

Psychology 303
Research Methods
Winter Quarter, 1991
Tuesdays and Thursday 9:30 - 10:50 a.m

Course Information

Anne D. Simons, Ph.D.
Office Hours: T 11:00 - 12:00 am or by appointment
Office: Straub 209
Phone: 346-5093 or 346-4921

Textbooks: Methods in Behavioral Research (4th edition) by Paul Cozby
 APA Publication Manual, American Psychological Association

Course overview: The purpose of this course is to provide the student with 1) an understanding of the process of research in psychology, 2) experience in conducting research, 3) and tools for reading and evaluating the quality of research

The course meets twice a week. Class meetings will be used for lecture, class discussion, and quizzes. There will be a short quiz during almost every class meeting as indicated on the class schedule. These will be very short multiple choice quizzes and are designed to provide you with ongoing feedback regarding your mastery of the course material. There will be a total of 12 quizzes. Only 10 of these will be figured in your final grade. Therefore, if you must miss class for whatever reason you can do so twice without any problems. This also means that you can drop the 2 quizzes with the worst score. There will be no make up quizzes. In addition to the quizzes, there will be 6 assignments designed for you to gain experience in different aspects of conducting research. All assignments are due on Thursdays at the beginning of class. At the end of the course, each student will be expected to make a short oral presentation in class, modelled after a conference presentation.

There will be an optional final exam. You may chose not to take the final and in which case, your scores from your in class quizzes will be used in figuring your grade. The final will cover all of the material covered over the quarter. The exam will not contain any surprises, in fact, it will be quite similar to the questions you have already addressed in the quizzes. The idea is that it should not require any final cramming, but rather a review of material you have already mastered.

Grading: Grades will be based on the following:

Final Exam OR Quizzes (10 quizzes each worth 10 points)	100
Assignments (6 assignments each worth 25 points)	150
In class presentation	<u>50</u>
	300

271 - 300 = A
241 - 270 = B
211 - 240 = C
180 - 210 = D
Below 180 = F

Tentative Class Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Quiz</i>	<i>Assignment Due</i>
1/8 1/10	Overview of course Scientific method About variables	Chapters 1, 2 Chapter 3		
1/15 1/17	Ethics in research Library resources: Ruth South	Chapter 12	Q1	A1
1/22 1/24	Observational and survey research Measurement	Chapter 4	Q2 Q3	A2
1/29 1/31	Experimental Design What makes a good study?	Chapters 5, 6	Q4 Q5	A3
2/5 2/7	Complex designs	Chapters 7	Q6 Q7	A4
2/12 2/14	Choosing the appropriate statistics	Chapters 9, 10 Appendix B, C	Q8 Q9	A5
2/19 2/21	Doing research	Chapter 8, 11 Appendix A Publication manual	Q10 Q11	A6
2/26 2/28	Student presentations		Q12	
3/5 3/7	Student presentations			
Fri 3/15 (10:15 am)	Final Exam			

Please note the following points about this schedule:

1. This schedule is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class but if you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to find out about any changes in due dates, reading assignments and so forth.
2. The exam is scheduled on the last day of finals week. I know that many of you would like to take the exam early so you can leave for spring break. However, please do not

even ask as I can not accommodate these requests. The final is optional - do well on the quizzes and you won't even need to consider the final.

3. All assignments are due on Thursdays. Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class. No late papers will be accepted except in extreme circumstances. If you are having a hard time with an assignment, let me know so I can help.