

Introduction to Experimental Psychology

Psychology 355

Summer I 2011

Days: Monday - Thursday

Class Time: 10:15 – 12:20, SB 216

Lab Time: 12:35 – 2:35, SB 223

Instructor: Richard Ogle, PhD

Office: SB 214A

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: 910.962.7753

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Texts

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Ed.* Washington, DC: APA.

Ness-Evans, A. & Rooney, B.J. (2011). *Methods in Psychological Research, 2nd Edition.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Course Description

How do psychologists come to know what we know? For that matter, how do you come to know what you know? This course is an introduction to one aspect of those answers. The concepts involved in experimental psychology and research design are the pillars of our science. Awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of the assumptions and methods of scientific psychology is critical for all who are interested in the science of behavior regardless of whether one wants to be a clinician, researcher, or anyone with knowledge in this field. Both in lecture and lab we will learn and apply the basics of the philosophy of science, ethics in research, design of research and statistical analysis involved in the research process.

Course Requirements

Requirements for this course include:

1. Reading the assigned chapters (Bring books to class everyday).
2. Three multiple choice/short answer exams.
3. Participation in, and writing assignments relative to the activities in class and lab.
4. Final paper that is a full write-up of a project we do over the course of the session

Grading

Grades will be assigned based on test scores, writing assignments, participation, and the final paper.

Point totals are as follows:

1. Three 100-point exams.....300 points
2. Lab Assignments (3).....100 points
3. Final Paper.....100 points
4. Lab Participation.....20 points

Total = 520

Your grade will be based on your final point total. **The highest point total obtained in the calls will be the top of the scale.** Grades will be scaled off this total using the standard grade ranges. The grade ranges are as follows:

90% or greater = A range

80% - 89% = B range

70 - 79% = C range

60 - 69% = D range

59% and below = F range

Important Information

1. The nature of the material and the way it is presented necessitates being in class. In addition, your participation score will be influenced by attendance.
2. Normally exams cannot be made-up. If you know in advance that you cannot make a certain test date, talk to me and we can schedule the test in advance. In certain emergency/bizarre circumstances tests can be made up if missed.
3. I am not normally a fan of cheating. Cheating will be dealt with based on UNCW policies. Please refer to your student handbook. Short version – cheaters fail the course.
4. The purpose of this class is to have fun learning about yourself and others. Enjoy.

Schedule

Meeting	Lecture	Lab
May		
19	Chapter 1: Intro to Research Design I	No Lab
23	Chapter 1: Intro to Research Design II	No Lab
24	Chapter 2: Understanding Research Literature	Literature Search Exercise – Lab Report #1: Introduction
25	Chapter 3: Research Ethics	Ethics Exercise
26	Exam 1: Multiple Choice and Short Answer	Exam
30	MEMORIAL DAY – NO CLASS	NO LAB
31	Chapter 4: Hypothesis Testing, Power & Control	SPSS Tutorial (LR #1 Due 5:00)
June		
1	Chapter 5: Measuring Variables	SPSS Assignment #1

2	Chapter 6: Selecting Participants	SPSS Assignment #2
6	Exam 2: Multiple Choice and Short Answer	Exam
7	Chapter 7: Independent Group Designs	Data Collection and Analysis
8	Chapter 7: Independent Group Designs	Set-up Lab Report #2 – Methods & Results
9	Chapter 8: Dependent Groups Designs	Data Collection & Analysis (LR#2 Due 5:00)
13	Chapter 8: Dependent Groups Designs	Set-up Lab Report #3 – Methods, Results, Discussion
14	Chapter 9: Single Subject Designs	Intro to Final Project (LR #3 Due 5:00)
15	Chapter 10: Non-experimental Research	Data Collection
16	Chapter 11: Data Collection Methods	Data Collection
20	Chapter 12: Archival Research and Program Evaluation	Data Analysis & Set-up
21	Final Exam: Multiple Choice and Short Answer (11:00 am)	Final Paper Due at 5:00pm