Psychology 303: Research Methods

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Graduate Teaching Assistants:

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Lecture: MW 10-11:20 in 242 Gerlinger Hall
Labs:

M 12-1:20 in 180 Straub
M 2-3:20 in 180 Straub
M 4-5:20 in 180 Straub
T 10-11:20 in 180 Straub

Course Description and Goals

Welcome to Research Methods! This course provides you with a unique opportunity to learn new skills in conducting and evaluating scientific research in psychology that will sharpen your ability to think critically and logically about important topics. The research skills you learn in this course are essential for becoming a wise consumer of the often overwhelming and confusing mass of information provided by the media, corporations, sales people, the government, and other various sources. In addition, these skills will provide a basic foundation in scientific methodology if you choose to go on to graduate study in psychology.

Course Pre-Requisite

Successful completion of Psychology 302 (Statistics) is a pre-requisite for this course. I am assuming you have a working knowledge of basic statistics. We will review important statistical concepts as they apply to conducting, analyzing, interpreting, and reporting research results, but this should not be 'new' material for you.

Required Textbooks

Cozby, P.C. (2004). Methods in Behavioral Research, 8th edition. McGraw Hill
APA (2001). Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association.

Additional Resources

The publisher of your text maintains an on-line learning center for students with quizzes, flashcards, chapter outlines, exercises, and additional links for relevant content. I encourage you to use the site when note-taking, studying, and preparing for quizzes. The address is www.mhhe.com/cozby8

Course Components and Requirements
The course includes traditional lecture meetings and a weekly lab meeting. Attendance at all lectures and labs is **mandatory** and will be an essential part of your success in this course. Students improve their learning when they stay current with the assigned reading and participate actively in discussing, debating, and evaluating research issues.

The lecture sessions will include review of selected textbook material, information relevant to the research project and paper, elaboration of some topics with information not provided in the text book, and unannounced in-class small group exercises. Lecture outlines intended to assist note-taking will be posted on Blackboard. These are not complete lecture notes, and it would be a mistake to use them in that way. You must be present to participate in the in-class exercises—they cannot be made up for credit after class for any reason. In-class exercises are designed to help you master important concepts and prepare for quizzes.

Quizzes will be used to assess your mastery of the lecture and reading material. There will be 4 quizzes in the course and the lowest grade will be dropped before calculating your course grade. If you miss a quiz for any reason, this will serve as the dropped quiz score when calculating your course grade. Thus, make-up quizzes will not be scheduled.

Each student will complete a research project during the course from projects developed by the instructor. The culminating product will be an APA style manuscript describing the study you have chosen to complete. A timeline for completing the research project will be provided to help ensure you do not fall behind on your project. The research project is a major component of the course. It demonstrates your ability to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills you have gained in reading, lectures, and lab sessions. **The research paper is due in class on 3/15**. Late papers will be penalized 10 points per day past due.

Lab sessions will focus on some of the steps of the research project. The lab sessions will be conducted by a graduate student serving as a teaching assistant for this course. You cannot make-up missed labs for credit for any reason, and you must attend the lab session you are registered for each week. Some labs will include assignments that are due at the end of the lab session, and some labs will include assignments that are due at the beginning of the next week's lab session. Late lab assignments will be penalized 2 pts. per day past due. Be sure to bring your textbook, APA manual, paper, writing utensils, and a disk to each lab as you will often need these to complete the activities and/or save your work.

Finally, students will complete a library activity conducted at Knight Library. This activity is designed to help you learn how to do library searches using PsycINFO. This is an essential skill in conducting research and writing an APA research paper. Students must attend one of the following sessions to receive credit for this component of the course. All sessions will be held in the **Edmiston Classroom (Rm 144) of Knight Library**

Tues, Jan 10 1:00 - 1:50 pm
Thurs, Jan 12 1:00 - 1:50 pm
Fri, Jan 13 11:00 - 11:50 am
Tues, Jan 17 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Learning Accommodations
Instructors will accommodate students with documented disabilities and will comply with individualized instructions provided by Disabilities Services. However, students must take the initiative in discussing arrangements with the instructor in the first week of class and providing documentation as soon as it is available. Students without a documented disability who are experiencing learning difficulties are encouraged to consult Disabilities Services (164 Oregon Hall; 346-1155). Without documentation, special accommodations are not guaranteed and are to be made at the discretion of the instructor. [Disability Services: disabsrv@darkwing.uoregon.edu, 346-1155; **http://ds.uoregon.edu/**]

Academic Honesty
Members of the university community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. To falsify the results of one's research, to present the words, ideas, data, or work of another as one's own, or to cheat on an examination corrupts the essential process by which knowledge is advanced. It is the official policy of the University of Oregon that all acts of alleged academic dishonesty by students be reported to the Director of Student Judicial Affairs in the Office of Students Life.

Grading

Quizzes:	90 pts. total (30 points each and lowest of 4 quiz scores dropped)
In Class Exercises:	30 pts.
Library Activity:	10 pts.
Lab Attendance & Assignments:	90 pts. (10 pts. Each)
APA Style Research Paper:	100 pts.
Total Points	320

Course Grade: Based on percentage of points earned out of 320 possible

A 92-100%	B- 79-81%	D+ 68%
A- 89-91%	C+ 78%	D 62-67%
B+ 88%	C 72-77%	D- 59-61%
B 82-87%	C- 69-71%	F < 59%

Tentative Course Schedule

Lecture Date	Lecture Topic	Reading	Week's Lab Topic
1/9	Introduction	Ch. 1	Data Collection
1/11	Scientific Method & Conducting Research	Ch. 2	
1/16	NO CLASS: MLK Holiday		No Labs: MLK Holiday
1/18	Science in Context	App. A/Ch. 3	
1/23	**Quiz 1 (Ch. 1-3, App. A & Lecture)**		Institutional Review Boards: IRBs
1/25	Variables	Ch. 4	
1/30	Research Designs	Ch. 4	Summarizing Articles
2/1	Reliability & Validity	Ch. 5	
2/6	Observation	Ch. 6	APA style citations & reference sections
2/8	Survey Research	Ch. 7	
2/13	**Quiz 2 (Ch. 4-7 & Lecture)**		Constructing Introduction Outlines
2/15	Experimental Designs	Ch. 8	
2/20	IV's and DV's	Ch. 9	Scoring and entering data
2/22	Complex Experimental Designs	Ch. 10	
2/27	Complex Experimental Designs	Ch. 10	Choosing the Right Statistic
3/1	**Quiz 3 (Ch. 8-10 & Lecture)**		
3/6	Description & Correlation	Ch. 12	Data Analysis
3/8	Statistical Inference	Ch. 13	
3/13	Quasi-Experimental & Single Case	Ch. 11	Single Case Design
3/15	Generalizability	Ch. 14	**APA paper due in class!**
3/21 (T)	**Quiz 4 (Ch. 11-14 & Lecture) 10:15-12:15**		