

# Fundamentals of Psychological Research

Psy 209

Item 5452 Section HYA

Spring, 2011

## General Course Information:

**Instructor:** Jillene Grover Seiver, Ph.D  
**Mailbox:** Drop off items with the Secretary in D110 (office closes at 5 pm)  
**Office hours:** 8:30-9:20 am, T & Th A200C  
**Voice mail:** (425)564-2658 (sends message to my email)  
**e-mail:** [jseiver@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:jseiver@bellevuecollege.edu) or email me in our Vista Blackboard classroom  
**Text:** *Exploring Research*, 7/E by Neil J. Salkind  
**Class meets:** 9:30-11:20 a.m. Tues/Thurs, L126 + 1 hour hybrid work

## 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 process 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:

**Projects:** You will complete four projects, designed to initiate the process of writing your literature review. Each project is worth 50 points. I will deduct 10 pts per day for tardiness. You will submit your projects via the Assignment Tool in our Blackboard Vista classroom, and I will provide my comments and return your assignment the same way.

**Analyses:** We will complete analyses of data in four statistical procedures using Excel software in the classroom. You will report the results of each analysis, and each is worth 15 points. I will deduct 1 pt per day for tardiness. You will submit your reports via the Assignment Tool in our Blackboard Vista classroom, and I will provide my comments and return your assignments the same way.

**Midterm/Final:** You will take two in-class exams on the dates listed on the Course Calendar. The exams will be multiple choice and short answer. The Midterm will cover the first half of the class, and the Final will cover the second half. You will need a scantron sheet, #2 pencil, and notebook paper for each exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points and will be allotted the first 50 minutes of class time.

**Draft of Literature Review:** On the date listed in the Course Calendar, you will post a draft of your proposal to the Rough Draft Discussion Board. You will earn 50 pts for submitting your rough draft.

Information on posting drafts will be contained in our Blackboard Vista classroom. The due date for posting is listed on the Course Calendar (below, and in the Blackboard Vista classroom).

Because they are, by definition, rough, I will not deduct points for errors or omissions of facts. I will deduct 10 points for spelling errors that should have been picked up by spell check or grammatical errors that should have been picked up by grammar check. 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/>

**Peer Review of Rough Drafts:** By the dates listed in the Course Calendar, you will read and provide feedback to five classmates' rough drafts of their literature review in the Rough Draft Discussion Board.

You will earn 10 pts for each review that provides thoughtful, specific feedback, in accordance with the calibration procedure that you will complete as a project. I will deduct 2 points from reviews that contain rude, condescending, pompous or intimidating language.

Information about how to complete the reviews will be contained in our Blackboard Vista classroom. The due date for reviews is listed on the Course Calendar (below, and in the Blackboard Vista classroom).

**Hard Copy Format Review:** On the date listed in the Course Calendar, you will bring a hard copy of your formatted rough draft to class, for formatting assessment. In class, I will go over an

example step-by-step, and you will mark a classmate's paper for errors/omissions in their formatting while another student does the same for you. Fresh eyes often detect errors that we overlook in our own work, so this exercise can save you a lot of missed formatting points in the final draft. This task will be worth 50 pts. If you do not bring your rough draft, you cannot review someone else's, and will lose these points.

**Literature Review:** You will prepare and submit a literature review on a topic of your choosing, following the APA format described in the handouts I have provided in our Blackboard Vista classroom. Most of the work you do in this class will constitute steps toward this final literature review. The final draft of your literature review will be worth 500 points.

- Late reviews will be docked 50 pts per day (weekends included), with no points being earned for proposals submitted a week or more after the deadline.
- No emailed submissions will be accepted. I will return your email unread.

**Attendance:** It is expected that you will attend lectures. Your assignments must be turned in on time, and you are responsible for any announcements made in class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each in-person class meeting.

### Points Possible:

4 projects at 50 points each: 200  
 4 analyses at 15 points each 60  
 Midterm/Final @ 100 pts each: 200  
 Rough drafts @ 50 pts: 50  
 5 peer reviews @ 10 pts each: 50  
 Hard copy format review 50  
 Final literature review: 500  
 Total possible: 1110

<b>Grading Palette:</b>			
<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%

## Course Calendar

Week	Date	Topic/Event	Chapter
<b>1</b>	4/5	The Role and Importance of Research	1
	4/7	The Role and Importance of Research, continued	
<b>2</b>	4/12	<u>Project 1 due by 8:30 am to Assignment Tool in BbVista Classroom</u> The Research Process: Coming to Terms <i>Library instruction session: 10:30-11:20 in 2<sup>nd</sup> floor library classroom</i>	2
	4/14	Selecting a Problem and Reviewing the Research	3A
<b>3</b>	4/19	<u>Project 2 due by 8:30 am to Assignment Tool in BbVista Classroom</u> The Importance of Practicing Ethics in Research	3B
	4/21	The Importance of Practicing Ethics in Research, continued	
<b>4</b>	4/26	<u>Project 3 due by 8:30 am to Assignment Tool in BbVista Classroom</u> Sampling and Generalizability	4
	4/28	Measurement, Reliability, and Validity	5
<b>5</b>	5/3	<u>Project 4 due by 8:30 am</u> Methods of Measuring Behavior	6
	5/5	<u>Bring completed personality/color choice surveys to class</u> Data Collection and Descriptive Statistics	7
<b>6</b>	5/10	<b><u>Midterm:</u></b> 9:30-10:20	<b><u>1-7</u></b>
	5/12	<u>Analysis 1 due by 8:30 am to Assignment Tool in BbVista Classroom</u> Introducing Inferential Statistics	8
<b>7</b>	5/17	Nonexperimental Research: Descriptive and Correlational Methods	9
	5/19	<u>Analysis 3 due by 8:30 am to Assignment Tool in BbVista Classroom</u> Nonexperimental Research: Qualitative Methods	10
<b>8</b>	5/24	<u>Analysis 2 due by 8:30 am to Assignment Tool in BbVista Classroom</u> Pre- and True Experimental Research Methods	11
	5/26	<u>Analysis 4 due by 8:30 am to Assignment Tool in BbVista Classroom</u> Writing a Research Proposal	13
<b>9</b>	5/31	<u>Post rough draft</u> of Literature Review to Rough Draft Discussion Board Quasi-Experimental Research: A Close Cousin to Experimental Research	12
	6/2	Quasi-Experimental Research: A Close Cousin to Experimental Research	
<b>10</b>	6/7	<u>Peer Reviews due</u> by 8:30 a.m. <i>Bring hard copy draft</i> of paper for format assessment	
	6/9	Final draft of <i>Literature Reviews due</i> in class at 8:30 am.	
<b>11</b>	<b>6/14</b>	<b><u>Final Exam:</u> 9:30-10:20.</b> Bring SASE if you want exam & paper mailed back.	<b><u>8-13</u></b>
	6/16	Graded proposals and final exams returned during office hours or 11:30-noon in A130.	

## PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Revised Spring 2009

### 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 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 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 BC 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 Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC 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 Resource Centre, 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 BC 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.

\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.