

# Fundamentals of Psychological Research

Psy 209  
Spring, 2012

## General Course Information:

**Instructor:** Jillene Grover Seiver, Ph.D

**Mailbox:** D110 (office closes at 5 pm)

**Office hours:** Tues & Thurs 1:30-2:20, A200C

**Voice mail:** (425)564-2658 (automatically forwards voicemails to my email)

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

**website:** [www.JillSeiver.com](http://www.JillSeiver.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 spring break travel plans.

**Projects:** There are four project assignments found at my website in the link called "Projects." Each project is worth 10 points. They are graded pass/fail, and will earn no credit if submitted after the deadline.

**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 it using Excel. Each lab will be worth 10 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 prepare and submit a research proposal following the APA format described in the handouts I have provided on my website. The final draft of your proposal will be worth 100 points. Late proposals will be docked 10% per day beginning at 11:30 am on the due date, with no points being earned for proposals submitted after 11:30 am on Friday after the deadline.

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:**

You will submit a rough draft of your research proposal on the date indicated on the Calendar of Events. Your rough draft must be submitted IN CLASS or to my mailbox by 5 pm on the Friday before the deadline so that I can distribute your draft to a classmate IN CLASS on the date listed on the Syllabus. Rough drafts submitted to my mailbox after class CANNOT be reviewed.

You will follow the guidelines for each section found on my website under “Guidelines for Rough Drafts.” In addition, I recommend using the “Peer Review Form” (also on my website) to help ensure that your draft is covering all the criteria that your peer will be evaluating.

You will earn 10 points for your rough draft, on a pass/fail basis. Your rough draft must be submitted on or before the due date in order to earn any points. **ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS.** Not only will you lose the 10 points for submitting the rough draft, you’ll lose the opportunity to have your paper peer-reviewed. Unless you submit a rough draft, you will not be eligible to peer review another student’s rough draft.

### **Peer Review:**

You will serve as a reviewer for one of your classmate's rough draft of their research proposal. You will give feedback based upon the questions provided in the Peer Review assignment (found in the “Peer Review Form” link on our class website).

Rough drafts turned in prior to or during class on the date listed on the Calendar of Events will be distributed to classmates for review. The distribution will occur **IN CLASS**, so late rough drafts will not be reviewed. If you’re not in class on the day the rough drafts are due, you will not be eligible to review a classmate’s paper to earn these points.

You will earn 10 points for your review; late reviews will lose 10% per day. This is a pass/fail assignment; if you do it on time, you'll earn full credit. Your classmate wants your feedback, so please complete it conscientiously, and on time.

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

### **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. 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
4 projects @ 10 points each:	40
5 labs @ 10 points each:	50
Rough draft:	10
Peer review:	10
Final research proposal:	100
Poster presentation of proposal:	50
Total possible:	460



### Grading Palette:

<b>A</b>	=> 95%	<b>C</b>	74-76%
<b>A-</b>	90-94%	<b>C-</b>	70-73%
<b>B+</b>	87-89%	<b>D+</b>	67-69%
<b>B</b>	84-86%	<b>D</b>	64-66%
<b>B-</b>	80-83%	<b>D-</b>	60-63%
<b>C+</b>	77-79%	<b>F</b>	<= 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
<b>1</b>	4/2	Welcome to Research Methods 1: The Role and Importance of Research	
	4/4	1: The Role and Importance of Research, continued	
<b>2</b>	4/9	2: The Research Process: Coming to Terms	<u>Project 1 due</u>
	4/11	3A: Selecting a Problem and Reviewing the Research	Library Instruction in LMC – 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor classroom: Time TBA
<b>3</b>	4/16	3B: The Importance of Practicing Ethics in Research	<u>Project 2 due</u>
	4/18	4: Sampling and Generalizability	
<b>4</b>	4/23	5: Measurement, Reliability, and Validity	<u>Project 3 due</u>
	4/25	6: Methods of Measuring Behavior	
<b>5</b>	4/30	7: Data Collection and Descriptive Statistics	<u>Project 4 due</u> <i>Lab assigned</i>
	5/2		<i>Lab concluded</i>
<b>6</b>	5/7	<b><u>Midterm 1</u></b>	<b><u>Chapters 1-7</u></b>
	5/9	8: Introducing Inferential Statistics	<i>Lab in class</i>
<b>7</b>	5/14	9: Nonexperimental Research: Descriptive and Correlational Methods	<i>Lab in class</i>
	5/16	13: Writing a Research Proposal	
<b>8</b>	5/21	Assess rough drafts for format	Rough draft due
	5/23	10: Nonexperimental Research: Qualitative Methods	
<b>9</b>	5/28		NO CLASS: Memorial Day
	5/30	11: Pre- and True Experimental Research Methods	Peer Reviews due <i>Lab in class</i>
<b>10</b>	6/4		NO CLASS: Instructor out of town
	6/6	12: Quasi-Experimental Research: A Close Cousin to Experimental Research	<i>Lab in class</i> <u>Research Proposal due</u>
<b>11</b>	6/11		Poster sessions
	6/13		NO CLASS: Finals for other classes
	6/15	<b><u>Midterm 2</u></b>	Chapters 8-13

**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.*