
Psychology 3610: Research Methods in Psychology
Fall 2012
MWF 11:30-12:40
SS 317

Professor: Dr. Aaron Ashley Email: AaronAshley@weber.edu
Office: SS 328A Office Phone: (801) 626-8743
Office Hours: M-F 1:00-2:00 or by appointment

Please note: The email address listed above is the best way to contact me. When communicating with me via email, use only your Weber State email account to contact me. **I will not open email from or respond to non-Weber State email accounts.** Therefore, any assignment sent from a non-Weber State email account will not be received.

Additionally, I typically respond to email in the morning. This tactic keeps me from perpetually responding to email. I will certainly respond to your emails when I have the chance, but you in most likelihood will receive a response the following morning.

Required Texts:

McBride, D. M. (2013). *The process of research in psychology* (2nd Ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

McBride, D. M. & Cutting, J. C. (2013). *Lab manual for psychological research* (3rd Ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Course Description and Goal: Students will acquire both the conceptual and procedural knowledge about research methods, measurement, design, statistical, and presentational issues in psychology. Additionally, students will develop and demonstrate beginning-level research skills by working in groups designing, carrying out, analyzing, writing-up, and presenting two different research projects.

Grades: Your final course grade will come from your performance on article reviews (10 points each), homework and in-class assignments (100 points), research project (500 points total), exams (50 points each), and class participation (200 points). Your final grade will be based on the percentage of total points obtained relative to the total points available. The following percentage-letter grade equivalents shall apply.

A	90 - 100%	C+	77 - 79%	D+	67 - 69%
B+	87 - 89%	C	73 - 76%	D	63 - 66%
B	83 - 86%	C-	70 - 72%	D-	60 - 62%
B-	80 - 82%	E	< 60%		

Exams: There will be four exams. Each exam may consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, or essay questions. The exams will be taken via Chi-Tester and need to be completed at one of the Weber State University Testing Centers. If you are not familiar with chi-tester please visit the following website for details on how exams are completed using this method

<http://chitester.weber.edu> . If you are taking this course long distance (50 miles away from a WSU testing-center) then you may take the exams via Chi-tester by following the proxy procedure outlined on the chi-tester website. If you are going to use a proctor you need to set it up as soon as possible. In order to set up a proctor you need to go to the chi-tester homepage using the above link. After logging in, you need to choose the "distance test" tab. Follow the instructions provided. Be aware that some proctors charge a fee for their services.

Students who miss an exam without a legitimate excuse will automatically receive 0 points for that exam. Only students with **legitimate** excuses will be allowed to make up missed exams.

Make-up Exams: Each exam date is listed on the syllabus. At this very moment, you know when each exam will be given. Additionally, you have a free class period in which to complete the exam; therefore, make-up exams will only be given under the following four circumstances. 1) **Illness.** I will need official certification from your doctor, typed on medical stationary (with their license # to practice medicine on it) certifying the date of the office visit, and that you are now well enough to return to class. 2) **Funeral attendance.** I will need proof of funeral attendance with the date of the ceremony clearly listed. 3) **Mandatory courtroom appearance.** I will need a copy of your official court summons with the date of your required attendance clearly listed. 4) **Weber State University event participation.** I will need a signed letter from your coach no later than one week prior to the day of the exam.

Additional Policy Information: Just for the record, the following excuses will **NOT** be considered as legitimate reasons for missing exams:

- Oversleeping
- Employment conflicts and/or work related obligations of any kind.
- Social, fraternity or sorority obligations
- Failure to obtain babysitters and/or problems/difficulties involving one's children/dependents
- Alarm clock failure
- Elevator malfunction
- Domestic situations of any kind (involving but not limited to situations involving boyfriends, girlfriends, domestic partners, roommates, current or former spouses etc).
- Conflicts with other classes or exams (unless you make provisions with your instructor **BEFORE** the exam takes place).
- Failure to secure the necessary (ground, air and/or sea) transportation to be able to take the exam.
- Car failure (unless you have receipts from the tow truck operator and/or auto mechanic)
- Stress
- Forgetfulness
- Abduction by aliens
- Any other, domestic, social, financial, religious or geopolitical situation.

In the interest of fairness, there will be NO exceptions to these rules.

Testing Center Hours: All exams will be taken in the Social Science Testing Center, located in the basement of the Social Science Building (SS 036). In order to take an exam, you must show up at the center on the correct day(s), during testing center hours, and with a picture ID. You will not be allowed to take the exam without a picture ID, or if you come after the hours specified. You will also need a calculator, #2 pencil, and 10¢ to purchase a scantron form.

Article Reviews (10 pts each): During the course of the semester, you will be required to review four research articles weekly. The articles your review are expected to be a small subset of the articles you are reading related to the project. In order to do an acceptable job on the research projects, you should be reading 5-7 articles a week. It is only through reading articles that you can develop the knowledge base needed to write intelligently on the topic. Article reviews should be between 500-750 words and should be double spaced. The articles reviews should contain an APA style reference citation at the top of the page; this information will help you when writing your papers. The reviews should address the research questions, the hypothesized results, the research findings, and the conclusions that can be made from these findings. Article reviews are to be submitted via email (AaronAshley@weber.edu) before class on the dates listed below in MS Word, WordPerfect, or RTF format. PDFs will not be accepted.

Homework and In-Class Assignments (100 pts): There will be in-class and homework assignments throughout the course of the semester. These assignments will come primarily from the Lab Manual book. These assignments will be given during class. Late submissions will not be accepted, and missed assignments cannot be made up.

Research Projects (500 pts total):

Final Project (500 pts): The final project for this course will consist of your completing an empirical experimental research project. As part of this process, you will write and submit a research proposal and submit the required paperwork to the Weber State University's Institutional Review Board (<http://weber.edu/IRB/>). In addition to submitting the research proposal to the IRB, you will also need to complete the required ethics tutorial <http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>. You should complete the ethics tutorial before Friday September 28th, and bring your completion form to class and email me a copy of the completion form on the 2nd. It will take you approximately two hours to complete the training tutorial online, so don't delay. Additionally, 25 points of your participation grade are based solely on you turning in your ethics tutorial completion forms on September 28th. After getting approval from the IRB, we will gather and analyze the data and complete an approximately 10-15 page paper. Your paper should include an abstract, introduction, methods, results, and discussion section.

Class Presentations (50 pts each): As part of your project, you will be required to present your results in two formats. You will be required to give a 15 minute oral presentation of your study. Your presentation must include a PowerPoint presentation and will describe the rational for your study, the hypotheses, methodology, results, and conclusions. In addition to your oral

presentation, you will be required to present your results in a poster format. The poster will contain the same information as your oral presentation, but as the mode of presentation is different the way the materials are organized and presented differ.

Class Participation (200 pts): As a student in this class, it is your responsibility to be an active participant. By active participant, I mean that it is your responsibility to be in class (on-time), prepared (i.e., you have read the assigned materials), ready to participate in class discussion (and to do so), and you behave in a manner representative of an academic environment (see Course Policies and Expectations below). As described about 25 points of your participation grade are based on you completing the ethics tutorial and submitting the completion forms both in class and via email on September 29th. At the end of the course, you will earn a grade for class participation as follows:

(200 pts) Excellent class participation/attendance throughout the course. Participation generally reflected careful reading of the course material. Questions were generally thought-provoking and relevant to the material.

(150 pts) Good participation/attendance throughout the course. Participation questions generally indicated that the material (chapters and articles) had been read and given some thought.

(100 pts) Good participation some days, weak participation other days. Questions not very thoughtful or thought-provoking.

(50 pts) Very little participation. Questions asked did not necessarily reflect a careful reading of the course material.

(0 pts) Poor attendance and participation

Course Policies and Expectations:

Attendance: Attendance is required for this class. It is your responsibility to be in class, on time, and prepared to intelligently discuss the class materials. As a portion of your grade comes directly from class participation, and you have to be present to participate, it is in your best interest to attend every class. As a student, you are responsible for all lecture materials and announcements made in class whether you are present or not. Because this course covers a broad overview of concepts and theories in psychology, attendance is very important and may determine final grades in borderline cases. Additionally, you are expected to be present, attentive, and participate during the entire class period. I do not expect you to arrive late, nor do I expect you to leave early. Both of these are disruptive to the class, and will not be tolerated. I understand an occasional instance, but repeated cases will result in a reduction of participation points.

If you must miss class, do not contact me with questions about what was covered in class. At this point, you are to obtain the names, email addresses, and phone numbers of four of your class mates. These are the people that you should contact in case of a class absence. Only

after contacting these individuals, obtaining class notes, and preparing the assigned materials are you to contact me. I'm happy to help you learn the material, but only after you have taken the time to prepare and review what you have missed.

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Classroom Courtesy:

Cell phones/laptops/other electronic devices: Please leave **all** cell phones turned off, or at least muted, during class. I do not want to see or hear your cell phones out during the class period. You can text message and email your friends during the other hours of the day, but not during this class. This behavior is not only rude, but is also extremely disruptive. A first warning is forgetfulness. A second warning (and subsequent warnings) will result in five points off your final total points for each occurrence. In regard to laptops, there will be many times that it will be most efficient for you to bring your laptops to class so we can go through your data and work on analyses. However, on a daily basis I don't want you to have your laptops out during class. I know that many students say they use their laptops for note taking, but walk past any classroom where students have their laptops out and see what type of notes they're taking. As methods is not only a very time intensive class, but also a nuanced class it is of the utmost importance that you are very attentive.

Discriminatory Harassment: Weber State University is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and other forms of discrimination based upon race, color, ethnic background, national origin, religion, creed, age, lack of American citizenship, disability, status of veteran of the Vietnam era, sexual orientation or preference or gender, including sexual/gender harassment. Such an environment is a necessary part of a healthy learning and working atmosphere because such discrimination undermines the sense of human dignity and sense of belonging of all people in the environment. Thus, students in this class should practice professional deportment, and avoid treating others in a manner that is demeaning or derisive in any respect.

While diverse viewpoints and opinions are welcome in this class, in expressing them, we will practice mutual deference so important in the world of work. Thus, while I encourage you to

share your opinions, when appropriate, you will be expected to do so in a manner that is respectful towards others, even when you disagree with them.

If you have questions regarding the university's policy against discrimination and harassment you may contact the university's AA/EO office (626-6239) or visit its website:

<http://departments.weber.edu/aaeeo/> .

Academic dishonesty policy: Weber State University imposes specific disciplinary actions in response to incidents of academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etc.). These actions may include admonition, failing grade, failure of course, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal. The specified policies can be found in the WSU Student Code at <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm> . Cheating will not be tolerated in this or any class at WSU. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment will result in a grade of E. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism, if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism please contact me.

Accommodation for 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. Weber State University policies regarding Services for Students with Disabilities are available on the <http://weber.edu/ssd> website.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	DUE
Week 1	Scientific Method	McBride Ch 1	Research Group
Week 2	Hypothesis Development	McBride Ch 2	
Week 3	Research Techniques	McBride Ch 3	
Week 4	Measurement Issues	McBride Ch 4	Literature Review
Week 5	Ethics	McBride Ch 5	Training Certificate
Week 6	Sampling	McBride Ch 6	Research Proposal
Week 7	Statistics	McBride Chs 7 & 14	IRB PROPOSAL
Week 8	Reporting Research	McBride Ch 8	Project Preparation
Week 9	Survey & Correlational Designs	McBride Chs 9 & 10	Data Collection
Week 10	Experimental Designs	McBride Chs 11-13	Data Collection
Week 11	Research Projects		Data Analyses
Week 12	Research Projects		Results Section
Week 13	Research Projects		Discussion Section
Week 14	Research Presentations		Research Paper

*Please remember, this schedule is tentative and subject to change at the Instructors discretion.