

Fundamentals of Psychological Research

Psy 209
Fall, 2010

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: by appointment
Voice mail: (425)564-2335 (sends message to my email)
e-mail: jseiver@bellevuecollege.edu (checked every weekday by 2 pm)
Text: *Exploring Research*, 7/E by Neil J. Salkind
Class meets: 8:30-10:20 a.m. M/W A130

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 five projects, designed to initiate the process of writing your research proposal. Each project is worth 40 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.

Midterm/Final: You will take two in-class exams on the dates listed on the Course Calendar. The tests 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 50 minutes.

Drafts of Research Proposal: On the dates listed in the Course Calendar, you will post drafts to the SWORD website of your proposal in two sections:

1. Introduction and
2. Method, Results and Conclusion.

You will earn 50 pts for submitting each rough draft. Information on posting drafts will be contained in our Blackboard Vista classroom. Due dates for postings are 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 Research Proposals: By the dates listed in the Course Calendar, you will read and provide feedback to five classmates' rough drafts of their Introduction section and five classmates' rough drafts of their Method/Results/Conclusion sections at the SWORD website.

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. Due dates for reviews are 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.

Research Proposal: You will prepare and submit a research proposal 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 proposal. The final draft of your proposal will be worth 500 points.

- Late proposals 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.

Poster Presentation of Research Proposal: You will create a poster presentation of your research proposal (see Appendix A of the text for directions on doing this, as well as the Blackboard Vista classroom for photos of previous students' posters). Your presentation is worth 200 points. Our class will be presenting our posters in conjunction with EWU@BC this quarter. I will explain the requirements of the assignment in detail on the date listed on the Course Calendar.

Abstract of Research Proposal: You will write a 150 word summary of your proposal, following the guidelines provided in the text. Include your name, affiliation (i.e. Bellevue College) and title of your proposal at the top, followed by your abstract in a block paragraph (i.e. no indentation). Only the words of the actual abstract are counted in the 150 word limit. You will submit your abstract to my Blackboard Vista email by 10/15. Abstracts will be included in a poster session program for the event. Your abstract is worth 50 pts, and will be docked 5 pts per day late. This is a pass/fail assignment; submit your abstract on time, and you earn the full credit.

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:

5 projects at 40 points each:	200
Midterm/Final @ 100 pts each:	200
2 rough drafts @ 50 pts each:	100
10 reviews @ 10 pts each:	100
Hard copy format review	50
Proposal abstract:	50
Poster presentation of proposal:	200
Final research proposal:	500
Total possible:	1400

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%

Course Calendar

Week	Date	Topic/Event	Chapter
1	9/20	The Role and Importance of Research Register on SWORD website via weblink in BbVista Classroom	1
	9/22	The Role and Importance of Research, continued	
2	9/27 *	The Research Process: Coming to Terms <u>Project 1 due by 8:30 am to Assignment Tool in BbVista Classroom</u>	2
	9/29 *	Selecting a Problem and Reviewing the Research	3A
3	10/4	The Importance of Practicing Ethics in Research <u>Project 2 due by 8:30 am to Assignment Tool in BbVista Classroom</u>	3B
	10/6	The Importance of Practicing Ethics in Research, continued	
4	10/11	Sampling and Generalizability <u>Project 3 due by 8:30 am to Assignment Tool in BbVista Classroom</u>	4
	10/13	Measurement, Reliability, and Validity <u>Project 4 due by 8:30 am to SWORD website</u>	5
	10/15	Abstract e-mailed to me in Blackboard Vista classroom	
5	10/18	Methods of Measuring Behavior Post rough draft of Introduction to SWORD website	6
	10/20	Data Collection and Descriptive Statistics	7
6	10/25	<u>Midterm: 8:30-9:20</u> <u>Project 5: Analysis 1 due by 8:30 am to Assignment Tool in BbVista Classroom</u> Review of 5 peer Introductions due by midnight	<u>1-7</u>
	10/27	College Issues Day	

* I have requested a visit to the Library for librarian instruction on searching ProQuest and EbscoHost. Exact date and time to be confirmed.

7	11/1	Introducing Inferential Statistics	8
	11/3	Introducing Inferential Statistics, continued	
8	11/8	Nonexperimental Research: Descriptive and Correlational Methods Nonexperimental Research: Qualitative Methods <u>Project 5: Analysis 3 due by 8:30 am to Assignment Tool in BbVista Classroom</u>	9 10
	11/10	Pre- and True Experimental Research Methods <u>Project 5: Analysis 2 due by 8:30 am to Assignment Tool in BbVista Classroom</u> Post rough draft of Method/Results/Conclusion to SWORD website	11
9	11/15	Writing a Research Proposal <u>Project 5: Analysis 4 due by 8:30 am to Assignment Tool in BbVista Classroom</u>	13
	11/17	Writing a Research Proposal, continued Review of 5 peer Method/Results/Conclusion due by midnight to SWORD website	
10	11/22	Discuss expectations for posters Quasi-Experimental Research: A Close Cousin to Experimental Research	12
	11/24	Quasi-Experimental Research: A Close Cousin to Experimental Research	
11	11/29	Bring hard copy draft of paper for format assessment	
	12/1	Final draft of Research Proposals due in class at 8:30 am. Poster Session in L lobby 9-10:20.	
12	12/8	<u>Final Exam:</u> 8:30-9:20; Graded proposals returned. Bring self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want your final exam returned.	<u>8-13</u>

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.