## Psychology 3610: Research Methods in Psychology Spring 2009 TR 11:30 - 1:10 SS 317

**Professor:** Dr. Aaron Ashley Office: SS 360

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**Office Hours:** MWF: 11:00 – 12:00 TR: 10:00 – 11:00

**Required Text**: Stanovich, K. (2007). *How to think straight about psychology* (8th Ed.). New York, NY: Harper Collins.

Rosnow, R. L., & Rosenthal, R. (2008). *Beginning behavioral research: A conceptual primer* (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

**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 (25 points each), class presentations (25 points each), research projects (200 points total), exams (100 points each), and class participation (100 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%	${f E}$	< 60%		

**Exams:** There will be three exams. Exams will be multiple choice, short answer, and essay.

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.

Make-up Exams: As you will have a free class period in which to complete each exam make-up exams will be subject to a penalty of 10 points per day (including weekends and holidays). There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy!

**Article Reviews (25 pts each):** During the course of the semester, you will be required to review three research articles. The first article will be related to your first research project, and the

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last two will be related to your second larger research project (see project descriptions below). An example critique will be provided.

### Research Projects (200 pts total):

**Small Project (50 pts):** We will plan and carry out one research project as a class. This will include a literature search, writing an abstract, introduction, methods section, conducting the experiment, data management, data analysis and interpretation, writing a results and discussion section. All writings will be in APA format.

**Final Project (150 pts):** The final project for this course requires you to research, design, complete, analyze, and write up a 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 (<a href="http://weber.edu/IRB/">http://weber.edu/IRB/</a>). In addition to submitting the research proposal to the IRB, you will also need to complete the required ethics tutorial (<a href="http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php">http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php</a>). It will take you approximately two hours to complete the training tutorial online. After getting approval from the IRB to conduct your study, you will gather and analyze your data and complete an approximately 8-10 page paper. Your paper should include an abstract, introduction, methods, results, and discussion section. You will also have to present your results in class.

**Class Presentations (25 pts each):** In addition to the presentation of your final project, you will also give two group (2-3 persons) presentations in class. These will be on two chapters in the Stanovich text.

Class Participation (100 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). At the end of the course, you will earn a grade for class participation as follows:

(100 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.

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

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

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

(0 pts) Poor attendance and participation

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#### **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:	

#### **Classroom Courtesy:**

Cell phones/beepers/laptops: Leave all electronic devices turned off during class. I do not want to see or hear any cell phones, laptops, or electronic devices of any type out during the class period. You can text message and email your friends during the other twenty-two hours and forty-five minutes 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.

**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

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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: <a href="http://departments.weber.edu/aaeeo/">http://departments.weber.edu/aaeeo/</a>.

**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 <a href="http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm">http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm</a>. Cheating will not be tolerated in this or any class at WSU. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment will result is 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 <a href="http://weber.edu/ssd">http://weber.edu/ssd</a> website.

# TENATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Tuesday Jan. 6	Class Overview	Syllabus	
Thursday Jan. 8	Cluss o ver view	Stanovich Ch. 1- 4	
Tuesday Jan. 13		Stanovich Ch. 5- 8	
Thursday Jan. 15		Stanovich Ch. 9- 12	
Tuesday Jan. 20	Scientific Method	R&R Ch. 1	
Thursday Jan. 22	Ethics in Research	R&R Ch. 3	
Tuesday Jan. 27	Hypothesis	R&R Ch. 2	
raesaay van. 27	Generation	TROUT OIL 2	
Thursday Jan. 29	Communicating	R&R Appendix A	
	Research		
Tuesday Feb. 3			Article Review 1 Due
Thursday Feb. 5			
Tuesday Feb. 10	EXAM 1		
Thursday Feb. 12	Observational	R&R Chs 4-6	
	Research		
Tuesday Feb. 17			Project 1 Due
Thursday Feb. 19			
Tuesday Feb. 24			
Thursday Feb. 26	Design &	R&R Chs 7-9	
	Implementation		
Tuesday Mar. 3			
Thursday Mar. 5	EXAM 2		
Tuesday Mar. 10	NO CLASS SPRING		
TTI 1 1/ 10	BREAK		
Thursday Mar. 12	NO CLASS SPRING BREAK		
Tuesday Mar. 17	Statistics Review	R&R Chs 10-15	Article Review 2 Due
Thursday Mar. 19			Article Review 3 Due
Tuesday Mar. 24			
Thursday Mar. 26			Literature Review Due
Tuesday Mar. 31	Review IRB		IRB Proposal Due
	Proposals		
Thursday April 2			
Tuesday April 7			
Thursday April 9	Project 2 Data		
	Analysis		
Tuesday April 14			
Thursday April 16	Project Presentations		
Tuesday April 21	Project Presentations		Final Project Due
Thursday April 23	Review		
Tuesday April 28	FINAL EXAM		

<sup>\*</sup>Please remember, this schedule is tentative and subject to change at the Instructors discretion.