

Course Syllabus

Title: Research Methods in Psychology – PSY 3110: Section 003
(Writing Across the Curriculum Course; WAC)

Term: Spring 2013
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 12:00pm-1:40pm

Location: University Hall – Room #5000

Credit Hours: 4

Contacts:	<u>Instructor</u>		<u>Teaching Assistant</u>
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays: 11:00am-12:00pm		TBA
	University Hall (UH) – Room #1370		University Hall – Room #1066

Required Text: Gravetter, F. J., & Forzano, L. B. (2012). Research methods for the behavioral sciences (4th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1-111-34225-8

American Psychological Association (2009). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Both books should be available in the UT Barnes & Noble Bookstore.

Course Description:

Design, execution, analysis and reporting of research in psychology. Lecture and laboratory.

Prerequisite: 1) PSY 2100 (Statistical Methods; minimum grade of C minus).

Learning Objectives:

1. Students should identify various methods to analyze research questions in clinical psychology.
2. Students should describe basic procedures on how to design a study to test a psychological research question.

Course Policies and Procedures

1. **Attendance:** It is the responsibility of each student to attend all classes, and turn in all assignments on time. Student attendance is worth 10% of the final grade. No excused absences will be allowed for any reason; however, you are allowed to miss up to two classes without penalty. **Therefore, there is no need to contact the instructor about missed class sessions.**

Please do not arrive late to class! Students who consistently arrive late will be asked to not return to class.

a. Classroom Environment. It is expected that the classroom environment will be peaceful and respectful. Because it is distracting to have students use cell phones and computers in class (for any electronic communication), **cell phone and computer use (except during class exercises) in class are prohibited.** Students who use cell phones or computers in class will be asked to leave class.

b. Buddy System. It is the student's responsibility to find a partner/buddy in class early in the semester (from their designed team, discussed below). If the student misses a lecture, s/he can consult with their



buddy to borrow class notes. After a missed class, the Instructor will not be able to meet with the student to review what transpired in class.

2. Research Project. One goal of this course (30% of grade) is for students to design a psychology research study. This will be accomplished using the following steps implemented in a written report: 1) discuss and select an appropriate, narrowly focused research topic/area in psychology; 2) review and adequately summarize the recent literature that has analyzed the research topic, 3) formulate a research question(s), and hypothesis/hypotheses within the research topic (based on the literature review's findings); 4) design a study (considering specific procedures and instruments) to test the hypothesis, 5) discuss how to analyze the results of the study using statistical procedures.

The class sessions will involve generally discussing methodology and statistical issues in psychology research, to provide students with training on how to conceptualize and conduct their studies. Class sessions will also involve discussion and questions pertinent to the particular studies being developed.

Papers must be 15-20 pages in length. References/sources must come from mental health, psychology and psychiatry journals or books (start by searching PsycInfo). No more than 1-2 (non-PsycInfo) internet references may be used. **Topics must be approved by the instructor beforehand.** Papers must be typed with a 12 pt. Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins, and are due via e-mail by **April 25**. Papers may be submitted early for corrective feedback. APA format is required for references.

Note: every student in the class must complete a brief plagiarism tutorial early in the semester (**by January 29**). **No grades will be assigned until the tutorial is completed.** This tutorial can be found at: www.jon-elhai.com/courses/plagiarism-tutorial

3. Exams. There will be two exams, consisting of multiple choice questions. Exam material will be taken from the textbook and lectures. Each exam is worth 30% of your final course grade. **No makeup exams will be given!**

4. Grading:

Grading scale

A	93-100	A-	90-92	B+	87-89
B	83-86	B-	80-82	C+	77-79
C	73-76	C-	70-72	D+	67-69
D	63-66	D-	60-62	F	< 60

No other grades will be given except as noted above. If a student is doing poorly in the course (by not attending or by failing to adequately contribute to the team project), it is the student's responsibility to drop or withdraw from the course before the appropriate deadline. If it is too late to drop or withdraw from the course, a mark of "Incomplete" will not be assigned; rather the student will be assigned the actual grade earned.

5. Academic Honesty: Department of Psychology Statement on Academic Honesty - Academic honesty is expected from students enrolled in courses and programs offered by the Department of Psychology; violations of this expectation will not be tolerated.

Violations of the expectation of academic honesty include, but are not limited to:

- * Obtaining or attempting to obtain a copy of an examination prior to its administration.
- * The unauthorized use of study material or textbooks during an examination.
- * Obtaining unauthorized assistance from and giving unauthorized assistance to another individual during an examination or completion of an assignment.
- * Plagiarism in written assignments. Plagiarism includes: (a) using, copying or paraphrasing another author's materials without appropriate acknowledgment through quotation and citation; (b) unauthorized collaboration in the preparation of reports, term papers, or theses.

In accordance with the Policy Statement in the University Catalog, instructors have the responsibility and right to bring cases of alleged dishonesty to department, college, and university administrative units. Students involved in academic dishonesty may expect to receive a grade of F on specific assignments, as well as in the course where the assignment was made.

Student Behavior - Students are expected to follow University policy with regards to proper conduct in the classroom, as detailed in the University of Toledo Student Handbook (See <http://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/dos/> for details.) Disciplinary action for violation of these policies will be decided on a case by case basis and will be in accord with University policy.

6. **Class Communication**: the Instructor will communicate to students by email about class announcements, changes to the course schedule (including class cancellations), and grades. **It is the student's responsibility to check their UT email account daily for such announcements.**

7. **Additional Ground Rules**: 1) Grade disputes must be submitted in writing in order to be considered. 2) Grievances about the course and/or instructor should be brought up with that individual first in order to resolve the matter, prior to discussing the matter with the department/university's administration.

At the end of the semester, students will be given the opportunity to evaluate this course and instructor using course evaluation forms. Some students also prefer to evaluate the course/instructor at external websites that focus on instructor evaluations. Just as the instructor does the courtesy of assigning final course grades only after all exams and assignments are completed, I ask that students return that courtesy by evaluating the course/instructor only after the course is complete.

8. **Office of Accessibility**. Students registered with the Office of Accessibility for a disability must discuss possible accommodations with the Instructor during the first week of class in order to allow such accommodations to occur.

Schedule of Classes and Readings (The assigned chapter should be read **before** each class)

Week	Required Reading (Gravetter)	Class Session	Activity Due
1/7	Chapter 1	Introduction	
1/14	Chapter 2	Research Ideas	
1/21	Chapters 3-4	Measurement/Ethics	
1/28	Chapter 5	Subject Selection	Plagiarism Tutorial Due
2/4	Chapter 6	Research Strategies	
2/11	Chapters 7-8	Exper./Between-Subjects	
2/18	Chapter 9	Within-Subjects Design	
2/25	EXAM 1 (Thurs. February 28)		
3/4	SPRING BREAK		
3/11	Chapter 10	Quasi-Experiments	
3/18	Chapter 11	Factorial Designs	
3/25	Chapters 12-13	Correlational/Descriptive Designs	
4/8	Chapter 14	Single Subject Design	
4/15	Chapter 15	Statistical Evaluation of Data	
4/22	Chapter 16	APA Style	Papers Due (4/25)
4/29	EXAM 2 TIME (12:30-1:30 – Tuesday April 30)		

Note: This syllabus may be appended by the instructor if necessary. Students are responsible for any changes made.

