

Fundamentals of Psychological Research

Psy w09
Spring, 2015

General Course Information:

Instructor: Jillene Grover Seiver, Ph.D

Mailbox: D110

Office hours: T - Th 3-5 pm

Voice mail: 425.564.5106

e-mail: jseiver@bellevuecollege.edu

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

Text: *How to Think Straight about Psychology* by Keith E. Stanovich

Class meets: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30-10:20 am in A138

Prerequisites: Psych 100

Course Description:

The study of the methodology and attitudes of psychology irrespective of any special area. Considers techniques for evaluating information, discovering invalid interpretations and uncovering alternative explanations. These are illustrated by reading research articles and classroom discussion of the articles and of popular beliefs.

Course Requirements:

APA Exercises: I have designed three exercises that will help you to get started on your APA Paper. You will find them in Canvas, and they are each worth 5 points.

Weekly Reports: At the Canvas website, you will find the Weekly Reports. These assignments relate to the material that we'll cover in class during each week's class meeting.

You will complete the required assignment, and submit your report to the assignment dropbox prior to the start of the next week's class meeting. Each assignment has very specific instructions, so each assignment will have different potential length and word count. My requirement is that you complete the assignment fully and with insight. Each week's assignment is worth 10 pts.

No late submissions will be accepted for any reason. The dropbox will lock you out when the deadline passes, and I will not accept emailed submissions.

Exams: There will be a midterm and a non-cumulative final on the dates indicated on the Course Calendar. There will be several short answer questions to choose from; you will need to answer a subset. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

You will need to bring your own paper and writing implement for exams. Exams will begin promptly at 8:30. Make-ups must be arranged in advance with instructor's approval.

APA Paper: You will select a topic and write a five page literature review in APA style.

- There are three projects in Canvas that will facilitate your progress. See Canvas for due dates.
- There is a sample literature review in Canvas that will serve as your model for how to write your paper.
- Requirements: You must cite at least 10 sources. The detailed guidelines, requirements, and grading rubric are all in Canvas.

- No late submissions will be accepted for any reason. I need time to read the papers before grades are due!

Attendance: It is expected that you will attend lectures. You are responsible for any announcements made in class. 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.

If you need to come into class late, please do so. Just be quiet and try not to be too disruptive. I'd rather have you come late than skip class altogether.

Points Possible:

11 reports @ 10 points each:	110
3 APA exercises @ 5 points each:	15
Midterm/Final 2 @ 100 pts each:	200
APA Paper @ 100 pts:	100
Total possible:	425

Grading Palette:

A: 4.0	=> 95%	C: 2.0	74-76%
A-: 3.7	90-94%	C-: 1.7	70-73%
B+: 3.3	87-89%	D+: 1.3	67-69%
B: 3.0	84-86%	D: 1.0	64-66%
B-: 2.7	80-83%	D-: 0.7	60-63%
C+: 2.3	77-79%	F: 0.0	<= 59%

Course Calendar

Week	Date	Topic/Event	Chapter
1	4/7-9	Psychology is alive and well (and doing fine among the sciences)	1
2	4/14	Falsifiability: How to foil little green men in the head	2
	4/16	No class: Instructor at convention	
3	4/21-23	Operationism and Essentialism: "But, Doctor, what does it really mean?"	3
	4/23	Extra credit opportunity: Attend talk at 11:30 - 12:20 in N210 Diversity is Beautiful by Dr. Becky Rudd, Eastern WA University	
4	4/28-30	Testimonials and case study evidence: Placebo effects and the Amazing Randi	4
5	5/5-7	Correlation and causation: Birth control by the toaster method	5
6	5/12	Getting things under control: The case of Clever Hans	6
	5/14	Midterm Exam	1-6
7	5/19	"But it's not real life!": The artificiality criticism and psychology	7
	5/21	Avoiding the Einstein Syndrome: The importance of converging evidence	8
8	5/26-28	The misguided search for the "Magic Bullet": The issue of multiple causation	9
9	6/2-4	The Achilles' heel of human cognition: Probabilistic reasoning	10
10	6/9	The role of chance in psychology	11
	6/11	APA Paper due in Canvas by 8:30 am	
		The Rodney Dangerfield of the sciences	12
11	6/18	Final Exam: 7:30-9:20 am	7-12