

Psychology 2-Research Methods in Psychology HYBRID

Saddleback College

Fall 2010

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Prerequisite: Psychology 1-Introductory Psychology

Course Description: This course is designed as a general introduction to the different types of research methods in psychology. The major goal of this course is to learn the fundamental concepts for conducting and reading psychological research. The topics that will be covered in this class will include the scientific method, how to begin research, ethics in research, studying behavior, measurement concepts, observing behavior, survey research, experimental design, conducting research, complex experimental designs, quasi-experimental designs, understanding research results, and generalizing research results.

Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method and each stage of this process.
- Distinguish between experimental and non-experimental research designs and be able to identify advantages and disadvantages of all research designs.
- Ability to use vocabulary terms that are essential in psychological research and be able to apply them in in-class assessments.
- Identify how psychological research can be bias by the way data is collected or interpreted and how ethics are important when conducting research.
- Evaluate sources of psychological research including major journals, performing a literature search, conducting your own psychological research study, and be able to write an APA format paper.
- Ability to apply psychological research to your own life.

Required Textbooks:

American Psychological Association. (2009). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Cozby, P. C. (2009). Methods in Behavioral Research (10th edition). Boston: Mc Graw-Hill.

Course Materials:

Required Readings: Please refer to the course schedule to view the textbook chapters required each week. Supplemental readings such as journal articles, website links, and handouts are required and will be posted on Blackboard under each topic folder.

Lecture Slides: Under course documents in Blackboard, there are folders for each topic that is covered. In each folder, there are lecture slides to guide your studying for quizzes, exams, and discussion board postings.

Video Clips: For various topics, there may be video clips posted under each folder in course documents. These videos are provided to enhance your learning experience. Please view these videos. Some quiz/exam questions may be gathered from these sources!

Blackboard: Because this is a Hybrid class, the Blackboard system will be used for part of this course. Thus, there will be in-class meetings and online requirements. Blackboard can be acquired through <http://socccd.blackboard.com>. You must have a high speed internet connection, and a working email address that is checked regularly to be successful in this course. Communication will be held on Blackboard and via email. It is your responsibility that you check your saddleback email account. Saddleback email can be accessed through MySite <http://www.saddleback.edu>. If you want to receive emails to your personal email account, you have the option of forwarding your email to a personal account through this site.

Course Requirements:

In-class Activities- Attending class is essential for this course. Missing just one class can put you behind on course material and slow down progress on your required psychological experiment. Additionally, participating in class discussions is necessary for learning the material that is presented in lecture. Students will be expected to attend class and participate by asking and answering questions. In-class activities and/or group work will occur during every class and will be 50 points of your grade.

Discussion Board Responses- Participating in the discussion board is mandatory for this course. You are required to respond to 2 discussion board prompts throughout the semester. It is expected that you respond to discussion board prompts and to **3** other classmates. Because this is a hybrid course, this is your opportunity to enhance your learning with discussion with myself and other students. All postings should be well thought out and grammatically correct. The responses should be based off of the course material and not personal opinion. Due to the sensitive nature of the course material, it is essential that you respect other students' beliefs, opinions, etc. **Disrespectful and degrading communication among students will not be tolerated in this class.** The discussion board can be located under the discussion board tab in Blackboard and constitutes 40 points of your grade (20 for each discussion board response), and this goes toward your ONLINE hours that are required as part of a hybrid class. **ALL DISCUSSION BOARD**

POSTINGS WILL BE DUE BEFORE CLASS STARTS ON THURSDAYS. PLEASE REFER TO THE COURSE SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY AND DATE.

Exams: There will be 3 exams throughout the semester. Each exam will have 45 multiple-choice questions worth two points each, and short answer questions that equal 10 points to total 100 points. The tests are not cumulative in nature and will cover BOTH the book chapters and course material (powerpoint slides, videoclips, and journal articles). The exams are administered in class. For each exam, you need to bring an 882-E scantron.
ALL EXAMS WILL BE ADMINISTERED IN CLASS!

Assignments- Various assignments and portions of your APA paper will be due throughout the semester. These assignments help guide the research project and paper and are DUE ONLINE as part of your Hybrid requirement. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE DUE ONLINE BEFORE CLASS ON THURSDAYS. For detailed feedback, please submit a hardcopy as well.**

APA Project, Paper, Participation, and Presentation: There will be an ongoing research project and one APA formatted paper in this course. Students will be put into groups and will be take part in an original research project. It is expected that all students equally contribute to the project. If not, they may be graded individually on the team grade. As part of your paper grade, your participation with group activities will be taken into consideration. The research project will include formulating a research topic and hypotheses, doing a literature search, constructing research materials (surveys, observation scales, etc.), collecting data, analyzing data, and being able to describe all of these aspects in an APA formatted paper. Although students will be doing the research project in groups, each student is to do the paper on their own. Papers should be 8-10 pages long, 12 pt font, double spaced, 1" margins, and be in APA format (please refer to your APA manual for help-an example will be shown in class, too). Each paper will have a title page, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, figures and tables, reference section, and appendices. For part of your paper grade, a Mini APA Session will be conducted to present research. Further expectations and a grading rubric will be given at a later date. The paper, presentation, and group participation will constitute 150 points of your grade. Please do not jeopardize your academic record by plagiarizing your papers. The final project must be submitted online and in-class to receive a grade. **THE PAPER AND PRESENTATION WILL BE DUE BEFORE CLASS ON TUESDAY. PLEASE REFER TO THE COURSE SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY AND DATE.**

Classroom Expectations- It is expected that students will behave in the classroom. Please do not disrupt the class by entering the room late, speaking while other students or I are speaking, and/or texting or talking on the phone. Likewise, please turn off all cell phones and pagers in class. Ringing and vibrating cell phones are very disruptive! Should you break classroom expectations, you will be asked to leave the classroom without attendance credit for the day.

Missed Exams/Assignment Policy: Late assignments/late exams will not be accepted. In cases of medical emergency, I will need documentation in order to let you retake the exam/turn in the assignment late. If you are unable to be there on the date of the exam, please contact me beforehand, so I can schedule to have you take the exam early. Please plan ahead!

Extra Credit: At this time, there are no extra credit opportunities for this course. If I decide to offer extra credit, you'll be informed in class and via email.

Grading Policy: There are a total of 610 points available in this class.

Exams- 300 points

Assignments- 70 points

Paper/Presentation- 150 points

Discussion Board- 40 points

Class Participation- 50 points

610 points

Final letter grades will be based on the amount of points you obtain in the class. Please do not ask me to bump your grade!

90%-100% = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60%-69% = D

Below 60% = F

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is considered a serious offense and will not be tolerated in this class. All of the assignments/exams must be completed by the student that is enrolled in the course. A zero will be given for any plagiarized assignment/exam and will be reported to the Dean's office immediately. Please do not jeopardize your academic record by even making me suspect that you are cheating.

Student Support Services: Saddleback provides a number of student support services, listed below. You are encouraged to utilize these resources!

Learning Assistance Program (LAP) Tutoring Center: Offers free tutoring to Saddleback Students in most subject areas. The LAP is located in Library 114.

Computer Lab: SM 207 is a computer lab with 29 computer stations. It is open M-F 8:15 am to 7:30 pm. Library also offers 75 computer stations, open M-Thurs 8 am to 9pm, Friday 9am to 6pm and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. These labs open to students for using Mysite, Blackboard, emails, and for typing and printing your homework assignments.

Counseling: Available to assist students with career planning, academic advising, and personal counseling. For an appointment, call 582-4572.

Special Services for Students with Disabilities: This course meets the requirements set forth in the accessibility checklist and universal design grid provided by special services. Web pages, video presentations, textbooks and class materials used in this course are accessible to students with disabilities. Students who need special assistance in this course, or who suspect that they have a learning disability, should contact Special Services to obtain appropriate documentation and/or support services. Please contact Special Services in Student Services room 113, (949)- 582-4885, if you have any questions. Students should also speak with the instructor as soon as possible to ensure their learning needs are met.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week/dates		Topics/Due dates	Readings
1	T 9/14 and TH 9/16	Course Intro and Group Formations; Introduction to APA; Scientific Understanding of Behavior	Ch. 1
2	T 9/21 and TH 9/23	Where to Start; Ethical Research; Discussion Board #1 ONLINE due TH 9/23	Ch. 2 and 3
3	T 9/28 and TH 9/30	Studying Behavior; Measurement Concepts; Online Assignment #1 due TH 9/30	Ch. 4 and 5
4	T 10/5 and TH 10/7	Review for Midterm Exam 10/5 Midterm Exam IN CLASS 10/7	
5	T 10/12 and TH 10/14	Observing Behavior; Survey Research; Online Assignment #2 due TH 10/14	Ch. 6 and 7
6	T 10/19 and TH 10/21	Experimental Designs; Conducting Experiments; Discussion Board #2 ONLINE TH 10/21	Ch. 8 and 9
7	T 10/26 and TH 10/28	Complex Experimental Designs; Quasi- Experimental Designs; Draft of your Introduction due ONLINE AND IN CLASS TH 10/28	Ch. 10 and 11
8	T 11/2 and TH 11/4	Review for Midterm Exam 11/2 Midterm Exam IN CLASS 11/4	
9	T 11/9 and TH 11/11	Understanding Research Results and SPSS demonstration	Ch. 12 and Stats Handout
10	T 11/16 and TH 11/18	Understanding Research Results and Generalizing Results; Draft of Methods due ONLINE and IN CLASS TH 11/18	Ch. 13 and 14
11	T 11/23 and TH 11/25	Groups: Collect data and work on statistics and data analysis TH 11/25 Thanksgiving Break—NO CLASS	
12	T 11/30 and TH 12/2	Groups: Work on papers and presentations	
13	T 12/7 and TH 12/9	Mandatory APA Session IN CLASS and Papers due IN CLASS and ONLINE T 12/7 Review for the Final Exam TH 12/9	
F	T 12/14	Final Exam T 12/14 10:15-12:15	

As stated in the syllabus, please also read the supplemental materials that are posted under each week. These are required and some quiz/exam questions may be derived from them! I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus. Students will be notified of any changes via course email and an updated syllabus will be placed on the course website.