

Fundamentals of Psychological Research

Psy 209
Fall, 2013

General Course Information:

Instructor: Jillene Grover Seiver, Ph.D

Mailbox: D110 (office closes at 5 pm)

Office hours: M-W, 3-5 pm in House 1

Voice mail: (425)564-5601 (automatically forwards voicemails to my email)

e-mail: jseiver@bellevuecollege.edu (checked every weekday by 3 pm)

website: <https://bc.instructure.com/>

Text: *Exploring Research*, 8/E by Neil J. Salkind

Course Description:

Psychology 209 is an introductory and experiential research methods course intended to introduce students to the major concepts, theories and practice of research in the field of psychology (with applications to the other behavioral sciences)

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the purpose, scope and areas of interest of researchers in psychology and how this relates to the other behavioral sciences.
- Identify the scientific progress and research methods psychologists and behavioral scientists use in the study of human behavior.
- Define important research and statistical terms, concepts, and principles used in the study of human behavior.
- State and develop a specific, investigatable problem or issue in psychology.
- Demonstrate the ability to perform an effective literature search and summarization leading to an operationally definable hypothesis.
- Design survey instruments, or otherwise design strategies to gather data appropriate to the defined hypothesis.
- Identify and compare various research methods and designs used to guide and develop research investigations, to select an appropriate design for a research project.
- Perform research investigations at a basic level, using inferential statistical methods, involving at least two factors or variables.
- Analyze the project methodology and the research of others to identify major flaws, confounding variables, rival hypothesis and threats to validity in the project.
- Write a concluding report of the study in APA journal style, providing a clear written interpretation of the findings, following standard practices and procedures for organization and illustration.
- Comprehend and apply ethical principles in the conduct of research.

Course Requirements:

Midterms: You will take two in-class exams on the dates listed on the Course Calendar. The exams will be multiple choice and short answer. Midterm 1 will cover the first half of the class, and Midterm 2 will cover the second half. You will need a scantron sheet, #2 pencil, and lined paper (no spiral notebooks) for each exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

Make-up midterms:

- I will allow a make-up of a missed midterm if it was missed for one of the following, documented, reasons:
 - Personal illness or injury, documented by a doctor's note, and with notification to me before the test is missed (via phone or email)
 - Death in the immediate family, documented by a note from the funeral director.
- Midterms must be made up within one week of the test's date.
- If you know you're going to miss a midterm for an unavoidable reason, we can administer the test before the scheduled date so that you won't miss it.
 - No make-ups after the midterm when the absence is planned.
 - No early Midterm 2 to accommodate winter break travel plans.

Projects: There are three project assignments found in the Assignments in our Canvas classroom. Each project is worth 10 points. They are graded pass/fail, and will earn no credit if submitted after their deadlines.

Labs in Class: To help bring the different research methods to life, we will collect data in five different methods, and I will show you how to analyze them using Excel. Each lab will be worth 5 points, earned by attending the class session during which the lab occurs (see Course Calendar for dates). You may NOT make up the labs that are scheduled to occur in class under any circumstances.

Research Proposal:

You will work with your group to prepare and submit a research proposal following the APA format described in the handouts I have provided in Canvas. The final draft of your proposal will be worth 100 points. Late proposals will be docked 10% per day beginning at 12:30 pm on the due date, with no points being earned for proposals submitted after 12:30 pm on Friday after the deadline. Research proposals must be submitted as attachments in Word format in the Assignment tool.

If you need help with your writing, please take advantage of the following student services:

- Academic Success Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/academicsuccess/>
- Academic Tutoring Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/tutoring/>
- TRiO Student Support Services: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/TRiO/>
- Writing Lab @ BC: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/>

Rough Draft Review: Each group will sign up for a time-slot to meet with the instructor during class time to discuss the group's progress so far. Each group member will earn 10 points for attending the meeting.

Poster Presentation of Research Proposal: You will create a poster presentation of your research proposal (see Canvas for photos of previous students' posters). Your presentation is worth 50 points. You must present your poster in class to earn credit. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Contribution Grade: After the Poster Presentation, you will grade your group-mates on their contribution to the Proposal and the Poster. You will earn 5 points for submitting your grades, and the Contribution Grade will be worth 10 points.

Attendance

It is expected that you will attend lectures. Even though I will not track attendance, your assignments must be turned in on time, and you are responsible for any announcements made in class. I WILL notice if you don't attend on Fridays, which is when I will allot specific time for groups to meet.

This syllabus is quite comprehensive, and the dates are carved in stone. However, if some act of nature occurs and a change must be made, you are responsible for gaining knowledge of any change which is announced in class.

You ARE required to be present in class on Lab days in order to earn credit for labs.

Points Possible:

2 midterms @ 100 points each:	200
3 projects @ 10 points each:	30
5 labs @ 5 points each:	25
Meet w/ instructor for rough draft review:	10
Final research proposal:	100
Poster presentation of proposal:	50
Submit contribution grade	5
Contribution grade	10
Total possible:	430

Grading Palette:

A	=> 95%	C	74-76%
A-	90-94%	C-	70-73%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	84-86%	D	64-66%
B-	80-83%	D-	60-63%
C+	77-79%	F	<= 59%

Incompletes and Hardship Withdrawals

These options are reserved for students who, through unforeseeable circumstances, cannot complete a course that they were passing. If you wish to request one of these grading options, the following criteria must be met:

1. You are passing the class at the time of the request.
2. You must make your request in writing, explaining the circumstances and including any documentation.
3. In the case of an Incomplete, the circumstances must be acute. That is, they must be something that prevents completion of the course within the current quarter, but that would be resolved in time for the student to complete the course work within the next quarter.
4. In the case of a Hardship Withdrawal, the circumstances must be ongoing, such that the student would not be able to complete the course work within the following quarter. In other words, a student could not request a hardship withdrawal and then retake the course the following quarter.
5. Qualifying circumstances for Incompletes and Hardship Withdrawals *are limited to*:
 - a. Death in the immediate family (spouse, child, parent) documented by a funeral director's note.
 - b. Significant illness or injury (documented by a doctor's note) of self or a person for whom the student is primarily responsible.
 - c. Relocation outside of the Bellevue Community College area.

Calendar of Events

Week	Date	Chapter	Assignments/Activities
1	9/24	Welcome to Research Methods 1: The Role and Importance of Research	
	9/26	1: The Role and Importance of Research, continued	
	9/27	Group meeting	<u>Project 1 due by 5 pm</u>
2	10/1	2: The Research Process: Coming to Terms	
	10/3	3A: Selecting a Problem and Reviewing the Research	Library Instruction in LMC – 2 nd floor classroom 8:30-9:20
	10/4	Group meeting	<u>Project 2 due by 5 pm</u>
3	10/8	3B: The Importance of Practicing Ethics in Research	
	10/10	4: Sampling and Generalizability	
	10/11	NO CLASS: Instructor at seminar	<u>Project 3 due by 5 pm</u>

4	10/15	5: Measurement, Reliability, and Validity	
	10/17	6: Methods of Measuring Behavior	
	10/18	Group meeting	
5	10/22	7: Data Collection and Descriptive Statistics	
	10/24		<i>Lab in class</i>
	10/25	Group meeting	Study session for Midterm 1
6	10/29	Chapters 1-7	Midterm 1
	10/31	8: Introducing Inferential Statistics	<i>Lab in class</i>
	11/1	Group meeting	
7	11/5	9: Nonexperimental Research: Descriptive and Correlational Methods	<i>Lab in class</i>
	11/7	13: Writing a Research Proposal	
	11/8	Group meeting	
8	11/12	Group meetings with instructor: Assess rough drafts	Assigned meeting time
	11/14	10: Nonexperimental Research: Qualitative Methods	
	11/15	Group meeting	Bring hard copy of proposal for proof-reading
9	11/19	Discuss poster design & requirements	Research Proposal due
	11/21	11: Pre- and True Experimental Research Methods	<i>Lab in class</i>
	11/22	Group meeting	Work with group on poster Sign up for poster session
10	11/26	12: Quasi-Experimental Research: A Close Cousin to Experimental Research	<i>Lab in class</i>
	11/28-29	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving	
11	12/3	Poster sessions	
	12/5		
	12/6	Group meeting	Study session for Midterm 2
	12/10	Chapters 8-13	Midterm 2 @ 7:30 am

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION
Revised Winter 2006

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BCC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DSS office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DSS accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Support Services, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

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**If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (A251), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*