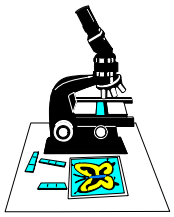


RESEARCH DESIGNS

Psychology 3410
Fall Semester 2009

Instructor: Dr. Lynn White
MW 2:30-3:50, GC 303
Email: white_l@suu.edu

Office: GC 308, 586-7913
Office hours: MWF 10:00-11:00
TTH 1:00-2:00

Course Description and Objectives

This course will teach you basic concepts, techniques, and considerations for the most common research designs used in the field of psychology. The course will provide you with the skills required to design, conduct, analyze and interpret an experiment or study, culminating in a formal research report. By the end of the course, you should be able to distinguish between sound and unsound research methods, and think more critically about the conclusions drawn from such research. Most importantly, I hope to be able to convince you that research is both fun and exciting!!!!!!!

Prerequisites

Students are expected to have a C- or better in PSY 1010, 2010, and 3010. A firm grasp of statistical concepts is essential. Students are expected to review the material from PSY 3010 as needed.

Recommended Texts

Perrin, R. (2007 or later). *A Pocket Guide to APA Style*, 2nd ed.. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Smith, R.A., & Davis S.F. (2007). *The Psychologist as Detective*: *An Introduction to Conducting Research in Psychology,* 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

Strongly Recommended Texts

White, L.H. (2003). *A Picture Book Guide to SPSS*, 2nd ed.

White, L.H. (2006). *Statistic for Psychology: A Survival Guide*, 3rd ed. (July).

Sequence of Events (subject to change at the instructor's discretion: test dates are approx)

Course introduction, The Science of Psychology (Chapter 1)

Research Ideas, Critiquing Research and Hypotheses (Ch.2)

Ethics in Psychological Research (Chapter 3)

Third week of Sept. ******* Progress test 1 *******

The Basics of Experimentation I (Chapter 6)

Second week of Oct. ******* Progress Test 2 *******

The Basics of Experimentation II (Chapter 7)

First week of Nov. ******* Progress Test 3 *******

Two Group Experiments (Chapter 10)

Experiments with more than 2 Groups (Chapter 11)

Multiple Factor Designs (Chapter 12)

Third week of Nov. ****** Progress Test 4 ******

APA style Reports (Chapter 14)

Correlation studies (pp. 92-94)

Survey research (pp. 98-108)

Final exam period ****** Progress Test 5 ******

Quizzes

At the beginning of each class you will be given a quiz on the material covered the class before. The quiz will typically consist of 10 multiple choice questions. The quizzes are designed to motivate you to keep up with the material, and to help you evaluate your understanding of it. I will count your best 15 quizzes.

Warning: multiple choice questions can be tricky… you do need to study to do well!

Progress Tests

These tests will be multiple choice and short answer format. Although the questions will focus on the material covered since the previous test, the topics are somewhat cumulative. As such, you are encouraged to review to ensure that you understood the previous material. This will maximize your score on each test. Ten multiple choice questions will come from the quiz questions. You will receive a study guide for the remaining 10 MC questions. For the short answer part, you will receive 4 questions in advance, 2 of which will be on the test. Students must prepare their own answers! **Please do not ask me to prepare or check the answer to each question for you.** After all, **this is a test of what you understood** from the book and lectures, not what I know or understand. However, *please* don't hesitate to ask me to explain or elaborate upon any concept you do not understand.

Each test will be administered at the testing center located in the basement (i.e. dungeon) of the ELC. You will have 2 consecutive days to take a test. You must show up at least 1 hour before closing, or the testing center will not let you take it. Their hours are:

Mon., Wed., Thurs.……9-6
Tuesday……9-8
Friday……9-3 They will ask you for a photo ID

I generally try to get tests back to you a few days after you take them. Once graded, you will be allowed to see your test, which will be available from the psychology department secretary. You will be allowed to review tests in the office only.

Late Quizzes and Tests

Should you miss a quiz or a test, you must complete a form to document the reason why. Late quizzes and tests will be available from the department secretaries.

In the event you miss a quiz, you must take it before the following class period or you forfeit the marks (a 1 point late penalty may apply, and **no more than 5 quizzes may be taken late**).

In the event you miss a progress test, you must take it within 3 days of missing the test (a 1-3 point late penalty may apply). **Progress tests (and quizzes) may not be taken early. No more than 2 progress tests may be taken late.**

Exceptions to the rules above are rare and will be considered on a case by case basis.

NIH Human Research Protections Training

The protection of human research participants' rights and well-being must always come before the researcher's desire to support or disprove a hypothesis. It is paramount that you

fully understand and comply with the Federal Code designed to ensure this. As such, you will be required to complete online training located at:

http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/register.php

The website will set up an account for you, which will enable you to proceed through each module and test at your own pace. At the very end, you will issued a training certificate. Print this out and keep a copy for yourself. Should you NOT print out a training certificate, the website may require you to start all over again!

I must receive a copy of your certificate no later than **Sept. 15th** . Late penalties of 1/2 point/day including weekends and holidays will apply. This assignment is worth 10 points.

Group Research Project

This project is to be conducted in groups of 2-3 students (you may choose who you wish to work with, and the workload must be divided up evenly). I will give you a list of research projects to pick from. Projects will be assigned on a first come first serve basis, and only one group may conduct any given project. You will then collect the data, analyze it, and write up an APA style research report. The introduction to your research report is due **October 1st.** The complete written report is due no later than **Nov. 23rd**. TIP: Start reading articles and writing your introduction and method sections as soon as you've been assigned your project! Late intros and/or completed project reports will have 1 point/day (including weekends and holidays) subtracted from their grade.

Group projects have both pros and cons. One of the most frequently cited complaints is that not all members pull their own weight. To hopefully prevent this, each member of the group will be required to submit a) a contract detailing who will be responsible for what, singed by all members and b) a final report of what each member did on the project, signed by all members. Please let me know ASAP should any problems become evident. In most cases, each member of the group will receive the same grade on the written report, but this will depend on the students' reports of what they did. My advice: choose your partners carefully! Friends don't always make the best research partners!!

Psychology Research Symposium

In keeping with the department's belief that "doing" is one of the best ways of learning, all students will be required to present the results of their research projects at the annual *SUU Psychology Research Symposium* in December. You may present an oral powerpoint of your project, or a poster. Instructional videos on how to create graphs using Excel, and how to create a poster using powerpoint are available at:

http://suu.edu/faculty/white_l/videos/presenting_research_results.htm

Each student will be graded individually for their presentation skills and content.

Class Tutor

We are very fortunate to have an excellent tutor for this class: Linda Reeves. She is very knowledgeable AND personable. She is available through e-mail and by appointment to help you with your research projects and presentations. She will be a "consultant" of sorts. Now, she won't collect data for you, or run the data through SPSS. But, she will be there to answer questions like "how do I…" or "do you think it's okay to…"

Linda's e-mail is reeves4882@msn.com

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is **strongly encouraged**. Students will be responsible for everything covered in the textbook and in lectures, whether they were present or not. Students who are frequently absent should not expect to do well in the course.

Extra Credit

Recall that I only count your 15 best quizzes. However, if things go according to plan, you will take as many as 26 quizzes. I will calculate the mean (out of 10) of all your dropped quizzes and add this to your accumulated points in the course. This provides incentive to do well on ALL quizzes, and to make up any missed quiz. Keep in mind, however, that you may make up no more than 5 quizzes. Any additional missed quiz will receive a zero, which will lower the average for your extra credit.

Academic Integrity

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. You are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the student handbook (published by student services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.

Examples of cheating in this course include: looking at some else's quiz or test, attempting to find out what was on a missed quiz or test, having someone else complete an assignment for you (in whole or in part), using someone else's ideas or research findings without giving them proper credit and/or a reference to the source, and making up or modifying research data. Any student caught making up or modifying research data will receive an F on the project and his/her name will be reported to the department chair.

<u>Before</u> you turn in your final report, the introduction to each research project must be submitted electronically to a website called turnitin.com. This service checks for plagiarism (if any) and its extent. Turnitin.com color-codes the extent to which plagiarism occurred. If your color is anything other than blue or green, you will be required to revise and resubmit the intro until your

color is “correct”. Instructions on how to use turnitin.com are at the end of this syllabus. Report any problems using the site to me immediately. Remember: the deadline to turn in a “blue” or “green” introduction is **Nov. 23rd**.

Note: I use turnitin for instructional purposed only! Many of us do not know what plagiarism is, let alone how to avoid it. This site will help you learn. I will not deduct points if you do not get the right color on the first, second, or nth submission. Just so long as it’s the right color when you turn it in to me.

Grading 250 points total

progress test 1	30 points	NIH training	10 points
progress test 2	30 points	quizzes	30 points
progress test 3	30 points	project intro	15 points
progress test 4	30 points	project written report	30 points
progress test 5	30 points	symposium presentation	15 points

Extra credit Up to 12.5 points (5%) added to the student’s final grade in the course

Your final grade in the course will be determined as:

A	93 - 100%	C	73 - 76%
A-	90 - 92%	C-	70 - 72%
B+	87 - 89%	D+	67 - 69%
B	83 - 86%	D	63 - 66%
B-	80 - 82%	D-	60 - 62%
C+	77 - 79%	Fail	00 - 59%

ADA Statement

Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations, or auxiliary aids must contact the Office for Students with Disabilities. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of these services and aids”.

The Office for Students with Disabilities is located in room 206F of the Sharwan Smith Center or (435) 865-8022.

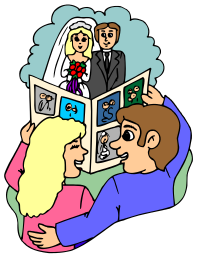
Disclaimer (i.e. the fine print)

Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Just kidding! Try reading this version: Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Clerical errors can sometimes occur. ALWAYS keep an extra copy of any assignment you turn in as a back-up. Keep all graded materials returned to you until you have seen and agree with your final grade in the course.

Important Dates to Remember



Sept. 15th:	online IRB training certificate
Third week of Sept.:	Progress Test 1
Oct. 1st:	Research Project Intro
Second week of Oct.:	Progress Test 2
First week of Nov:	Progress Test 3
Third week of Nov.	Progress Test 4
November 23:	Res. project complete report
December:	psych research symposium presentation
Final exam period:	Progress Test 5

I know this must seem daunting, but it's really not that bad!

Turnitin.com

IMPORTANT: ONLY submit your intro to this website. Do not include the reference list!!!

go to the turnitin.com website
click on "new users" ... upper right hand corner
bottom right corner, select "sign up for turnitin"
now choose "student"
enter the ID and password (see below)

class id: 2818292
password: PSY3410

and the rest should be obvious.

Once you upload your document (.doc or .docx) a report will be sent to your e-mail. This could take anywhere between 10-60 minutes or so. Let me know if you have any questions.
Remember, it needs to be green or blue