

PSYC 3320: RESEARCH METHODS II (Spring 2009)

Mon. & Wed. 11:30 pm – 12:45 pm, PL 244

Instructor: Dr. P. Ansburg, Plaza 220AA, Phone: 556-5631, e-mail: ansburg@mscd.edu,

Web site: <http://clem.mscd.edu/~ansburg/>

A NOTE: This syllabus, by specifying the rules by which I will make decisions, helps me to treat students fairly and impartially. Your decision to remain enrolled in the class indicates that you agree to follow these rules. The rules listed on this syllabus are not arbitrary and they will be abided.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The majority of the coursework will focus on helping you to design, run and write-up an original research study. A second goal of this course is to familiarize you with non-experimental designs. Some of class time will resemble research lab meetings where students describe their progress and receive help from all of us. Other times I will give you in-class exercises (which sometimes will require group work) intended to give students practice with research design and implementation. Other class sessions will resemble the typical lecture course. This course will be highly interactive and class attendance is vital. There is really no way to make-up in-class work.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: To take this course, you must have received credit for Introduction to Statistics (PSY 2310), Inferential Statistics (PSY 2320) and Research Methods I (PSY 3310).

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Gravetter, F.J. & Forzano, L.B. (2006). Research methods for the psychological sciences. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth Publishers.

Mitchell, M.L., Jolley, J.M., & O'Shea, R.P. (2007). Writing for psychology (2nd Ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth Publishers.

OPTIONAL TEXTS:

Pyrzczak, F. & Bruce, R. R. (2007). Writing empirical research reports: A basic guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences (6th Ed.). Glendale, CA: Pyrczak Publishing.

INTERNET ACCESS: You will need to access the Internet because class notes, course assignments, and announcements will be posted on my Web site at <http://clem.mscd.edu/~ansburg/>. Check the course Web site AND your MSCD e-mail account daily. I may use either method to make important announcements

ATTENDANCE POLICY: You are responsible for all information presented during the lecture periods, including changes in the schedule and in reading assignments. It is a good idea to exchange phone numbers with a classmate. I am not responsible for providing you with missed information.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS: Grading will be based an exam and on the research project (divided into 6 separate assignments). All assignments are to be typed and are due by 4:30 p.m. on the scheduled day. **I WILL NOT ACCEPT ASSIGNMENTS VIA E-MAIL NOR VIA FAX.** Late assignments will be penalized by 10% each day late (including weekends & holidays—late penalties will be assessed beginning at 4:31 p.m. on the assigned day). The table below describes how the each graded assignment will be weighted to determine your course grade.

| Assignments | | Percent of Course Grade |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Exam | | 25% |
| Research Project <i>(divided into the 6 separate assignments listed below)</i> | | |
| Due 2/11 | 1. Research Topic and Related Article | 5% |
| Due 3/2 | 2. Hypothesis (constructs and operational definitions) and Design | 5% |
| Due 3/18 | 3. Introduction & Method Section | 5% |
| Due 4/20 | 4. Results Section | 5% |
| Due 5/1 | 5. Complete APA style paper | 50% |
| Last Week of Classes & Final Exam Day | 6. Oral Presentation | 5% |

Very Important Notes

- You may work in pairs on a single research project. However, each student must turn in every assignment. Although both members of the pair are working with the same content, individual work must be the result of a single thinker/writer; therefore, each student is required to turn in assignments that reflect only his/her original thoughts. The only exceptions to the rule that each student must turn in independent work are that students working in pairs a) may use the same references for their work and b) will do their oral presentation as a team. Each member of the pair must participate in every part of the research process (e.g., literature searches, materials design, data collection) and each student must complete his/her own data analysis. Failure to participate in each part of the research process will result in an "F" for the course grade. The members of the pair are solely responsible for working out any issues that result from working as pair (e.g., one student is not completing the work).
- I reserve the right to ask any student to elaborate orally on his or her written responses. If I do not think that the oral response indicates understanding, I will re-grade that student's written work.
- To pass the class, you must conduct either a systematic or conceptual replication of previous work; no credit will be given for projects that are direct replications.
- Failure to complete satisfactorily both the "Research Topic and Related Article Assignment" and the "Hypothesis Assignment" by the first class period of the 8th week will result in an "F" for your course grade.
- You may not collect any data until I have given you written approval to do so.
- You must make a good effort (as defined by the instructor) to collect the required number of participants; failure to do so will result in a 30% penalty to your course grade.
- To pass the class, you must complete an oral presentation (which includes a Powerpoint or comparable visual accompaniment) describing your work, as well as turn in a complete APA-style write-up of your work.

Very Important Notes Continued

- **You must be on time for oral presentations (both your own and that of others in the class). There are no make-ups for the oral presentation. Attendance is required for all students at all presentations. Your final course grade will be dropped one percentage point for each presentation that you miss.**
- Be careful to guard against plagiarism: it will be detected and appropriate consequences will be administered. Be sure to cite references when you express an idea that is not your own. Further, paraphrasing requires that you express an idea **in your own words. Changing the order of the words in an existing sentence or finding synonyms for those words is not paraphrasing--it is plagiarizing.** To be certain you understand what plagiarism is, please follow these links <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml#original> , http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_paraphr.html , and http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html

COURSE GRADES: Final course grades are determined by the percent of the total possible points you achieve: 90% and above = "A"; 80%-89% = "B"; 70%-79% = "C"; 60%-69% = "D"; 59% and lower = "F". Grades of "Incomplete" will be given rarely and only in the most extraordinary conditions (e.g., long-term hospitalization).

MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY: Taking make-up exams is highly discouraged. However, if it is absolutely, positively, undeniably necessary, you may take a make-up exam. **HOWEVER, YOU MAY TAKE ONLY ONE MAKE-UP EXAM DURING THE SEMESTER SO ONLY USE THIS OPTION IF IT IS A TRUE EMERGENCY.** The make-up exam will consist of **more items** and will be **more difficult** than the original exam. The make-up questions may take any form. Correct responses to the extra questions will **NOT** add any points to your score; however, **if your responses to the extra questions are incorrect, points will be subtracted** from your exam score. You will have the same time allotted to finish the exam as those who took it on schedule. After all, those who take make-up exams have a longer time to study than those who are on schedule! Further, to be eligible to schedule a make-up exam, **you must contact me before the exam begins on the original exam date** or you will receive a zero for that exam. If you cannot reach me personally, leave a message on voice mail or via e-mail so that I know you contacted me before the deadline. **Exams must be made up before the next class period begins (e.g., exams originally scheduled for a Monday must be made up before class begins on Wednesday of that week).** Failure to adhere to that schedule will result in a zero for that exam. If you do not arrive on time or at all on the scheduled make-up day, you will receive a zero for that exam.

CLASSROOM COURTESY: Students can expect me to be polite and respectful and I expect the same from them. Below are some guidelines for courteous behavior.

1. Late arrival should be an exception. If you are late, sit closest to where you entered so as not to disturb class.
2. Early departure should be an exception. Only in an emergency situation or with prior consultation with the instructor should students leave class early
3. Leaving the class for a short period of time and then returning should be an exception. Once class has begun, students should not leave the classroom until dismissed by the instructor.
4. If you have a cellular telephone, turn it off or to vibrate. For exceptions, see me.

CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY: If a class session is cancelled, students should adhere to the reading requirements outlined on the syllabus. If an exam is scheduled on that cancelled day, the exam will be given the next class meeting. If an assignment is due on the cancelled day, the assignment may be turned in during the next class meeting.

OTHER:

1. **YOU MUST BUY A SCANTRON (#882-ES) FOR EACH EXAM.** On exam day, it is your responsibility to have a scantron and a pencil.
2. You may turn assignments in to my mailbox in PL 220 but if you do so **be sure to have a department secretary sign it and time and date stamp the work**; however, if you choose to turn in an assignment to my mailbox and it is lost, you will get no credit for the work. Further, for those items that are not signed and time/date stamped by a department official, I will assume that the work was turned in just moments before I received it.

Tentative Schedule

| Week | Week Of | Topic | Chapters GF= <i>Research Methods for Behavioral sciences</i> MJ= <i>Writing for Psychology</i> |
|------|---------|---|--|
| 1 | 1/19 | Generating & Refining Research Hypotheses Ethics Searching the Literature | GF 2 - 4 |
| 2 | 1/26 | <p>MON. 1/26:</p> <p>1) READ: Friese, M. & Hofmann, W. (2008). What would you have as a last supper? Thoughts about death influence evaluation and consumption of food products. <i>Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 44</i> 1388-1394 (Find online full-text through Auraria Library). FOCUS ONE THE INTRODUCTION & STUDY 1</p> <p>2) BRING the "Research Topic Assignment" (download from course Web site)</p> <p>Generating & Refining Research Hypotheses Reading & Evaluating Research Making Your Case: A Guide to Skeptical Reading and Logical Writing</p> <p>WED. 1/28 MEET IN AURARIA LIBRARY ROOM 245</p> | MJ 5 |
| 3 | 2/2 | <p>MONDAY-CONDUCT LITERATURE SEARCH</p> <p>Generating & Refining Research Hypotheses Reading & Evaluating Research Making Your Case: A Guide to Skeptical Reading and Logical Writing</p> | MJ 5 |
| 4 | 2/9 | Review APA Style/Writing Style Review Survey Research Research Topic & Related Article Due 2/11 | MJ 1; 3-6 GF 16; 13 |
| 5 | 2/16 | Individual Meetings (check email for schedule) | |
| 6 | 2/23 | Individual Meetings (check email for schedule) | |
| 7 | 3/2 | Hypothesis and Design Due 3/2 Descriptive Methods | GF 13 |
| 8 | 3/9 | Quasi-Experimental Design | GF10 |
| 9 | 3/16 | Single n Design Introduction & Method Sections Due 3/18 | GF14 |
| 10 | 3/23 | SPRING BREAK | |

| Week | Week Of | Topic | Chapters GF= <i>Research Methods for Behavioral sciences</i> MJ= <i>Writing for Psychology</i> |
|-------------|----------------|--|---|
| 11 | 3/30 | Exam MON. 3/31 Individual Meetings/Collect Data | |
| 12 | 4/6 | Meet in PL307D for Orientation to SPSS on Mon. 4/7 Discuss Results/SPSS | GF Appendix D |
| 13 | 4/13 | Collect/Analyze Data | |
| 14 | 4/20 | Creating Oral Presentations Results Section Due 4/20 No class meeting 4/22, attend Psychology Conference | |
| 15 | 4/27 | Creating Oral Presentation/Final Paper Complete APA Style Paper Due Friday 5/1 | MJ 7 |
| 16 | 5/4 | Oral Presentations | |
| 17 | 5/11 | FINAL EXAM WEEK—Oral presentation sessions will be given according to the college final exam schedule | |