

Syllabus for: Research Methods in Psychology – Psych 2	
Semester & Year:	Spring 2013
Course ID and Section Number:	PSYCH 2 - E1980
Number of Credits/Units:	3
Day/Time:	MW 2:50 – 4:15
Location:	LCR – 105
Instructor’s Name:	Tonja Speed
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: Creative Arts - Appointment Phone: 707 – 822-5866 Email: Tonja-speed@redwoods.edu
Course Description: An introduction to basic theory and methods of psychological research. Topics include ethics, measurement, research designs, and interpretation of results.	
Student Learning Outcomes:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the basic principles of the scientific method including developing and testing hypotheses and choosing a research design. 2. Critically evaluate research reports and synthesize research findings in a paper written in APA format. 3. Demonstrate knowledge of general research designs, experimental and non-experimental methods and standard research practices. 4. Explain the ethical treatment of human and animal participants in research and the institutional requirements for conducting research. 5. Assess the generalizability of study results. 	
Special accommodations: College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. No last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments will be made. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services and may need accommodations, please see me or contact Disabled Students Programs and Services. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS.	
Academic Misconduct: Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication or falsification, multiple submissions, complicity in academic misconduct, and/ or bearing false witness will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions proscribed by the College of the Redwoods. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams will receive an “F” in the course.	

The student code of conduct is available on the College of the Redwoods website at:

<http://redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/AP%205500%20Conduct%20Code%20final%2002-07-2012.pdf>

Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the college catalog and on the College of the Redwoods homepage.

College of the Redwoods is committed to equal opportunity in employment, admission to the college, and in the conduct of all of its programs and activities.

**Psych -2
Spring 2013**

LRC 105



Instructor: Tonja Speed, MA Psychology
Class Section: M-W 2:50- 4:15, Section E1980
Office & Office Hours: T.B.A
E-mail: Tonja-Speed@.redwoods.edu
Phone: (707) 822-5866

Course Description:

A course that surveys various psychological research methods with an emphasis on research design, experimental procedures descriptive methods instrumentation and the collection, analysis, interpretation and reporting of research data. Research design and methodology will be examined through a review of research in a variety of the sub-disciplines of psychology.

Course Objectives:

1. Explain the basic principles of the scientific method including developing and testing hypotheses and choosing a research design.
2. Critically evaluate research reports and synthesize research findings in a paper written in APA format.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of general research designs, experimental and non-experimental methods and standard research practices.
4. Explain the ethical treatment of human and animal participants in research and the institutional requirements for conducting research.
5. Assess the generalizability of study results.

Required Texts:

McBurney, D. H.; White, T.L. (2010). Research Methods 8th Ed., Wadsworth Cengage Learning
Slife, B. (2012). Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Psychological Issues, 17th Ed.,

McGraw Hill: New York.

Notice

*Chapter readings should be done before the class meeting date. Reading the chapters beforehand is important in order to gain a better understanding of the lectures and discussions for that day/week.

Schedule:

DATES	TOPIC	READINGS/ ASSIGNMENTS
January 14 th	Introduction To Research Methods	
January 16 th	Science and Psychology	Chapter 1 text - Psychology and Science
January 21st	Holiday	No Classes
January 23 rd	The research process	Chapter 2 Text - Developing a Research Question
January 28 th	Ethical Issues in Research	Chapter 3 Text – Ethics in Research
January 30 th	Communicating Research Results	Chapter 4 Text – Writing in Psychology Research Topic Due
February 4th	Independent and Dependent Variables	Chapter 5 Text – Variables Assignment #1 Due
February 6th	Exam #1	Chapters 1-4
February 11 th	Reliability & Validity	Chapter 7 Text – Validity Clashing Views Unit 1 Presentations
February 13 th	Basic Statistics in Research Tables and Graphs	Chapter 6 – Text Appendix A Stats Text pg 391 Assignment #2 Due
February 18th	Holiday	No Classes
February 20th	Experimental Control	Chapter 8 – Text

	Annotated Bibliography Check – in Quiz #1 Chapters 5-7	Clashing Views Unit -2 Presentation
February 25 th	Observational Research	Chapter 9 Text – Part 1 of Non-experimental Research Assignment #3 Due
February 27 th	Case Studies	Clashing Views Unit 3 Presentations
March 4 th	Surveys	Chapter 10 Text – Part 2 of Non-experimental Research
March 6th	Exam #2	Chapters 5 – 9
<i>March 11th – 15th</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>Yay!!!!</i>
March 18 th & 20 th	Controlled Experiments	Chapter 11 Text – Part 1 of True Experiments Assignment #4 Due 20th
March 25 th & 27 th	Factorial Designs	Chapter 12 Text – Part 2 of True Experiments Annotated Bibliography Due (March 27th)
April 1 st & April 3 rd	Interactions	Clashing Views Unit 4 Presentations (April 1st)
April 8 th & 10 th	Advantages and Disadvantages of Research (Check – in Quiz #2 Chapters 10 – 12)	Chapter 13 Text – Single Subject Experiments Clashing Views Unit 5 Presentations Quiz April 10th
April 15 th & 17 th	Control Strategies Research Proposal	Clashing Views Unit 6 Presentations (15th)
April 22nd & 24th	Quasi Experiments	Chapter 14 – Quasi Experiments Research Proposal Due April 22nd
April 29 th	Research Methods	

May 1st	Experimental Research	Clashing Views Unit 7 Presentations
May 6 th & 7 th	Final Exam Time TBA	

Notice

*Chapter readings should be done before the class meeting date. Reading the chapters beforehand is important in order to gain a better understanding of the lectures and discussions for that day/week. Quizzes will be given throughout the semester in order to test for reading comprehension.

*This class schedule is subject to change at any time. I will notify the class of any changes and it is the responsibility of the student to update changes via asking another student or contacting the instructor.

Grading:

You can earn a total of 1000 points throughout the semester. Points will be divided up accordingly:

- Class Participation and Attendance: 150 points
- Quizzes: 150 points
- Research Article Assignments: 100
- Exams: 300 points
- Clashing Views Presentation & Write-up: 75 points
- Annotated Bibliography: 75 points
- Research Proposal: 150 points

Final Grading Scale:

Points	Percentage	Letter Grade
930-1000	93% +	A
900-929	90 – 92%	A-
870-899	87 – 89%	B+
830-869	83 – 86%	B
800-829	80 –82%	B-
770 – 799	77 – 79%	C+
700 – 769	70 –76 -%	C
600 –699	60 – 69%	D
599 and Below	59% - 0	F

Student Withdrawal from class:

Please note that if you decide not to continue with the class you must drop the class officially. Instructors will drop students that do not attend the first 3 weeks of class, after that it must be initiated by the student. The last day to drop without a “W” is 1/27/2013. The last day for a student initiated drop is 3/30/2013.

Consideration Code

- Please respect the opinions of fellow students by not insulting or demeaning their comments. Violation of this code may lead to a student's dismissal from the course.
- Please turn off cell phones before class begins. No texting either.
- Arrive to class on time, but if you do arrive late, please enter the class quietly.
- Please don't start packing up your belongings until at least 5 minutes before the class ends, unless you need to leave early.
- Please no eating in class. (Janitors rule)
- Please read the College of the Redwoods student's code of conduct, as those rules apply in this class.

Attendance

Please be aware that if you decide to not continue with the class you should drop the class and let me know about your decision. An Administrative procedure, (AP) 5075, now allows instructors to withdraw students from class for non-participation through the 10th week of class. Non-participation includes missing 3 classes in a row and not taking test, exams or turning in assignments. If you need to miss class due to illness or emergency please let me know what is occurring. Census date is 1/28, where I will dropping students that have not been participating in class. Please keep me informed of anything that is interfering with your participation/attendance in this class.

Class Participation: (150 pts)

In order for you to learn the material, it is important that you interact with it, by taking part in discussions and listening to the material being presented. I encourage you to ask questions and offer opinions on the subject matter. It is therefore also important that you be present at every class meeting. If you are not present at a class, please make every effort to get notes from another student.

Class Projects (5 points each)

There may be several in-class projects or papers worth 5-10 points each, which will be included as part of class participation. These projects or papers will be exercises designed to stimulate the use of psychological theories into real life applications. If you are absent when a class project or paper is assigned, we should talk.

The topics discussed in class will stimulate class discussions. Discussion will be an important time for learning. For this to happen in a comfortable environment, students need to be respectful of each other. College of the Redwoods has a student code of conduct outlining appropriate classroom behavior. Failure to comply with the code of conduct will result in a request to leave the class.

Research Article Assignment: (25 points each)

There will be 4 research article assignments. Students will provide a summary of a current peer reviewed scholarly journal article. The assignment will begin with an APA referenced format and include a section regarding the research question, hypothesis, methodology, results, significance of research and a conclusion. The paper will be no longer than a page.

Quizzes: (75 points each)

We will have 2 quizzes throughout the semester on the material from the text. The quizzes will consist of 25 multiple choice questions worth 3 points each. If you are not able to make it to class on the day of the quiz please let the instructor know as soon as you are aware of this so that arrangements can be made. Make ups will not be given after the quizzes are graded and returned.

Exams: (300 points)

Two exams and a Final Exam will be given during the semester. They will consist of multiple choice, fill in blank and short answer/essay questions. You must take the exam on or before the date of the exam. No make-up exams will be given after they have been graded and returned.

Presentation of Issue/Article: (75 points)

Each week an individual will present to the class their viewpoint on the issue that is the reading assignment from *Clashing Viewpoints* for that week. The presentation will include an overview of the issue and the individual's argument for their viewpoint on the controversy. Included in the discussion needs to be a research article that was found supporting your viewpoint. After the presentation the outline of the argument and the article need to be turned in. The dates for presentation will be assigned in class.

Research Paper: (150 points)

Early in the semester students will need to pick a topic for further research. Throughout the semester we will discuss articles that are being found on the topic. The topic can be chosen from those listed or another topic that is not listed that the student is interested in. This assignment will allow you to follow the research process up to the point of collecting data. You will need to complete an annotated bibliography of sources found and then come up with a proposal for further research.

Possible Topics:

1. What are the effects of violent video games and/or TV on interpersonal behavior?
2. What are factors that lead to marital satisfaction?
3. Examine how the biological sex of the child affects the way that a mother speaks to the child.
4. Why might individuals confess to crimes they did not commit? What affects the truthfulness of defendants?
5. How accurate are individuals in noticing changes in their environments?
6. What is the effect of viewing media on dieting behavior?
7. Does talking about your experiences in life lead to greater life satisfaction?
8. How do we choose individuals that we will partner with?
9. Does smoking marijuana regularly lead to mental health issues?
10. What therapeutic techniques are effective in decreasing depressive symptoms?
11. Does environment influence human development more than genetics?
12. Does divorce of parents harm children?
13. How does having same sex parents effect the development of children?
14. Does taking antidepressants lead to suicide?
15. Does ADHD exist?

Annotated Bibliography: (75 points)

This bibliography needs to include all the sources that you have found in regards to your research questions. The annotation is a description of the source.

Research Proposal: (150 points)

Your research proposal will be the outline of how you would set up a research design for your research question. The following information and sections need to be included in your paper. The paper needs to be 3-5 pages long not including the reference page or title page, written in APA format.

1. Develop a research question.
2. Generate a research hypothesis.
3. Form operational definitions.
4. Choose a research design.
5. Evaluate the ethics.
6. Explain data collection techniques.
- 7.

Include:

1. Title Page
2. Abstract
3. Introduction
 - Problem statement
 - Background

- Hypothesis
- 4. Method
 - Subjects
 - Materials
 - Design
 - Procedure
- 5. Results & Discussion
 - Expected results
 - Interpretation
- 6. References Page

Guide to APA Research Paper College of the Redwoods Library:

<http://www.redwoods.edu/eureka/library/documents/APACitationFormatSpring2010.pdf>

*All written work needs to be turned in on the due date. 5 points will be deducted for everyday that a paper is late. No papers will be accepted after May 6th.

*Again, I will make every effort to follow the standards and schedule of this syllabus. There may be times when changes are necessary and I will inform the class if this occurs.

-Please do not hesitate to ask questions regarding the syllabus-