

PSY 303
Research Methods in Psychology

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Office Hours:

Text: Schaunessy, J., & Zechmeister, E., Research Methods in Psychology, Knopf, 1984.

My goals for the course are to help you:

1. Think about your observations of human behavior from a critical stance.
2. Become a more wary consumer of psychological and other reports and studies as they are presented in the media, in texts, and in scientific journals.
3. Apply scientific methodologies to psychological and social questions.
4. Produce coherent, persuasive, and well thought out research reports.

There will be six projects, one in-class presentation, and three exams, contributing the following points toward your final grade:

Project 1	10 points
Projects 2, 3, 4, & 5	20 points each
Project 6	52 points
Presentation	10 points
Exams 1, 2, & 3	16 points each
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200 points total	

Grades will be earned according to the following schedule, unless it becomes apparent that it is appropriate to lower the curve:

90% and higher	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
59% and lower	F

In addition to the readings listed below, a few readings will be handed out in class. Exams will cover material from lectures, the text, and additional readings, and will be non-comprehensive.

It is important to hand projects in on time. Projects will be marked down 10% of the total possible points for each school day late, for the first two days late. They will not be accepted more than two days late. For example, if a project is due Friday and you turn it in on Tuesday, your 19/20 point paper will receive a grade of 15/20.

Please ask for help. Inevitably, a project that seems straight forward when explained in class becomes confusing when you begin to carry it out. I am happy to talk to you after class, during office hours, or at other

convenient times, in person or over the phone, about projects, concepts discussed in class or in readings, and anything else that is of concern to you.

You must give a presentation in order to receive credit for the course. If you are unduly anxious about speaking in front of the class, please talk to me about it.

Week	January	Project Due	Reading
1	7 Introduction 9 Ruth South, Project 1		Ch 1
2	12 Method of Science (APA format; discuss project 1) 14 Hypothesis Testing 16 In Class Survey - Project 2	#1	Ch 3
3	19 Hypothesis Testing and Survey Research, cont. 21 Measurement of Psychological Attributes: Interviews & Questionnaires 23 Questionnaire Construction - Project 3	#2	
4	26 Measurement of Psychological Attributes, cont. 28 EXAM 1 30 Correlational Methods, Pre-Experimental Designs		Ch 4, 137- 145, Ch 9, 331-334, 339-353
	<u>February</u>		
5	2 Correlational Methods, Pre-Experimental Designs, cont. 4 Designing a Study - Project 4 6 Correlational Methods, Pre-Experimental Designs, cont.	#3	
6	9 Experimental Methods 11 Experimental Methods, cont.		Ch 5, 152- 156, 181-191 Ch 6, 200- 220, Ch 8, 310-319
	13 EXAM 2 & hand out Alternative Explanations - Project 5	#4	
7	16 Factorial Designs 18 Factorial Designs 20 Observational Methods		Ch 7, 248- 266, 274-281 Ch 2
8	23 An Observational Study - Project 6 25 Observational Methods, cont. 27 Evaluation Research	#5	
	<u>March</u>		
9	2 Ethics 4 How to Present Research - Tips for Talks 6 Student Talks		
10	9 Student Talks 11 Student Talks 13 Student Talks	#6	
11	FINAL EXAM		