

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

Project #2

Proposal 50 Points

Final Paper: 100 Points

Presentation: 50 Points

Oral Defense/Final

Participation 50 Points

Exam 100 Points

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Total = 890 Points**Percentage Grade:** (your total) / (total points possible x 100)

94-100 % = A	73-76 % = C
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