

PSY 303: Research Methods in Psychology

Fall 2008 CRN 14573 (4 credits)

Monday & Wednesday 10:00 -11:20

Location: Straub 146

Course Webpage available at: <https://blackboard.uoregon.edu>

Andrew Monroe, M.S., Instructor

Office: 302 Straub

Email: amonroe1@uoregon.edu

Phone: 346-4990

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 – 3:00 & by appt.

Graduate Teaching Assistants & Labs

Jessica Murakami

Monday 12:00 – 1:20 Straub 180 (CRN 14576)

Monday 2:00 – 3:30 Straub 180 (CRN 14577)

Email: jmurakam@uoregon.edu

Phone: 346-2921

Office: 335 Straub

Office Hours: Mondays 3:30 – 5:30 & by appt.

Scott Reed

Monday 4:00 – 5:20 Straub 180 (CRN 14576)

Thursday 4:00 – 5:30 Straub 180 (CRN 14581)

Email: deersa21@yahoo.com

Phone: 346-8037

Office: 349 Straub

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30 – 1:30 & by appt.

Required Texts:

Cozby, P. C. (2004). *Methods in behavioral research* (9th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Strongly Recommended:

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Strunk, W., Jr., & White, E. B. (2000). *The elements of style* (4th ed.). New York: Longman.

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. 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.

Course Philosophy and Expectations

The course includes traditional lecture meetings and a weekly lab meeting. Attendance in lectures will be an essential part of your success in this course, as topics will be covered in class that are not in the textbook. Small group discussions will be a component of class lectures, along with several non-graded (pass/fail) exercises which make up part of your grade. In addition, lecture will often cover material from outside of the readings. You are responsible for all material, (e.g., exams will cover all material from readings, lecture, group discussions, etc).

Doing well in this class requires an active involvement with the course content; merely reading the material and showing up for class is not enough. It is important to *think* about what you are reading, watching, and discussing, and *relate* it to experiences in your own life, rather than just remembering facts.

It is also expected that you will come prepared to class. This means having done the readings for the day *prior* to coming to class, as well as having spent some time reflecting on them. You will not do well on exams and writing exercises if you do not keep up with the reading. We also recommend that you check your email and the blackboard website often, as we may post important class information.

This course has been designed to comply with the psychology department's guidelines for teaching and learning. Please review these guidelines at <http://psychweb.uoregon.edu/guidelines/index.htm>

Course Components

Lecture

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 in-class small group exercises. In-class exercises are designed to help you master important concepts and prepare for exams. Attendance will not be taken, so you are expected to take responsibility for what is covered in class. The most important way to do this is to show up and be an active participant in lecture. Lectures slides will be posted on blackboard each day after class. Note that these slides serve to outline the lecture and are by no means comprehensive. You should not rely on these slides for your course notes; rather, you should use them to organize the notes that you take during class.

Exams

Exams will be used to assess your mastery of the lecture and reading material. There will be 3 exams in the course, which will contribute to 55% of your grade overall, and will be made up of a combination of multiple choice, short-answer, and essay questions. You are expected to take these exams the day they are scheduled – make-up exams will only be scheduled in extreme circumstances.

Research Paper

Each student will complete a research project during the course from projects developed by the instructors. The culminating product will be an APA style manuscript describing the study you have chosen to complete. 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 Wednesday (12/10) by 4 P.M.** Late papers will be penalized at your TA's discretion. Papers more than 4 days late will not be accepted.

Lab Sessions

The lab sections and lab assignments are exclusively aimed at helping you complete your research paper. You cannot make-up missed labs for credit for any reason, and you must attend the lab session you are registered for each week. The lab assignments and lab schedule will be passed out during your first lab section. Late lab assignments will be penalized 10% for every 24 hour past the deadline; **assignments more than a week late will not be accepted.** Be sure to bring your textbook, paper, writing utensils, and a flashdrive to each lab as you will often need these to complete the activities and/or save your work.

Mandatory Data Collection

Data for research projects will be collected in one large session in conjunction with another 303 class. The **mandatory** group data collection night scheduled for **Monday October, 27 2008 from 7:00-9:00pm in Willamette 100.** Participation is mandatory and attendance will be taken. Your lab GTF will give you more information about how you will need to prepare for this as the date approaches. If you are **unable to attend** this event, please let me know during the first week of class. Absence from this event will be permitted **only with documentation submitted in advance**, and you will be required to complete a make-up assignment to receive credit.

Extra Credit

You may earn up to 2% extra credit for participating in studies run through the Human Participant Pool (1% per credit completed). This is meant to be educational, so you must also write a very short (about a page) description for each study you participate in. This description should identify the hypothesis of the study, the basic design (experimental, correlational, etc.), the independent and dependent variables (if any), and should also address what the real-world implications of the research are (if any). If you are interested in doing this, you will need to set up an account through the SONA system. Please talk to the instructor if you need help doing this.

Grading

Your grade will be based on the following criteria:

| | |
|------------|--|
| 55% | <u>Lecture Exams</u> |
| | 15% - Exam 1 |
| | 20% - Exam 2 |
| | 20% - Exam 3 |
| 44% | <u>Lab (see lab syllabus)</u> |
| | 35% - Research paper |
| | 4% - Outline Exercises |
| | 5% - Lab participation, homework & group participation ratings |
| 1% | <u>Mandatory data collection night</u> |

Letter grades will be assigned as follows

A = *excellent* work, complete mastery of the material
B = *good* work, grasps most of the important concepts
C = *average* work, grasps many but not all aspects of material
D = *poor* work, insufficient understanding of material
F = failing

Additional Notes

Keep up with assignments!!

Your success in this course will rely in large part on your ability to stay organized and on top of due dates. You should expect to be in frequent communication with your group-mates from lab, your GTF, and me to make sure that you are on top of responsibilities. If you are not already in the habit of checking e-mail every day, start now! Some good ideas for staying productive and in touch with your class are:

1. Save your work frequently; computer problems will not be considered a valid excuse for late work. Saving your work will also allow you to avoid that horrible feeling of loss and despair when your computer freezes, depriving you of hours worth of writing.
2. Save copies of sent e-mails, and be on the lookout for notices of "failed delivery."
3. Use blackboard as a means to communicate to avoid typos in e-mail addresses. On the left hand side of the class site, you will see an option for "communication." Clicking on this will allow you to select an "e-mail" option, and you will be able to select single recipients from the class list.
4. Be respectful of your fellow classmates. When you arrange meeting times out of class, make your best effort to be on time or to contact your group mates as soon as possible if a conflict arises. Avoid "social loafing"!
5. Speak up if you think a group member is not contributing his/her fair share. If you see a problem developing, respectfully bring your concerns to the awareness of your group mates. Dialogue with your group mates should be the first option for a solution, but if this fails, do not hesitate to bring your concerns to your GTF and to me.

Academic Honesty

Group discussion outside of class is encouraged. However, all work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. Copying or paraphrasing information or ideas from any source interview, print or electronic, without citation, is plagiarism. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with the instructor before you complete any relevant requirements of the course.

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. We encourage you to use the site when note-taking, studying, and preparing for exams. The address is www.mhhe.com/cozby9

The APA style publishing manual is the final source for APA-style formatting and protocol. If you plan on continuing in psychology, it might be worth purchasing a copy. Otherwise, your instructors have copies that you can use during office hours. We also strongly encourage everyone to utilize resources at Knight Library for help conducting library searches using PsycINFO. This is an essential skill in conducting research and writing an APA research paper.

Using Blackboard

The web site for this course was constructed using "Blackboard" software. This allows the web site to be extensive and interactive. On the web site, you will find general announcements for the class, all documents for the course (including this syllabus), on-line discussions, links to relevant web sites, and more. We hope that this web site will be a useful tool for you in learning the material for this class, and in further exploring topics you find interesting. You can get to the course web site by going to <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>. If you need help logging in or using Blackboard, see <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/local/usingbb/>. Also you can get help starting by going to the library [Information Technology Center](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/kitc/faq/blackboard.html#help) (ITC) and/or see <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/kitc/faq/blackboard.html#help>.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor soon. Also please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities, Molly Sirois, send a letter verifying your disability. The phone number for disability services is 346-1155, and the email address is disabsrv@uoregon.edu

Students for Whom English is Not Their Native Language

Foreign language dictionaries are permitted during exams. Exams will be designed to take approximately one hour to complete within an hour and twenty minute class period; therefore, it is unlikely that you will need additional time. However, if you find that you do need additional time to complete the exam, please make arrangements to stay after class so that you can finish.