PSY 242

PSY 243 (601)
INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH
Summer II 2010 - On-Line Course
3 Credit Hours

Instructor:
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Office Hours: Please e-mail for an appointment

Course Philosophy: This course is designed to foster your learning of research methods and data analysis. I do not believe in “got ya” teaching where students are left to guess what they are to learn and are then penalized if they guess wrong. In this class you will receive review sheets for your tests and all test questions will come from material covered on the review sheet. If you are having trouble with material, please don’t suffer in silence, but contact me. Typically, the problem can be solved shortly. Since the material in this class builds on previous topics, it is important to resolve misunderstandings before going on to the next chapter.

Text:
Cozby, P. C. (2009). Methods in Behavioral Research (10th Ed.). Boston, MA: McGrawHill. (Note: You can save money by using an older version. Any edition published since 2005 will work fine for this course. The text is available on-line at the Course Smart web site (http://www.coursesmart.com/) and this version is much less expensive than the hard copy text. You should also be able to find used copies of this book at local book stores.

Course Description:
By taking this course, you will learn about methods of doing research in psychology and how you will analyze the data that are the product of this research. We will focus on learning what constitutes a sound psychological study and the proper methods of analyzing data. We will NOT focus on calculating specific statistical tests but will discuss which statistical tests are appropriate for various research designs. To meet departmental requirements this course should be combined with ST 311 (unless you elect to take the PSY 240/242 series) where you will learn about calculating statistics.

Course Prerequisites: PSY 200

Calculator:
You will need a calculator to complete this course in order to follow along with some examples. The calculator does not have to be “scientific,” or costly. Any calculator with a square root function will be fine.

Course Requirements:
The final course grade will be determined by your performance on three tests (two midterms and a final exam). All tests will be multiple-choice and there may be some fill-in-the-blank questions.

Tests. Tests will cover information discussed in lectures, in your text, and in research exercises. Tests must be scheduled with the DE Testing Center and can be scheduled on line at: http://distance.ncsu.edu/testing-services/local-testing.php. This web site also provides information about requirements for using the DE Testing Center so be sure to read that to avoid frustration. Tests should be scheduled one week in advance of the date you want to take the test and you must be on time to take the test or you will be required to reschedule your test. You may take each test either a week before or a week after the official test date. If you have a problem with this requirement, please e-mail Dr. Lane. Directions to the DE testing center as well as parking information are included on the web site referenced above.

Class Exercises: Class exercises will be posted on the Moodle site for this course along with a due date for completing the exercises. The exercises are designed to enhance your understanding of the concepts of this course. Some exercises are pre-tests, some are interactive web sites, etc. Exactly what you are expected to do and what materials you must submit for each exercise will be clearly stated on the exercise sheet posted on Moodle. If you have trouble with any exercises, please contact the instructor via e-mail.
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**Class Participation.** While there is no attendance requirement in this course, the instructor will monitor your interaction with exercises posted on the Moodle site for this course. I will not grade you by the amount of time you spend on your course exercises but rather on the materials you send to me in response to the class exercises. You will receive feedback about your exercise and you should be able to determine exactly why you received the assigned grade.

**Calculation of Your Grade**

The course grade will be calculated according to the following formula:

- Midterm 1 = 20%
- Midterm 2 = 30%
- Final Exam = 40%
- Class Participation = 10%

The grading scale is as follows:

- A+ = 97% or above
- A = 90% - 96.99%
- B+ = 87% - 89.99%
- B = 83% - 86.99%
- B- = 80% - 82.99%
- C+ = 77% - 79.99%
- C = 73% - 76.99%
- C- = 70% - 72.99%
- D+ = 67% - 69%
- D = 63% - 66.99%
- D- = 60% - 62.99%
- F = 59.99% or below

**Attendance: This is an on-line course for which there is no attendance requirement.**

**Incomplete Grades:**

Because this is an on-line course where class attendance is not required, some students get behind in their coursework. This is a very bad idea because **incomplete grades are rarely given in this course** and will be given at the discretion of the instructor only. Incomplete grades are only given for unforeseen circumstances such as serious illness (e.g. illness lasting for several weeks or months) or death in the family. Please do not assume that a grade of incomplete will be assigned automatically if you do not complete the course requirements in the time allotted by the course syllabus.

**Academic Integrity:**

Students in this course are expected to do their own work on quizzes, tests, and assignments unless specific permission has been given by the instructor to work with other students. A student’s signature on any test or assignment means that the student neither gave nor received unauthorized aid. Any student caught violating the honor code will receive a grade of 0 on the assignment for which the cheating occurred. Please consult the university policy on academic integrity at: http://www2.ncsu.edu/prr/student_services/student_conduct/POL445.00.1.htm.

**Course Schedule**

_The course schedule is intended as a guideline to keep you on track to finish the course on time without stress. Of course, you can work at your own schedule._

* G & W = Gravetter & Wallnau

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Cozby Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>07/01/10</td>
<td>Course Introduction, Syllabus, and Frequently Asked Questions</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/02/10</td>
<td>Scientific Understanding of Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
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<td>07/05/10</td>
<td>Independence Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/06/10</td>
<td>Development of Scientific Hypotheses and Performing Literature Review</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/07/10</td>
<td>Anatomy of a Research Article</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td>07/08/10</td>
<td>Research Ethics</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/09/10</td>
<td>Research Variables: Independent, Dependent, Moderating, &amp; Confounding</td>
<td>Chapter 4, pp. 65-85</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/10/10</td>
<td>Reliability and Validity: Making Sure Research is Worthwhile</td>
<td>Chapter 5, pp. 90 – 100</td>
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Student Learning Outcomes:
Students successfully completing PSY 242 will be able to:
- Differentiate between scientific and unscientific research methods.
- Demonstrate ability to collect data in a scientific manner
- Select appropriate statistical analysis
- Interpret study findings in light of study hypotheses
- Generalize study findings appropriately

Students with Disabilities:
Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take:
advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services Office
(http://www.ncsu.edu/dso/) located at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653. For
more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic
Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation at
www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php.

Further Policies:
Students may be required to disclose personally identifiable information to other students in the course,
via electronic tools like e-mail or web-postings, where relevant to the course. Examples include online
discussions of class topics, and posting of student coursework. All students are expected to respect the privacy of each other by not sharing or using such information outside the course.

NC State University provides equality of opportunity in education and employment for all students and employees. Accordingly, NC State affirms its commitment to maintain a work environment for all employees and an academic environment for all students that is free from all forms of discrimination. Discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status or sexual orientation is a violation of state and federal law and/or NC State University policy and will not be tolerated. Harassment of any person (either in the form of quid pro quo or creation of a hostile environment) based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation also is a violation of state and federal law and/or NC State University policy and will not be tolerated. Retaliation against any person who complains about discrimination is also prohibited. NC State’s policies and regulation covering discrimination, harassment, and retaliated may be accessed at: http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/campus_environ or http://wwwlncsu.edu/equal_op. Any person who feels that he or she has been the subject of prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should contact the Office for Equal Opportunity (OEO) at 515-3148.