

Syllabus for: Research Methods in Psychology – Psych -2

Semester & Year:	Spring 2014
Course ID and Section Number:	Psych - 2 – E5132
Number of Credits/Units:	3
Day/Time:	2:50 – 4:15
Location:	LCR – 105
Instructor's Name:	Tonja Speed
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: Creative Arts Building Email: Tonja-speed@redwoods.edu
Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline): An introduction to basic theory and methods of psychological research. Topics include ethics, measurement, research designs, and interpretation of results.	
Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline) : <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 the5. 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 DSPPS.	
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.

Research Methods – Psychology 2
Spring 2014
LRC 105



Instructor: Tonja Speed, M.A. Psychology
Class Section: M-W 2:50- 4:15, Section E5132
Office & Office Hours: T.B.A
E-mail: Tonja-Speed@redwoods.edu

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. (2013). *Research Methods* 9th Ed., Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
- Slife, B. (2012). *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Psychological Issues*, 17th Ed., McGraw Hill: New York.
- Publication Manual American Psychological Association 6th Ed., (2012). American Psychological Association.

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 22 nd	Introduction to Research Methods	
January 27 th	Science and Psychology	Chapter 1 text - Psychology and Science
January 29 th	The research process	Chapter 2 Text - Developing a Research Question
February 3 rd	Ethical Issues in Research Quiz #1	Chapter 3 Text – Ethics in Research
February 5 th	Communicating Research Results	Chapter 4 Text – Writing in Psychology Research Topic Due
February 10 th	Independent and Dependent Variables	Chapter 5 Text – Variables Assignment #1 Due
February 12 th	Exam #1	Chapters 1-4
February 17th	Holiday	Enjoy!!!
February 19 th	Reliability & Validity	Chapter 6 Text – Validity
February 24th	Reliability & Validity	Clashing Views Unit - 1 Presentations
February 26th	Quiz #2 Experimental Control	Chapter 7 Text - Control
March 3 rd	Observational Research	Chapter 8 Text – Part 1 of Non-experimental Research Assignment #2 Due
March 5 th	Case Studies	

March 10 th	Surveys	Chapter 9 Text – Part 2 of Non-experimental Research Clashing Views Unit - 2 Presentations
March 12th	Exam #2	Chapters 5-7
<i>March 17th & 19th</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>Yay!!!!</i>
March 24 th & 26 th	Controlled Experiments	Chapter 10 Text – Part 1 of True Experiments Assignment #3 Due 26th
March 31 st & April 2 nd	Quiz #3 Factorial Designs	Chapter 11 Text – Part 2 of True Experiments Clashing Views Unit-3 Presentations
April 7 th & April 9 th	Advantages and Disadvantages of Research	Chapter 12 Text – Single Subject Experiment Assignment #4 Due
April 14th	Exam #3	Chapters 8-11
April 16th	Program Evaluations	Chapter 13 – Quasi Experiments Annotated Bibliography Due
April 21 st & 23 rd	Basic Statistics in Research Tables and Graphs Quiz #4	Chapter 14 – Data Exploration Part - 1 Clashing Views Unit 4 Presentations (April 23rd)
April 28th & 30th	Basic Statistics in Research Tables and Graphs	Chapter 15 – Data Exploration Part - 2 Research Proposal Due April 28th
May 5 th & 7 th	Research Methods	Clashing Views Unit 5,6, & 7 Presentations
May 12 th & 17 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: 100 points

Research Article Assignments: 100

Exams: 400 points

Clashing Views Presentation & Write-up: 50 points

Annotated Bibliography: 50 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

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 refrain from texting during class.

- Please, arrive to class on time, but if you do arrive late, please enter the class quietly.
- Please, refrain from 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.

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 02/02/2014. The last day for a student initiated drop is 04/04/2014.

Attendance

Participation in class includes 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 three classes in a row and not taking 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 02/03/14, where I will be 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.

In-Class Projects/Participation (5 points each)

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.

There may be several in-class projects or papers worth five 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 an in-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 four 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 two pages double spaced in APA format. A handout will be provided.

Quizzes: (25 points each)

There will be four quizzes throughout the semester on the material from the text. The quizzes will consist of 25 multiple choice questions worth one point 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: (100 points each)

There will be **three exams** and a **final exam** given during the semester. They may 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. In addition, an arrangement with the instructor is required in order to take the exam early.

Presentation: (50 points)

Each student will present to the class their viewpoint on an issue from *Taking Sides Clashing Views on Psychological Issues* on an assigned date. 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 a write-up of the argument and the article need to be turned in. The dates for the presentations will be assigned in class.

Annotated Bibliography: (50 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. Instructions for the assignment will be provided.

Research Proposal 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. Topics may be provided or students may choose a topic of interest to create their research proposal. This assignment will allow you to follow the research process up to the point of collecting data.

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 title page, abstract, and reference page. The paper must be 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. Discuss expected results and possible limitations.

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. Five points will be deducted for everyday that a paper is late. No papers will be accepted after May 7th.

*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-