

Psych 300 - Research in Psychology: An Introduction

Instructor: Phil Mazzocco
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Class#: 40185-1
Where: Conard Hall 200
When: Tuesdays/Thursdays 1:00pm-3:05pm
Office Hours: 11:00am-12:00pm T/R or by appt.

Required Text: Leary, M. R. (2004). Introduction to behavioral research methods (4e). Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Course Description: Psych 300 is a mandatory requirement for the BA and BS degrees in psychology. The course focuses on the key skills required to conduct responsible and valid scientific research. This course will be especially useful to students interested in pursuing a graduate degree in psychology; however, the principles and methods covered in the course will be generally useful to a wide range of careers. In the course, we will cover all of the major book topics from the Leary text. I will focus heavily on making practical use of the principles and methods discussed in the book and lectures. Final grades will be based on three short in-class quizzes, two take-home exams, and one research report. The five-page research report (see next page) will take the place of a normal final exam and will be due on the Friday of the last week of class.

Grading Guide:

Quiz 1	10 points
Quiz 2	10 points
Quiz 3	10 points
Exam 1	25 points
Exam 2	25 points
Research Report	50 points
Total	130 points

Grade Scale:

<u>%Cut-Offs</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
93-100	120-130	A
90-92	117-119	A-
87-89	113-116	B+
83-86	107-112	B
80-82	104-106	B-
77-79	100-103	C+
73-76	94-99	C
70-72	91-93	C-
67-69	87-90	D+
63-66	81-86	D

Important Grading Notes:

- If the class average ends up below 80%, the average will be curved up to 80% before administering final grades.
- No extra credit assignments will be offered.
- If you are concerned with your grade, the last two weeks of class are not the best time to talk to me about it. Please notify me the moment you become worried about your grade in the course. I will not go out of my way to seek out people who are struggling in the course.

Course Policies

Attendance. Attendance will not be formally graded in this course. You should be warned, however, that missing more than a class or two will almost certainly end up resulting in a lower grade due to missed material (I can almost promise you this, so if you are missing classes and unhappy with your grade in the course, you will know why). If you think you may have to miss more than 1 or 2 classes during the quarter, this is probably not the class for you. I will be taking attendance everyday as a way to diagnose why a particular student may be having a hard time.

Quizzes and Exams. Quizzes will take place in class (multiple choice, T/F, fill in the blank, matching). Exams will be take-home format (all question formats, including essay, are fair game). At 8:00am on the days of the two exams, the exam will become available on Carmen. You can download the exam, which will be in a Microsoft Word .rtf format, and then edit the document to include your answers. You will have until 5:00pm to turn in the exam, which will need to be resubmitted to Carmen. It is expected that you will work on your exams independently -- in the event that the class is curved, helping someone else on an exam will actually *hurt* your grade (in addition to the issue of cheating).

Missed Assignments/Tests. If you know that you will need to miss a quiz or an exam due an emergency event (e.g., a funeral, surgery, etc.), please contact me prior to the quiz/exam. Otherwise, a note from a doctor, etc. must be provided. No make-ups will be administered without an acceptable excuse note, or a pre-arranged acceptable excuse. Final research proposal papers that are turned in late will be docked 10% on the due date, and then an additional 10% for each additional day.

Research Proposal. The research proposal is a 5-page (maximum) paper plus a title page, abstract, bibliography, and a predicted results table. APA guidelines must be adhered to. Your best bet is to start early on the various sections of this paper as we cover them in class, and seek feedback from me throughout the quarter. Coming to me near the very end of the quarter, or after the quarter, and complaining that the paper requirements were not clear is not an option. You will have an entire quarter to seek out feedback from me on the various paper sections.

Academic Misconduct Warning: All work must be your own. Cheating or plagiarism will be reported through official university channels, and the consequences will be severe. Most obviously, do not use anyone else's writing (or near variants) as a substitute for your own (this includes the textbook). If you are unsure what might be plagiarism, ASK ME FIRST. First incidence of plagiarism will result in a zero for all related sections of the document in question. Second incidence is an automatic referral to the Academic Advisory Board (no questions asked).

Disability Accommodations:

Students with certified disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor and seeking available assistance in a timely manner. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Michelle McLane at the at (419) 755-4304 or visit her at C100E Conard Learning Center in order to coordinate reasonable accommodations for documented disabilities.
(<http://www.mansfield.ohio-state.edu/Conard/disability/disability.htm>)

This information is available in alternative format upon request.

Schedule of Topics/Assignments/Exams

Date	Topics (Book Chapters)	Paper Progress
Jan 4	Introduction/Basic Principles (1)	
Jan 9	Variability (2)	
Jan 11	Behavioral (3) / Psychological Measurement (4)	
Jan 16	Descriptive Research (5) (Quiz 1)	
Jan 18	Correlational Research (6)	
Jan 23	Advanced Correlational Strategies (7)/ Review	Brainstorm Topics
Jan 25	Exam 1	
Jan 30	In Library Instruction	Choose General Topic
Feb 1	<u>Lit Reviews</u> /Article Reading	
Feb 6	Scientific Writing (15) / <u>APA Formatting</u>	Have Three Articles
Feb 8	Basic Issues in Experimental Research (8)	Bibliography
Feb 13	Experimental Design (9)/ <u>Methods</u>	Literature Review
Feb 15	Analyzing Experimental Data (10) (Quiz 2)	
Feb 20	Analyzing Complex Designs (11) / <u>Results</u>	Methods Section
Feb 22	Quasi-Experimental Design (12) /Review <u>Discussion/Abstracts</u>	Proposed Analyses
Feb 27	Exam 2	Discussion/Abstract
Mar 1	Single-Case Research (13) (in Class Feedback)	
Mar 6	Ethical Issues in Behavioral Research (14) (in Class Feedback)	
Mar 8	(Quiz 3) (in Class Feedback)	

***Research Report Due to my mailbox in Ovalwood 360 by 12:00pm Friday, March 9th**

NOTES:

- Scheduling and topics may be changed as required.
- Underlined topics will provide instruction on how to write the research report.
- Each lecture corresponds with a chapter in the book. The numbers in parentheses above show corresponding book chapters. Book readings are most useful if done before class. You are responsible for book material on tests.
- You are responsible for materials and announcements missed during absences. You need to ask me if you missed anything important, and ask another student for their notes. You are 100% accountable for anything said in class relating to course policy, deadlines, or content.