Syllabus Winter 2014
Research Methods (Psychology 303) CRN 26368, 221 MCK

Instructor: Theodore Bell, Ph.D.
tbell1@uoregon.edu,
Office: LISB 123, Office hours: Tuesdays 10-11:30.

Course Objectives: The text and this course have been developed around the twofold notion of becoming a wise consumer of science, and a more proficient producer of science. We will cover scientific thinking, evaluating claims, research design, research ethics, and scientific writing.

Prerequisites: Writing 122 or 123, Psychology 302.

Grading & Evaluation

Lecture: 348 pts
5 in-class activities (7 pts each, drop one) : 28 pts.
Out-of-class activities (short exercises) : 20 pts.
3 exams (100 pts each)* : 300pts
*Optional cumulative final can replace lowest exam

Lab: 232 pts
Lab Homework : 52 pts
Literature review paper : 30 pts
Correlational paper : 60 pts
Experimental paper : 90 pts

Total points: 580

Grading scheme:

In general, written work in this course will be graded based on form (i.e., proper APA formatting, spelling, grammar, sentence structure, length), critical thinking (i.e., how well you display knowledge of the material, how well you have analyzed and evaluated the material, and how well you effectively communicate the information), and the assignment criteria that are outlined in each assignment (i.e., completing all aspects of the work assigned based on the instructions and guidelines of the assignment). The final grade assigned for the course should reflect the student’s overall performance in the course, as described by the following guidelines: A excellent work, complete mastery of course material B good work, grasps most of the important concepts
C average work, grasps many but not all aspects of course material D poor work, insufficient understanding of material F failing

Grades will be assigned based on your total percentage points in the course:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>99-100%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>72-77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-98%</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-91%</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>62-67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82-87%</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-61%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-81%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and Below</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79%</td>
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Reading:


Link to supplemental material and online learning center from publisher: [http://wwnorton.com/college/psych/research-methods-in-psychology/](http://wwnorton.com/college/psych/research-methods-in-psychology/)

**Recommended books:**


**Additional Readings:** occasional readings to be distributed in class and/or on Blackboard

**Structure of the Course**

**Lecture:** One of the main goals of the lecture sessions is to develop your skills as a consumer of psychology research. Lectures will also provide you with tools to be a skilled producer of research, a skillset that you will build upon concretely in the lab component of the course. The lecture sessions will include review and explanation of selected textbook material, active learning that will teach you how to critically evaluate others’ research and produce high quality original research, elaboration of some topics with information not provided in the textbook, and in-class exercises. You are expected to take responsibility for what is covered in class. The most important way to do this is to show up and be an active participant in lecture. I will use a combination of PowerPoint presentations, writing on the white board, discussion, illustrative examples, and in-class exercises to teach the main concepts. Whenever appropriate, lecture slides and outlines will be posted on Blackboard. Note that these documents serve to outline the lecture and...
are by no means comprehensive. You should not rely on these posted documents for your course notes; rather, you should use them to organize the notes that you take during class.

**In-Class Activity Assignments:** Five times throughout the term, a graded in-class activity will be assigned for you to complete. No preparation is required, and each activity assignment is due at the end of class that day and will be worth 7 points each. Activity assignments cannot be made up. Four of these activity assignments will count toward your final grade. This means you may miss one activity assignment without penalty.

**Out-of-Class Exercises:** You will be asked to complete a few out-of-class exercises at various periods throughout the term. These exercises will be relatively short (e.g., an online questionnaire). You will be notified via Blackboard about these exercises. Announcements will also be made in class.

**Exams:** There will be three mandatory exams throughout the term as well as an optional cumulative final exam during finals week (see Course Calendar for specific dates). Each exam will cover the textbook chapters listed in the course calendar in addition to the lecture material we covered in class. All exams will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions (2 points each) and a few short answer/essay questions (20 points total). If you take the optional comprehensive final exam, your lowest grade of all four exams will be dropped. There will be no makeup exams in case of illness or travel. If you are sick or out of town and miss one of the exams, you must take the final exam to make up for the missed exam. If you traveling on a university-sanctioned trip (e.g., for athletics), documentation will be required for alternative arrangements.

**Lab Work:** The lab component of the course will focus on skills required to produce original research in psychology. It will give you hands-on experience designing, conducting, analyzing, and writing up your own research studies. The majority of lab points will be based on successful completion of three papers. The first is a literature review in which you will review the past research on a topic in psychology and make predictions about the relevant variables. The second paper will be based on a correlational study that each lab will conduct using measures of the relevant variables from the first paper. The results will be analyzed and written up in an APA style paper. The third paper will be based on an experiment. Again, the results of the experimental data will be analyzed and written up in an APA style paper. In addition to these three papers, points in lab will also be based on attendance and homework assignments. Please see the lab syllabus for further details.

**Teaching Philosophy:** A teacher is part coach, part actor, part thief (lifting from anywhere that will help), and part student (still always learning). A student is open to new ideas, diligent in effort to master new things, eager to surpass him/herself, is an active partner in the process, and part cowboy (always willing to get back up on the horse that bucked him or her off).
**Classroom interactions:** We are all adults, and I would like to emphasize that all communications should be respectful of the participants. Also, if you find yourself distracted by, or become a distraction with your cell-phone, please put it in airplane mode. Likewise for your laptops.

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**Student Accommodations**

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me. Also, please request that the Accessible Education Center (164 Oregon Hall, http://aec.uoregon.edu/contact.html) send me a letter verifying your disability. The phone number for AEC is 346-1155 and the email address is uoaec@uoregon.edu

**Students for Whom English is Not Their Native Language:** Foreign language dictionaries are permitted during exams. If you find that you do need additional time to complete the first exam, please let me know, and we will make arrangements ahead of time for all future exams.

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**Course Calendar: Subject to minor change**

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<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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| 1   | Tues: Jan 7  
Thurs: Jan 9 | Introduction/Overview  
Theories & Hypotheses | Ch. 1  
Ch. 2 |
| 2   | Tues: Jan 14  
Thurs: Jan 16 | 3 Claims, 4 Validities framework  
Good Measurement | Ch. 3  
Ch. 5 |
| 3   | Tues: Jan 21  
Thurs: Jan 23 | Measurement Continued  
Exam 1 | Ch. 5 |
| 4   | Tues: Jan 28  
Thurs: Jan 30 | Ethical Research  
Surveys and Observations | Ch. 4  
Ch. 6  
App. A (opt) |
| 5   | Tues: Feb 4  
Thurs: Feb 6 | Sampling/External Validity,  
Correlation  
Multivariate Correlation | Ch. 7  
App. B (opt)  
Ch. 8 |
| 6   | Tues: Feb 11  
Thurs: Feb 13 | Evaluating Association Claims  
Exam 2 | Ch. 8 |
| 7   | Tues: Feb 18  
Thurs: Feb 20 | Experiments; Threats to Internal Validity  
Experimental Design | Ch. 9  
Ch. 10 |
| 8   | Tues: Feb 25  
Thurs: Feb 27 | Complex Experimental Designs  
Complex Experimental Designs | Ch. 11  
Ch. 12 |
| 9   | Tues: Mar 4  
Thurs: Mar 6 | Quasi-Experimental Designs/Generalizing results | Ch. 13 |
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>Wed: Mar 19th</td>
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<td>Final exam 8:00 Wed</td>
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