

Fundamentals of Psychological Research

Psy 209
Spring, 2009

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: *Psychologist as Detective, The: An Introduction to Conducting Research in Psychology*, 4/E by Randolph A Smith and Stephen Davis
Text's website: http://wps.prenhall.com/hss_smith_psychologist_4
Class meets: 9:30-11:20 a.m., T & Th, B101

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:

Weekly Quizzes: You will complete 9 weekly quizzes; your top 8 scores will count toward your grade. Each quiz will be worth 50 points.

- The quiz will be allotted the first 30 minutes of class. If you are late to class, I will still collect your test at 10 am with the other students' tests.
- Because I will be dropping your lowest score, there will be NO MAKE-UPS for any reason.

"Your Research" Projects: Each week, you'll complete the projects for the week's chapter(s) at the class website. You'll find the projects by clicking on the "Your Research" link. There are one, two or three projects for each chapter, and they will be due on the date indicated on the Course Calendar. Each chapter's project(s) is/are worth 30 points. I will deduct 10 pts per day for tardiness. I will also deduct 10 pts for submitting the assignment via email.

Research Proposal: You 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.

Rough Drafts: Twice during the quarter, you will submit rough drafts of sections of your research proposal (first the Introduction and References, then the Method, Results and Conclusion). 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 Instructions" checklists (also on my website) to help ensure that your draft is covering all the criteria that your peer will be evaluating.

- You will earn 50 points for each rough draft, on a pass/fail basis.
- Your rough draft must be submitted on or before the due date by 9:40 a.m. in order to earn any points.
 - ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS. Not only will you lose the 50 points for submitting the rough draft, you'll lose the opportunity to have your paper peer-reviewed.
 - NO EMAILED SUBMISSIONS will be accepted. I will return your email unread.
- Unless you submit a rough draft, you will not be eligible to peer review another student's rough draft.
- Bring two copies: One with your title page included for me, another with the title page missing for your peer.

Peer Reviews: You will serve as a reviewer for one of your classmate's rough drafts of the sections of their research proposal. You will give feedback based upon the questions provided in the Peer Review assignment (found in the "Peer Review Instructions" link on our class website). You will earn 50 points for each review; late reviews will lose 5 pts 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 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@BCC this quarter. They will receive extra credit for attending your session, and you will receive extra credit for attending their session.

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 jseiver@bellevuecollege.edu by the date announced in class. Abstracts will be included in a poster session agenda 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. Of course, there's a quiz and assignments due every class meeting, so I expect you to attend at least the first hour of every 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. 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.

I will take roll at the EWU@BCC poster session for extra credit.

Points Possible:

8 quizzes at 50 points each:	400
14 projects at 30 points each:	420
2 rough drafts at 50 points each:	100
2 peer reviews at 50 points each:	100
Final research proposal:	500
Poster presentation of proposal:	200
Proposal abstract	50

Total possible:

1770

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	4/2	The Science of Psychology	1
2	4/7	The Science of Psychology, cont'd	1
	4/9	Projects for Chapter 1 are due by 9:30 a.m.; Quiz for Chapter 1 Research Ideas, Critiquing Research, and Hypotheses	2

3	4/14	Ethics in Psychological Research	3
	4/16	Projects for Chapters 2 & 3 are due by 9:30 a.m.; Quiz for Chs 2 & 3 Writing and Assembling an APA-Format Research Report <u>Discuss rough drafts: Come with specific questions</u>	2 & 3 14
4	4/21	Projects for Chapter 14 are due by 9:30 a.m.; Quiz for Chapter 14 Nonexperimental Methods I	14 4
	4/23	No Class: Professional Development Day	
5	4/28	Nonexperimental Methods II <i>Rough Draft Intro & References due</i>	5
	4/30	Projects for Chapters 4 & 5 are due by 9:30 a.m.; Quiz for Chs 4 & 5 The Basics of Experimentation I	6
6	5/5	The Basics of Experimentation II <i>Peer reviews due</i>	7
	5/7	Projects for Chapters 6 & 7 are due by 9:30 a.m.; Quiz for Chs 6 & 7 Internal and External Validity	6 & 7 8
7	5/12	Using Statistics to Answer Questions <u>Discuss rough drafts: Come with specific questions</u>	9
	5/14	Projects for Chapter 8 & 9 are due by 9:30 a.m.; Quiz for Chs 8 & 9 Designing. . . Experiments with Two Groups <i>Rough Draft Method, Results & Conclusion sections due</i>	8 & 9 10
8	5/19	Projects for Chapter 10 are due by 9:30 a.m.; Quiz for Chapter 10 Designing. . . with more than Two Groups	10 11
	5/21	Designing. . . Experiments with Multiple Independent Variables <i>Peer reviews due</i>	12
9	5/26	Projects for Chapters 11 & 12 due by 9:30 a.m.; Quiz for Chs 11 & 12 Alternative Research Designs	11 & 12 13
	5/28	<u>Discuss Poster preparation</u> <u>Discuss final research proposals: Come with specific questions</u>	
10	6/2	Projects for Chapter 13 are due by 9:30 a.m.; Quiz for Chapter 13 Last chance to ask questions about research proposals	13
	6/3	Extra Credit: Attend EWU@BCC poster session 5:30-7:20 p.m.	
	6/4	<u>Poster Presentations of Research Proposals:</u> 9:30-11:20 a.m.	
11	6/9	<u>Research Proposal Due</u> promptly at 9:30 a.m.	
	6/11	No class	
12	6/16	<u>Graded proposals returned</u> promptly at 9:30 a.m.	