

Fundamentals of Psychological Research

Psy 209
Fall, 2017

General Course Information:

Instructor: Jillene Grover Seiver, Ph.D

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Classroom: <https://bc.instructure.com>

Text: *How to Think Straight about Psychology* by Keith E. Stanovich

Prerequisites: Psych 100

Course Description:

The study of the methodology and attitudes of psychology irrespective of any special area. Considers techniques for evaluating information, discovering invalid interpretations and uncovering alternative explanations. These are illustrated by reading research articles and classroom discussion of the articles and of popular beliefs.

Course Requirements:

APA Exercises: I have designed four exercises that will help you to get started on your APA Paper. You will find the in Canvas, and you will bring your work to class on the date indicated on the assignment. Each exercise is worth 5 points.

Weekly Reports: At the Canvas website, you will find the Weekly Reports. These assignments relate to the material that we'll cover in class during each week (readings and my lecture).

You will complete the required assignment, and submit your report to the assignment dropbox prior to the start of the next week's class meeting. Each assignment has very specific instructions, so each assignment will have different potential length and word count. My requirement is that you complete the assignment fully and with insight. Each week's assignment is worth 10 pts.

No late submissions will be accepted for any reason. The dropbox will lock you out when the deadline passes, and I will not accept emailed submissions.

Exams: There will be a midterm and a non-cumulative final on the dates indicated on the Course Calendar. There will be several short answer questions to choose from; you will need to answer a subset (pay attention to the instructions at the beginning of the exam). Each exam will be worth 100 points, and will be allotted 2 hours.

- Make-up exams will be available for the following, documented, reasons:
 - Personal illness or injury, documented by a doctor's note, and with notification to me before the test is missed (via phone or email)
 - Death in the immediate family, documented by a note from the funeral director.
- Exams must be made up within one week of the test's date.
- If you know you're going to miss an Exam for an unavoidable reason, we can administer the test before the scheduled date so that you won't miss it.
 - No make-ups after the Exam when the absence is planned.
 - No early Final to accommodate winter break travel plans.

APA Paper: You will select a topic and write a five page literature review in APA style.

- There are three projects in Canvas that will facilitate your progress. See Canvas for due dates.
- There is a sample literature review in Canvas that will serve as your model for how to write your paper.

- Requirements: You must cite at least 10 peer-reviewed research sources. The detailed guidelines, requirements, and grading rubric are all in Canvas.
- No late submissions will be accepted for any reason. I need time to read the papers before grades are due!

Attendance:

I expect that you will attend lectures. There is a great deal of information presented in the text, and the lectures will serve to narrow that information down. Also, there will be a large number of demonstrations, film clips, and participatory activities that will enhance your experience. Most importantly, I will administer pop quizzes for extra credit; you must be in class when I begin the quiz to earn any extra credit.

Academic integrity

It is assumed that all students will maintain the highest academic integrity. Cheating of any sort, including copying on exams, falsifying records, plagiarism (e.g. copying and pasting from a website, collaborating on tests), etc. will not be tolerated, and suspected cheaters will be reported to the Dean of Academic Education.

No electronic devices (cell phones, mp3/iPods, dictionaries, laptops, etc) will be allowed during lectures or exams.

Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

Religious Holidays

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance will be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide me with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, at least one week before the planned missed day.

College Anti-Discrimination Statement

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; color; creed; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; gender identity or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates.

Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share with the Title IX Coordinator any and all information regarding sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct (e.g. dating violence, domestic violence, stalking) that may have occurred on campus or that impacts someone on campus. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the BC Counseling Center at (425) 564-2212. The Title IX Office can be contacted at 425-564-2441 and more information can be found at www.bellevuecollege.edu/titleix/.

Points Possible:

11 reports @ 10 points each:	110
3 APA exercises @ 5 points each:	15
Midterm/Final 2 @ 100 pts each:	200
APA Paper @ 100 pts:	100
Total possible:	425

Grading Palette:			
A: 4.0	=> 95%	C: 2.0	74-76%
A-: 3.7	90-94%	C-: 1.7	70-73%
B+: 3.3	87-89%	D+: 1.3	67-69%
B: 3.0	84-86%	D: 1.0	64-66%
B-: 2.7	80-83%	D-: 0.7	60-63%
C+: 2.3	77-79%	F: 0.0	<= 59%

Course Calendar

Week	Date	Topic/Event	Chapter
1	9/19 & 21	Psychology is alive and well (and doing fine among the sciences)	1
2	9/26 & 28	Falsifiability: How to foil little green men in the head	2
3	10/3 & 5	Operationism and Essentialism: “But, Doctor, what does it really mean?”	3
4	10/10 & 12	Testimonials and case study evidence: Placebo effects and the Amazing Randi	4
5	10/17 & 19	Correlation and causation: Birth control by the toaster method	5
6	10/24 & 26	Getting things under control: The case of Clever Hans	6
7	10/31	Midterm Exam: 11:30am-1:20 pm	1-6
	11/2	“But it’s not real life!”: The artificiality criticism and psychology	7
8	11/7 & 9	Avoiding the Einstein Syndrome: The importance of converging evidence	8
9	11/14 & 16	The misguided search for the “Magic Bullet”: The issue of multiple causation	9
10	11/21	The Achilles’ heel of human cognition: Probabilistic reasoning	10
	11/23	No Class: Thanksgiving	
11	11/28	APA Paper due in Canvas by 11:59 pm on Tuesday The role of chance in psychology	11
	11/30	The Rodney Dangerfield of the sciences	12
12	12/5	Final Exam: 11:30am-1:20 pm	7-12