

---

**Psychology 3610: Research Methods in Psychology**  
**Spring 2010**  
**Tuesday/Thursday 12:00 – 1:40**  
**SS 317**

---

**Professor:** Dr. Aaron Ashley

**Office:** SS 360

**Office Hours:** MWF: 9:30 – 11:00 and by appointment

**Email:** AaronAshley@weber.edu

**Phone:** (801) 626-8743

Please note: This email address is the best way to contact me. You should, however, only your Weber State email account to contact me, because the Weber State mail system is likely to quarantine your email, and I will probably not open email from or respond to non-Weber State email accounts.

I typically respond to email in the morning. This tactic keeps me from responding to email all day. I will certainly respond to your emails during office hours, but outside of those times it will most likely be the following morning.

**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 (500 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.

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

**Exams:** There will be four 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 four research articles. The first two articles will be given out in class. The articles for the second two reviews you must find for yourself. 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 3-7 articles a week. It is only through reading articles that you can develop the knowledge base needed to write intelligently on the topic.

**Research Projects (500 pts total):**

**Small Project (100 pts):** In this class, we will conduct two different research projects. The first project will be a small project. By small project, I mean that we will use the other class members for data collection. The first project isn't meant to be some grand research question, but is meant as an example for you to get your feet wet with the research process. This project 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. Remember that this project is designed as a learning experience. You shouldn't expect the project to be flawless, but should use it as a learning experience.

**Final Project (400 pts):** The final project for this course will be a more substantial 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 Tuesday February 2nd, 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 February 2nd. After getting approval from the IRB, we will gather and analyze the 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. I have scheduled the class so that we will complete all of the text material by the end of February giving a substantial amount of time for us to work on the large project during the second half of class. You should realize at this point that although I have scheduled a substantial amount of time for the second project that will not seem like enough time.

**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). 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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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

### **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/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 twenty-two hours and twenty 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. 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.

### **TENATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Jan. 5	Overview	Syllabus, Stanovich Ch. 1	
Jan. 7		Stanovich Ch. 2- 7	
Jan. 12		Stanovich Ch. 8- 12	
Jan. 14	<b>NO CLASS</b>		<b>EXAM 1</b>
Jan. 19	Statistics Review	R&R Chs 10-12	
Jan. 21		R&R Chs 13-15	
Jan. 26	<b>NO CLASS</b>		<b>EXAM 2</b>
Jan. 28	Statistics Programs Review		<b>Meet in RM 325</b>
Feb. 2	Scientific Method	R&R Ch. 1 - 3	<b>NIH ethics training forms due.</b>
Feb. 4			
Feb. 9	Communicating Research	R&R Appendix A	Article Review 1 Due
Feb. 11	<b>NO CLASS</b>		<b>EXAM 3</b>
Feb. 16	Observational Research	R&R Chs 4-6	Article Review 2 Due
Feb. 18			Article Review 3 Due
Feb. 23	Design & Implementation	R&R Chs 7-9	
Feb. 25	<b>NO CLASS</b>		<b>EXAM 4</b>
Mar. 2	Data Collection Project 1		Article Review 4 Due
Mar. 4	Data Analysis Project 1		
Mar. 9	Discussion of Project 2		Project 1 Due
Mar. 11	Project 2 Methods Discussion		Lit. Review Due

Mar. 16	<b>NO CLASS</b>		<b>Spring Break</b>
Mar. 18	<b>NO CLASS</b>		<b>Spring Break</b>
Mar. 23	Class time on Project 2	Review IRB Proposals	Methods Section Due
Mar. 25	Project 2 Data Analysis		IRB Proposals Due
Mar. 30			Results Section Due
Apr. 1	Class time on Project 2		
Apr. 6	Class time on Project 2		
Apr. 8	Class time on Project 2		
Apr. 13			Final Project Due
Apr. 15	Project Presentations		

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