

**Psychology SS3610
Research Methods and Design**

Instructor: Todd C. Baird, Ph.D. **Contact:** Office (626-7724) Cell (920-4215) Email (tbaird@weber.edu) **Office Hours:** By appointment

Required Texts:

- 1) Bordens, Kenneth. S. & Abbott, Bruce B.(2005). *Research Design and Methods; A Process Approach*.
7th Ed. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.
- 2) Stanovich, Keith E. (2007). *How to think straight about psychology*. 8th Ed. New York, NY: Allyn & Bacon.

Aspects of the syllabus are subject to changes. These will be announced in class if they occur.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will acquire both conceptual and procedural knowledge about research methods, measurement, design, statistical, and presentational issues in psychology.
2. 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.

Course Requirements:

1. Class Attendance and Participation.

In order to be successful in this class it is expected and required that students will attend each class lecture. It is also assumed by this instructor that each individual in the classroom will have something to contribute, and that we will learn from each other. It is expected that students will attend each class period having read the material before the lecture/discussions. This will allow for discussion that will facilitate learning in the classroom. Mutual respect for each other is expected during the course. If a student continues to disrupt or disrespect others in the class (including tardiness) he/she will be asked to withdraw from the course. Related to this issue, cell phones and pagers should be turned off during all class periods. If you are using your cell phone during class time I will ask you to leave the class for that day. If your work requires you to be on-call please notify me early in the semester. For other issues related to student rights and responsibilities see the Student Rights and Responsibilities section on the Weber State University website.

2. **Article Reviews.** Over the course of the semester you will be required to review two research articles. You will read and critique this article outside of class and write up a two page summary. The format of this summary will be handed out in class and posted on the course website. The third article will be given to you in class and you will be required to read, critique, and summarize the research article within a set amount of time. Should you miss class it is your responsibility to get the article from me and make arrangements prior to the class you will miss. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day that the assignment is late (including weekend days).

3. **Examinations.** The exams will be taken in the social science testing center. The exams will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. Some questions will be drawn from the text while others are drawn from class lectures. If you plan on being away on school or personal business during an exam you must arrange with me to take the exam prior to your departure. The final written exam is not comprehensive. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. If you are involved in either of these behaviors you will be referred to appropriate University authorities and will receive 0 points on that assignment or exam.
4. **Small Project.** During class you will get together with your research group and design a study that can be conducted using your classmates as subjects. After gathering your data, you will write up an abstract, introduction, methods, results and discussion section. This project will require use of SPSS. There is no page length requirement for this paper but it needs to be complete and in APA format.
5. **Final Project.** Both in and out of class you will get together with your research group and design a larger study using subjects outside of our class. This will require you to write a research proposal and submit the required paperwork to Weber State Universities Institutional Review Board. In addition to submitting the proposal for approval to the IRB, you will need to complete the required ethics tutorial required (approximately 2 hours online). After getting approval from the IRB to conduct your study you will gather your data and complete approximately an 8-10 page paper including an abstract, introduction, methods, results, and discussion sections. Again you will be required to run the appropriate statistics on the data using SPSS. The paper must be in APA format.
6. **Group Presentation.** In addition to the completion of a paper summarizing your final project, you will be required to give a group presentation in class. This will be a graded presentation.
7. **Oral Defense & Group Participation.** During the last week of class each student will schedule a fifteen minute oral defense with the instructor. During this time I will briefly discuss with you the contribution of yourself and each of your group members (you will be asked to distribute among group members 100 points). The remaining time will focus on discussing your project. I will ask you questions related to your project and assess your understanding of research methods and design.

Grading: Your grade will be based on a percentage of all points possible. The total points possible and grade assignments will be as follows:

Written Exams

Exam #1:	100 Points
Exam #2:	100 Points
Exam #3:	100 Points

Stanovich Quizzes

Quiz 1	20 Points
Quiz 2	30 Points
Quiz 3	30 Points
Quiz 4	30 Points

Article Reviews

Article Review #1:	25 Points
Article Review #2:	25 Points

Project (Papers and Presentations)**Project #1**

Paper: 20 Points
 Presentation 10 Points

Project #2

Literature Rev. 50 Points
 Proposal 50 Points
 Final Paper: 100 Points
 Presentation: 20 Points

Oral Defense/Final

Participation 50 Points
 Exam 100 Points

Total = 890 Points

94-100 % = A 73-76 % = C Percentage Grade: (your total) / (total points x
 100)
 90-93 % = A- 70-72 % = C-
 87-89 % = B+ 67-69 % = D+
 83-86 % = B 63-66 % = D
 80-82 % = B- 60-62 % = D-
 77-79 % = C+ Below 59 % F

Class Schedule:

Date	Reading Assgn. by Chapter	Class Focus	Exams	Project Calendar
Jan 5th	Stanovich Ch 1	Syllabus Review Psychology & Science		
Jan 7th	Stanovich Ch 2 Bordens Ch 1	Falsifiability Research Process		
Jan 9th	Bordens Ch 3 and Ch 15	Outline of Journal Articles	Quiz Stanovich (Ch 1-2)	
Jan 12th	Stanovich Ch 3	Operationalism		
Jan 14th	Stanovich Ch 4 and Ch 5	Testimonials & Case Studies / Correlation		Due: Article Review #1
Jan 16th	Stanovich Ch 6	Control	Quiz Stanovich (Ch 3-5)	
Jan 21st	Bordens Ch 4	Choosing a Design		
Jan 23rd		Design Study #1		
Jan 26th		Carry out Study #1 and SPSS		
Jan 28th		SPSS in Computer Lab		

Jan 30th	Stanovich Ch 7	Is It Real		
Feb 2nd	Bordens Ch 2	Developing Ideas	Quiz Stanovich (Ch 6-7)	
Feb 4th		Presentations		Due: Project #1 Paper
Feb 6th		Choose Study #2 / The Literature Review	Exam #1 (Bordens 1-4)	
Feb 9th	Stanovich Ch 8- 9	Einstein and Magic Bullets		Due: Article Review #2
Feb 11th	Bordens Ch 5	Making Observations		Due: Article Review #3
Feb 13th	Bordens Ch 5 & 6	Making Observations and Ethics	Quiz Stanovich (Ch 8-9)	
Feb 18th	Bordens Ch 7	Correlational Designs & Observation		Due: Literature Review
Feb 20th	Bordens Ch 7	Correlational Designs & Observation		
Feb 23rd		Survey vs Experimental (Review)		Due: Literature Revision (Optional)
Feb 25th	Bordens Ch 8	Survey Research		
Feb 27th	Bordens Ch 8	Survey Research & Methods Section		Due: Proposal & IRB
Mar 2nd		Review IRB for Changes		
Mar 4th	Bordens Ch 9	Experimental Designs		
Mar 6th	Bordens Ch 9	Experimental Designs	Exam #2 Bordens (5-8)	
Mar 16th	Bordens Ch 9	Experimental Designs		
Mar 18th	Bordens Ch 10	Specialized Designs		
				Gather Data Until April 4th
Mar 27th	Bordens Ch 12	Describing Data		
Mar 29th	Bordens Ch13	Inferential Stats		
Mar 31st	Bordens Ch 13	Inferential Stats		
April 2nd	Bordens Ch 15	Reporting Research		
April 4th		Don't worry we will do something on this day		
April 7th		Don't worry we will do something on this day		
April 9th		Analysis of Data		Analysis of Data

April 11th	No class	No Class		
April 14th		Analysis of Data		Analysis of Data
April 16th		Class Time on Projects		
April 18th		Present Final Project & Defense		
April 21st		Present Final Project & Defense		Final Paper Due
April 23rd		Oral Final Exam (comprehensive)		
April 24-26		Oral Final Exam (comprehensive)		
April 28 - May 2			Take Final Exam	