

# Fundamentals of Psychological Research

Psy 209  
Spring, 2008

## General Course Information:

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

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

**Office hours:** By appointment

**Voice mail:** (425)564-2335 (automatically forwards voicemails to my email)

**e-mail:** [jseiver@bcc.ctc.edu](mailto:jseiver@bcc.ctc.edu) (checked every weekday by 2 pm)

**website:** [www.collegecontacts.net/jillseiver](http://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](http://wps.prenhall.com/hss_smith_psychologist_4)

## 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:

**Online Quizzes:** You will complete 13 chapter quizzes; your top 12 scores will count toward your grade. Each quiz will be worth 23 points.

- Log onto the text's website ([http://wps.prenhall.com/hss\\_smith\\_psychologist\\_4](http://wps.prenhall.com/hss_smith_psychologist_4) )
- Click on the current chapter's number, and select "online study guide" from the menu on the left.
- Complete the test; you're welcome to print it out and prepare your answers before logging back in to officially submit your answers.
- Make sure that you click on "submit for grading" when you're done.
- Complete the "Email your results" form:
  - Enter your full name (First and Last)
  - Check the "me" box and enter your own email address in the provided box (this will send a copy to your email address; keep for your records)
  - Check the "instructor" box and enter my email address ([jseiver@bcc.ctc.edu](mailto:jseiver@bcc.ctc.edu)) in the provided box (this will send a copy to my email address)
  - Leave the "send as" column in its default "text" status
- You are welcome to study for the quizzes with a classmate, but **SUBMIT YOUR OWN, INDEPENDENT ANSWERS.**
  - If I detect cheating, all involved parties will receive a zero for the quiz.
  - Second incidents will result in an F for the course and immediate expulsion from the class.
- The fill-in-the-blank items can be a problem. If you make a typo, or use a synonym in your answer, you will be marked wrong. I will do a visual assessment of each test, making sure that you get credit for every answer that is fundamentally correct. No need to worry – I will automatically take care of the inevitable discrepancies, and I will provide feedback on it after the test deadline in the form of an email (that's why you **MUST** include your email in the "email your results" form).
- The essay boxes need to be hand-scored by me. I will reply to your submission with my feedback.
- Because I will be dropping your lowest score, there will be **NO MAKE-UPS** for any reason. No late submissions will be accepted for any reason.

**Projects:** There are three project assignments found at my website (<http://www.collegecontacts.net/jillseiver>) in the link called "Projects." Each project is worth 50 points. They are graded pass/fail, and will earn no credit if submitted after the deadline.

| <b>Project</b> | <b>Topic</b>            | <b>Due Date</b> |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1              | Finding a topic         | 4/9             |
| 2              | Finding articles online | 4/11            |
| 3              | Citation styles         | 4/17            |

**Lab Reports:** To help bring the different research methods to life, we will conduct small studies that replicate well-known studies. Some of the data collection will occur in class, some will occur outside of class time, some will be done in groups, and some will be done by individuals. Everyone is required to collect data in five research methods. Each lab report will be worth 50 points. You may **NOT** make up the lab reports that are scheduled to occur in class.

**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](http://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 10% per day (weekends included), with no points being earned for proposals submitted after the first Tuesday after the deadline.

**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 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. Unless you submit a rough draft, you will not be eligible to peer review another student’s rough draft.

**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 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 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. You will sign up for your presentation day on the date indicated on the course calendar. You must present on the day for which you've signed up. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** If you aren't in class on the sign-up day, I'll assign you a day, and it's up to you to find out from me what date you've been assigned.

## **Attendance**

### **Lectures**

It is expected that you will attend lectures, but it is not required. 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.

### **Poster Sessions**

I will take attendance at the poster sessions. Attendance will be worth 50 points for each session.

### Points Possible:

|   |      |
|---|------|
| 12 quizzes at 23 points each:               | 276  |
| 3 projects at 50 points each:               | 150  |
| 5 lab reports at 50 points each:            | 250  |
| 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  |
| Attendance at poster sessions, 50 pts each: | 100  |
| Total possible:                             | 1676 |

### 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.

## Inclement Weather

If there is a storm and campus is open but you're not sure whether I will be holding class, please call my voicemail. If I'm cancelling my classes, I will leave a message telling you so. If the standard message plays, then class is going on as scheduled.

### Calendar of Events

| Week | Date     | Topic/Event  | Chapter |
|------|----------|--|---------|
| 1    | 3/31-4/4 | The Science of Psychology  | 1       |
| 2    | 4/7      | <b>Quiz for Chapter 1 is due by 8:30 a.m.</b>  | 1       |
|      | 4/7-8    | Research Ideas, Critiquing Research, and Hypotheses  | 2       |
|      | 4/9      | Project 1 is due by 8:30 a.m.  |         |
|      | 4/9-11   | NO CLASS: Instructor @ WPA.<br>Read Ethics in Psychological Research on your own.                      | 3       |
|      | 4/11     | Project 2 is due by 8:30 a.m.  |         |
| 3    | 4/14     | <b>Quizzes for Chapters 2 &amp; 3 are due by 8:30 a.m.</b>   | 2 & 3   |
|      | 4/14-17  | Nonexperimental Methods I  | 4       |
|      | 4/17     | Project 3 is due by 8:30 a.m.<br>Observational Lab Report conducted during class                       |         |
|      | 4/18     | Observational Lab Report due<br><u>Discuss rough drafts: Come with specific questions</u>              |         |
| 4    | 4/21     | <b>Quiz for Chapter 4 is due by 8:30 a.m.</b><br>Surveys distributed for Lab Report                    | 4       |
|      | 4/21-22  | Nonexperimental Methods II   | 5       |
|      | 4/23     | NO CLASS: Instructor appointment   |         |
|      | 4/24     | Nonexperimental Methods II, cont'd   | 5       |
|      | 4/25     | <i>Rough Draft Intro &amp; References due</i><br>Surveys due for completion of Lab Report during class |         |
| 5    | 4/28     | <b>Quiz for Chapter 5 is due by 8:30 a.m.</b>  | 5       |
|      | 4/28-5/1 | The Basics of Experimentation I  | 6       |
|      | 5/1      | Experimental Lab Report conducted during class<br><i>Peer reviews due</i>                              | 7       |
| 6    | 5/5      | <b>Quiz for Chapter 6 is due by 8:30 a.m.</b>  | 6       |
|      | 5/5      | The Basics of Experimentation II   | 7       |
|      | 5/6      | <b>NO SCHOOL: Professional Development Day</b>   |         |

|  |       |  |   |
|--|-------|--|---|
|  | 5/7   | The Basics of Experimentation II, cont'd | 7 |
|  | 5/8-9 | Internal and External Validity           | 8 |

|    |         |  |                  |
|----|---------|--|------------------|
| 7  | 5/12    | <b>Quizzes for Chapters 7 &amp; 8 are due by 8:30 a.m.</b>   | <b>7 &amp; 8</b> |
|    | 5/12-15 | Using Statistics to Answer Questions   | 9                |
|    | 2/15    | <u>Discuss rough drafts:</u> <i>Come with specific questions</i>   |                  |
| 8  | 5/19    | <b>Quiz for Chapter 9 is due by 8:30 a.m.</b><br>Distribute materials for Two Group Lab Report                                 |                  |
|    | 5/19-22 | Designing. . . Experiments with Two Groups   | 10               |
|    | 5/22    | Two group Lab Report completed during class  |                  |
|    | 5/23    | <i>Rough Draft Method, Results &amp; Conclusion sections due</i>   |                  |
| 9  | 5/26    | <b>NO SCHOOL: Memorial Day</b>   |                  |
|    | 5/27    | <b>Quiz for Chapter 10 are due by 8:30 a.m.</b><br><i>Peer reviews due</i><br>Materials for Multiple IV Lab Report distributed | <b>10</b>        |
|    | 5/27-29 | Designing. . . with more than Two Groups   | 11               |
|    | 5/30    | Multiple IV Lab Report completed during class<br><u>Discuss final research proposals:</u> <i>Come with specific questions</i>  |                  |
| 10 | 6/2     | <b>Quiz for Chapter 11 is due by 8:30 a.m.</b><br>Discuss poster preparation & sign up for poster sessions                     | <b>11</b>        |
|    | 6/2-3   | Designing. . . Experiments with Multiple Independent Variables   | 12               |
|    | 6/4-5   | Alternative Research Designs   | 13               |
|    | 6/6     | <i>Research Proposal Due</i>   |                  |
| 11 | 6/9     | <b>Quiz for Chapters 12 &amp; 13 are due by 8:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>12</b>        |
|    | 6/9     | <i>Poster Presentations of Research Proposals, Session 1</i>   |                  |
|    | 6/10    | <i>Poster Presentations of Research Proposals, Session 2</i>   |                  |

**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.*