Psychology 2: Research Methods
Hybrid Class
Saddleback College, Spring 2009

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Professor Caroline Gee
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Office Hours: TBD

Prerequisite: Psych 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 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 is used to answer questions about behavior.

Course Goals and Objectives:
By the end of this course, students should be able to:
1) Demonstrate an understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of different research methods
2) Distinguish between the various non-experimental and experimental types of research strategies used in psychology
3) Identify sources of contamination in a study and where biases may arise, which may influence results
4) Understand the role of the experimenter, the research institution, and the importance of ethics in conducting psychological research
5) Demonstrate an understanding of the use of statistical models in psychological research
6) Evaluate a theoretical model and it’s 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
7) Conduct a psychological experiment and discuss the research goals, methods, and findings of this experiment in an APA style format paper

Required Text:

Blackboard:
This is a hybrid course, with 9 hours of an internet component. The internet activities will be posted on Blackboard. It will include homework activities, discussion board postings, as well as group work. Also, lecture notes for the class will be posted on Blackboard, along with any additional resources such as study guides and internet links. Announcements will also be posted on Blackboard, so please check in there regularly.
Evaluation:

- **Online and In Person Discussions and Lab Activities (100 pts):** To promote critical thinking and enrich the learning experience, Psych 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.

- **Online Coursework (50 pts):** Online coursework will include homework assignments that must be completed by the due date. Please check the Course Schedule for due dates.

- **Exams (100 pts each):** There are two exams and one final exam. Each exam will consist of an in-class test that will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Exams will cover material both in lecture and in the textbook.

- **Research Project (150 pts):** 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. Groups will also give a 10 minute presentation on their research during the last week of class. A detailed description of this assignment (including directions and expectations) will be given out after the first exam. **The research project must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the course**, even if you have a passing grade without the paper.

Policies:

- **Attendance:** Come to class. Show up on time. If you are absent, copy notes from a classmate. Attendance will be recorded each class. Because this is a skill based course and, like other skill based courses (e.g., mathematics), the material builds on itself. Missing just one class meeting can put you off track a week or more. Students may be dropped from the course after the 3rd absence.

- **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 students’ 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.

- **Cheating:** I do not tolerate cheating. If I catch a student cheating, the student will receive a 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 or plagiarism, as very serious consequences may result and remain on your student record.

- **Requests for re-grading:** Any re-grade requests for any exams or writing assignments must be submitted in writing to the instructor no later than one week after the graded exam or assignment is available for return.
• **E-mail**: When emailing the instructor, please be sure to include your ticket number in the subject line and your full name in the message of the email. I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours Monday-Friday, and emails received Friday afternoon and over the weekend will be responded to on Monday afternoon.

• **Record keeping**: It is recommended that you take responsibility for keeping track of the weekly points you are accumulating. To this end, you should keep all of your exams and assignments given back to you, which documents the work you have done and the points you have received.

• **Class conduct**: The classroom is meant to be a positive environment that promotes student learning. Students are expected to conduct themselves with respect of the right of all members of the college community to teach and learn in a safe and academically stimulating environment. Please be courteous to other students, so as not to disrupt their ability to learn (or my ability to teach). This rule applies to issues such as cell phones, laptops, side discussions, participation in class discussions, and more. Students who are disruptive will be asked to leave the class.

• **Students with disabilities**: Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. DSP&S is located in Room 113 of the Student Services Center (SCC) Building. The DSP&S phone number is (949) 582-4885.