

\*\*\*\* This is a SAMPLE Syllabus. \*\*\*\*

**PSYC 3214: Research Methods**  
**T/Th 8:00 – 9:15**  
**Building 39/ Room 1003**  
**Fall 2007**

Professor: Juliana K. Leding, Ph.D.

Office: Building 51 Room 3419

email: j.leding@unf.edu

Office Phone/Voicemail: (904) 620-1630

Class Website: blackboard.unf.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 9:00 – 10:30; Thursday 2:00 – 3:30 and by appointment

Required Texts: *Research Methods in Psychology* by Elmes, Kantowitz, & Roediger, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

*Writing with Style: APA Style Made Easy* by Szuchman, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

Other readings will be made available on Blackboard

### **Course Description**

This course provides an understanding of the philosophy of science and psychology as a branch of science, enhances critical thinking and logical inference and elaborates basic research methodologies in psychology. Ethical principles in research also are covered. The prerequisite for this course is STA 2014. We will be discussing, using, and writing about statistics in this course.

By the end of the course you *should* be able to

- Read a research article and *critically evaluate* the method, results, and discussion
- Understand the intricacies of experimental design and design a methodologically sound experiment
- Use library resources to find citations and articles
- Write about an experiment in clear, concise language using APA style

The format of this course consists mostly of structured lectures and some in-class discussion; I want to make it very clear that I want you to feel free to ask questions at any time. Students are advised to take very thorough class notes. Merely copying down what is on the overhead slides will not be sufficient. Audio recording of the lectures is NOT authorized without express permission from me.

### **Attendance**

Attendance will be taken every day and your attendance will count toward your final grade. Therefore, **I strongly encourage you to attend every lecture**. Although most of the lecture material will be derived from the textbook, I will cover material in class that is not in the book. Therefore, it is highly profitable for you to attend class. In order to be prepared for the class lectures, I strongly encourage you to read (or at least preview) the assigned text material before I begin lecturing on the topic. You will then be able to understand the terminology, and to see how the new material fits with other topics and issues that have been previously considered. There will be three days in the semester where we will be completing in-class experiments. Attendance on this day counts as two regular class days, so do not miss these days!

### **Missing Class**

If you will not be in class for a lecture, you do not need to call or e-mail me to tell me that you will not be in class. If you do miss class, you are responsible for getting the lecture notes. Please find someone in class that can lend them to you as I do not give out copies of class notes or slides. If you must miss class due to an event that is University approved (e.g., an athletic event) then please contact me with the appropriate documentation (e.g., a signed letter from your coach) so your absence could be excused. University approved events will be the only absences that could qualify as an excused absence.

### **Cell Phones**

Out of respect for your fellow students, please turn off all cell phones before the start of class each day. It is very distracting when phones go off during class and when people are sending and receiving text messages. In addition, all electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, pagers, MP3 players, calculators) will need to be put away during class and exams.

## Course Components

Your grade in this class will be based on 550 points and will be determined by your performance on the following components:

- Attendance – 60 points
- TMR's – 120 points
- Assignment – 25 points
- Quizzes – 45 points
- Exams – 300 points

How will your performance be evaluated?

- Attendance – 60 points – There are 27 class days in our class (not counting two regular class days for exams). On three of these days we will be participating in in-class experiments. Your participation in these experiments is extremely important in order for the experiments to work. On these three days, you will receive four points for being in class for a total of 12 points. For the other 24 days you will receive two points for being in class for a total of 48 points.
- TMR's – 120 points – We will be participating in three in-class experiments. After you participate in these experiments, I will analyze the data and we will discuss it in class. You will then write a Title Page, a Method section, and a Results section for that experiment. Your grade for each TMR will be determined by the quality of writing, the clarity of writing, and your adherence to APA style guidelines. There are three TMR's throughout the semester. The first one will be worth 30 points, the second will be worth 40 points, and the third one will be worth 50 points. The point values are set up in this way because there is the expectation that as we progress through the course you will get better at writing these reports, therefore the TMR at the end of the course will be worth more than the one at the beginning. Guidelines for these assignments will be given to you later in the semester. TMR's are due at the beginning of class on the days that they are assigned. Late TMR's (including those not turned in by the beginning of class) will lose 20% of the points possible for each day that they are late.
- Assignment – 25 points – During the first unit of the semester you will be asked to participate in a library research assignment. This assignment will be worth 25 points. Guidelines for this assignment will be given to you as the assignment approaches. The assignment is due on September 18th. Late assignments will lose five points for each day they are late.
- Quizzes – 45 points – We will be reading three scientific journal articles as part of this course. On the days when we will be discussing the articles you will take a quiz about the information within the article. These quizzes will be given to encourage you to *critically* read the article thoroughly so that you can *participate in the discussion*. Each quiz will be worth 15 points and there will be NO makeup quizzes.
- Exams – 300 points – We will have three unit exams. Each exam will be worth 100 points. There will be NO makeup exams.

All assignments and TMR's will need to be turned in to me in the form of a paper document (I will not accept email attachments).

## Grading Policy

**A total of 550 points will be available for this class.** Grades will be assigned according to the following "percentage of total point" and "total points earned" cutoffs:

<b>90% and above</b>	<b>(over 495 points)</b>	- <b>A</b>
<b>80 - 89%</b>	<b>(440 - 494 points)</b>	- <b>B</b>
<b>70 - 79%</b>	<b>(385- 439 points)</b>	- <b>C</b>
<b>60 - 69%</b>	<b>(330 - 384 points)</b>	- <b>D</b>
<b>&lt; 60%</b>	<b>(less than 330 points)</b>	- <b>F</b>

## **Make-Up Examinations**

As stated above, there will be NO MAKEUP exams. If you must miss a regularly scheduled exam due to an event that is University approved (e.g., an athletic event) or an *extraordinary* circumstance you must make arrangements with me **at least one week prior to the exam** and you will need to provide the appropriate documentation in order to make these arrangements. Furthermore, the exam in question will be taken before its regularly scheduled date. If I have not approved a missed examination and scheduled a time with you for you to take the exam, then there will be **absolutely no** chance to make up the exam. Any student arriving late to an exam will only be permitted to take the exam as long as NO other students taking the exam have already completed the test and left the room. If this is the case, late-arriving students will have until the end of the class period to finish the exam.

## **Academic Honesty**

Please note that cheating of any kind will constitute a violation of the University's Academic Integrity Policy and will result in a grade of "F" for the **entire** course. Furthermore, violators may be referred for academic misconduct. If cheating is suspected but definitive proof is not available, I reserve the right to administer any exam or assignment in question. Looking at other students' work during exams as well as allowing other students to look off of your work both constitute cheating and will be punished accordingly. We will discuss plagiarism within the context of the course, but you should keep in mind that plagiarism is a very serious offense and is a form of cheating. Thus, if you are caught plagiarizing someone's work (a published author's or a classmate's) then you will receive a grade of "F" for the entire course.

## **Other Information**

\*\*\*It should be noted that the course schedule and course policies in this syllabus are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. I do not anticipate making changes to the schedule, however, so you should familiarize yourself with the dates for the in-class experiments, class discussions, paper due-dates, and exam dates.

Students with disabilities who seek reasonable accommodations in the classroom or other aspects of performing their coursework must first register with the UNF Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in Building 10, Room 1201. DRC staff members work with students to obtain required documentation of disability and to identify appropriate accommodations as required by applicable disability laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). After receiving all necessary documentation, the DRC staff determines whether a student qualifies for services with the DRC and if so, the accommodations the student will be provided. DRC staff then prepares a letter for the student to provide faculty advising them of approved accommodations. For further information, contact the DRC by phone (904) 620-2769, email ([kwebb@unf.edu](mailto:kwebb@unf.edu)), or visit the DRC website (<http://www.unf.edu/dept/disabled-services>).

**Tentative Reading and Test Schedule: Fall 2007**

Date	Topic	Chapter
	<b>Unit 1: Basics of Scientific Psychology</b>	
August 28	Syllabus and Introduction	
August 30	Overview of Psychological Research	1
September 4	Explanation in Scientific Psychology	2
September 6	Explanation in Scientific Psychology Continued	2
September 11	Exploring the Literature of Psychology	3
September 13	Exploring the Literature of Psychology Continued	3
September 18	Conducting Ethical Research	12
	<b>Assignment 1 Due</b>	
September 20	Conducting Ethical Research Continued	12
	<b>Discussion/Quiz on Knowles, et al.</b>	
September 25	<b>Exam 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 12</b>	
	<b>Unit 2: Basic Research Methods</b>	
September 27	Observations in Psychological Research	4
	<b>In-Class Experiment #1</b>	
October 2	Observations in Psychological Research Continued	4
October 4	Observations in Psychological Research Continued	
	<b>Discussion/Quiz on Sherif</b>	
	<b>Discussion of Results of Experiment #1</b>	
October 9	Relational Research	5
October 11	Relational Research Continued	5
October 16	Basics of Experimentation	6
	<b>TMR #1 Due at the beginning of class - Worth 30 Points</b>	
October 18	Basics of Experimentation Continued	6
October 23	Validity and Reliability in Psychological Research	7
October 25	Validity and Reliability in Psychological Research Continued	7
October 30	Interpreting the Results of Research	13
November 1	<b>Exam 2: Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 13</b>	
	<b>Unit 3: Advanced Research Topics</b>	
November 6	Experimental Design	8
November 8	Experimental Design Continued	8
	<b>In-Class Experiment #2</b>	
November 13	Complex Design	9
	<b>Discussion of Results of Experiment #2</b>	
November 15	Complex Design Continued	9
November 20	Small -n Experimentation	10
	<b>TMR #2 Due at the beginning of class - Worth 40 Points</b>	
	<b>In-Class Experiment #3</b>	
November 27	Small -n Experimentation Continued	10
	<b>Discussion of Results of Experiment #3</b>	
November 29	Quasi-Experimentation	11
December 4	Quasi-Experimentation Continued	11
	<b>Discussion/Quiz on Kenrick &amp; Gutierres</b>	
December 6	Presenting Research Results	14
	<b>TMR #3 Due at the beginning of class - Worth 50 Points</b>	
December 13 at 7:00 a.m.	<b>Exam 3: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 14</b>	