

Fundamentals of Psychological Research

Psy 209
Spring, 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
e-mail: jseiver@bellevuecollege.edu (checked every weekday by 2 pm)
website: www.collegecontacts.net/jillseiver
Text: *Exploring Research*, 7/E by Neil J. Salkind
Class meets: 10:10 a.m.-12:20 p.m., T & Th, A138

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 research proposal. Each project is worth 30 points. I will deduct 10 pts per day for tardiness. I will also deduct 10 pts for submitting the assignment via email.

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.

Research Proposal: You and your partner(s) will prepare and submit a research proposal following the APA format described in the handouts I have provided on my web page (www.collegecontacts.net/jillseiver). 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 class website 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 describe the requirements of the assignment on the date listed on the Course Calendar, and I will give you one class period (see Course Calendar) to use the space in the classroom to construct your poster.

Abstract of Research Proposal: You will write a 150 word summary of your proposal, following the guidelines provided in the text. Include your names, 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 jseiver@bellevuecollege.edu by May 21st. 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, but it is not required. I will give groups class time to work on their proposal, so the easiest way to make sure that your assignment is making progress is to attend class.

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 take roll at the EWU@BC poster session for 30 points of credit.

Points Possible:

4 projects at 30 points each:	120
Proposal abstract:	50
Poster presentation of proposal:	200
Attendance @ poster session:	30
Final research proposal:	500
Midterm/Final @ 100 pt each:	200
Total possible:	1200

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	4/6	The Role and Importance of Research	1
	4/8	The Role and Importance of Research Visit LMC to hone skills searching ProQuest/EbscoHost for scholarly articles ** tentative date **	1
2	4/13	The Research Process: Coming to Terms Project 1 due Go to computer classroom to search for articles @ 11:30-12:20	2
	4/15	Selecting a Problem and Reviewing the Research	3A
3	4/20 & 22	The Importance of Practicing Ethics in Research Project 2 due	3B
4	4/27	Sampling and Generalizability Project 3 due	4
	4/29	Measurement, Reliability, and Validity	5
5	5/4	Methods of Measuring Behavior Bring outline of Introduction with at least six citations	6
	5/6	Data Collection and Descriptive Statistics	7
6	5/11	Midterm: 10:10-12:20 Project 4: Analysis 1 due	<u>1-7</u>
7	5/18	Introducing Inferential Statistics Abstract e-mailed to jseiver@bellevuecollege.edu	8
8	5/25	Nonexperimental Research: Descriptive and Correlational Methods Nonexperimental Research: Qualitative Methods Project 4: Analysis 3 due	9 10
	5/27	Pre- and True Experimental Research Methods Bring rough draft of Method and Results Project 4: Analysis 2 due	11
9	6/1	Writing a Research Manuscript Also refer to this website for current APA styles Discuss expectations for posters Project 4: Analysis 4 due	14
	6/3	Bring rough draft of paper for format assessment Work on posters	
10	6/8	Poster presentations of research reports	
	6/10	Group research proposals due promptly at 10:10 a.m. Quasi-Experimental Research: A Close Cousin to Experimental Research	12
11	6/15	Final Exam: 10:10-12:20	<u>8-12, 14</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.