the exam without a picture ID or if you show up after hours. Please see the testing center hours listed below.

Monday - Thursday

7:30 AM - 9:00 PM (Must show up by 8:00 PM to take an exam)

Friday

7:30 AM - 5:30 PM (Must show up by 4:30 PM to take an exam)

Saturday

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM (Must show up by 3:30 PM to take an exam)

****The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. By continuing in the course after receiving the syllabus, you are consenting to the regulations set forth by the syllabus.**