

Research Methods in Psychology HYBRID Course (Psyc 2)
Saddleback College
EXAMPLE SYLLABUS
Ticket # XX

Class Times and Room:
XXXX

Instructor: Dr. Amira A. Rezec
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Prerequisite: Psyc 1

Course Description: This course will provide a basic introduction to the different types of research methods in psychology. Major topics include; the use of the scientific method in psychology, hypothesis formation, research study design, ethics, and data analysis and interpretation. The course will focus on how theoretical and applied research are used to answer questions about behavior. There is an honors section of this course (see below).

Course Goals and Objectives: By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method and each stage of this process
2. Distinguish between the various non-experimental and experimental types of research strategies used in psychology
3. Compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of different research strategies and designs in addressing psychological questions
4. Identify sources of contamination in a study and where biases may arise, which may influence results
5. Understand the role of the experimenter, the research institution, and the importance of ethics in conducting psychological research
6. Perform a literature search using PsycInfo at UCI or a CSU to find information about various topics in psychology that are published in major psychological journals
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the use of statistical tools in psychological research
8. Evaluate a theoretical model and its predictions, ask a question regarding that model, describe how research can be conducted to answer such a question, explain how data can be interpreted as either supporting, or not supporting, the model.
9. Conduct a psychological experiment and discuss the research goals, methods, and findings of this experiment in an APA style format paper.

Required Text: Christensen, Larry. Experimental Methodology (10th edition), Pearson and Ablongman.; *supplemental readings* on topics including behavioral statistics (to be made available for students either online or on reserve at the library circulation desk to download or copy). There is a *free companion website* that accompanies this text and provides useful study tools: http://wps.ablongman.com/ab_christen_expmethod_10

Course Requirements and Policies

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is *critical* in this course – this is a skill based course and, like any other skill based course (e.g., mathematics), the material builds on itself. Missing just one class meeting can put you off track a week or more. Additionally, lectures will involve demonstrations, classroom activities, films, and discussion of material not covered in the textbook. Students are expected to attend class regularly, as regular attendance will contribute to a better overall understanding of course material. Attendance will be taken daily at the end of class. A total of two absences will be excused without penalty. Every absence thereafter will result in a penalty of 10 points per absence, and students will be dropped from the course after 6 hours of absence. Contact instructor if this is a concern. Students are responsible for obtaining any and all information, handouts, etc. as they are provided in class or posted on the course Blackboard website if absent (see below).

ONLINE DISCUSSIONS and Activities: To promote critical thinking and enrich the learning experience, Psyc 2 will include structured classroom discussions and activities as well as ONLINE DISCUSSIONS. Online Discussion Participation is a required part of this course, as this is a hybrid course consisting of both in person and online instructional hours. There will also be either weekly online readings or quizzes that must be completed on time for credit. These will be worth a total of 100 points in the class. See the COURSE SCHEDULE DOCUMENT FOR DUE DATES.

Classroom Policies:

1. Students are welcomed and *encouraged* to share their questions, ideas, and insights during class discussions and lecture. You are also expected to respect the values, beliefs, and rights of others in the classroom and to pay attention to whomever is speaking in class. Any students involved in side-conversations unrelated to class discussion or in any other behavior that is potentially disruptive to other students' learning will be asked leave the classroom and will be marked as absent for that day.
2. Arriving to class late is disruptive to the entire class, so please arrive on time. Should you be late, please enter the classroom quickly and quietly.
3. Please turn off all cellular phones before entering the classroom.
4. There will be a short break in this class. Students are expected to return from the break on time.
5. The classroom is meant to be a positive environment that promotes student learning. Students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for the right of all members of the college community to teach and learn in a safe and academically stimulating environment. Discourteous or disruptive behavior of any type will not be tolerated and may result in the student being asked to leave the classroom for the day *and* the subsequent class meeting. Such behavior will result in the filing of an official Behavioral

Conduct Report at Saddleback College. It may also constitute cause for the imposition of disciplinary action as provided in the rules and regulations of the California Education Code (Section 66300).

6. Students who are involved in side conversations during class will be asked to leave.

Blackboard Website Usage: This internet-based system will be used to further enhance student learning, fulfill the distance education requirement of this hybrid course, and facilitate prompt feedback including grade posting. Go to the Saddleback College home page (<http://www.saddleback.edu>), click on the Student Services tab atop, Blackboard is the first link under this tab. Your username is your Saddleback College email address given to you at registration and your password is your email password. The default is the last four digits of your social security number followed by two zeros *Note: Blackboard will be my only source of reaching you outside of class, therefore you will need to check you Saddleback college email through MySite on the Saddleback Home Page (button on lower left) and click on Web Email to access your mail or to change your option settings to have your email forwarded to another account if you prefer.

Exams: There will be a total of three exams in this course. The first two will be worth 100 points and the Final Exam will be worth 75 points. Each exam will cover the chapters and course lecture material described on the Course Schedule and will not be cumulative in nature. Exams will include both multiple choice and essay questions. Practice exam questions will be distributed in class to familiarize students with the format of exams. In addition, students will be encouraged to email questions to the Instructor before scheduled in-class Review Sessions. Roughly 70% of exam questions will be based on material covered in lecture or lecture and the text and 30% based solely on material covered in the textbook.

Research Project and Paper: The completion of an independent research project and written report of this project using American Psychological Association (APA) style is required in this class. Groups will be used to collect data, and the paper will be written independently. A detailed description of this assignment (including directions and expectations) will be handed out in class after the first midterm exam.

Field Trip At least one student from each research project group should attend the class field trip to the UC Irvine library that will take place on a Friday, to be announced.

Missed Assignment/Exam Policy: Students are expected to complete all assignments on time and to be present for all scheduled exams. Late assignments will not be accepted. The only valid excuses for missing an exam or failing to turn an assignment in on time are illness or a death in the family (or prior approval by the Instructor). It is the student's responsibility to contact the Instructor within one week of missing an exam or assignment and provide written proof of their excuse (e.g., doctor's note). All excuses are subject to verification by the Instructor and a written make-up exam may be administered for missed exams.

Grading Policy:

There are a total of 575 points available to be earned in this class.

Exams	= 275 points	(about 50% of total grade)
Online Assignments	= 100 points	(about 15% of total grade)
Research Project and Paper	= 150 points	(about 25% of total grade)
Online Coursework	= 50 points	(about 10% of total grade)

Final letter grades will be based on the percentage of total points earned in the class. The following scale will be used in assigning final letter grades:

90% - 100% = A	70% - 79% = C
80% - 89% = B	60% - 69% = D
	≤ 59% = F

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Academic dishonesty in the form of cheating on an exam or plagiarizing the written work of others is considered a *very* serious offense & will not be tolerated in this course. If a student is suspected of or caught cheating on any test or assignment, he/she will receive a grade of zero on that test or assignment and an Academic Dishonesty Report will be filed with the Dean's office to be retained on record. It is very important to avoid putting yourself in the position of even being *suspected* of cheating (e.g., looking at another student's exam or copying homework) or plagiarism (i.e., using another's words as your own written words), as very serious consequences may result and remain on your student record.

Student Support Services Available:

There are several student support services available to all students through Saddleback College. You are encouraged to take advantage of such resources including:

Learning Assistance Program (LAP) Tutoring Center:

The Learning Assistance Program offers free tutoring for Saddleback College students in most subject areas. The LAP is located in Library 114.

Counseling:

Counselors are available to assist students in the areas of academic advisement, career planning, and personal counseling. For an appointment, call 582-4572.

Special Services for Students with Disabilities:

Students who know that they require special accommodations in this course, or those who suspect that they may have a learning disability, should contact the Special Services Office to obtain the appropriate documentaion and/or support services (phone: 582-4885, location: Student Services Center, room 113). Students should also speak with the Instructor as soon as possible to ensure that your learning needs are met.

Your Instructor:

I am also available to help and happy to do so! Please contact me with questions/concerns.

SEE THE COURSE CALENDAR FOR TOPICS COVERED EACH WEEK AND ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES