Syllabus
* This document is for illustration only.

Computer Applications in Psychological Research
EXP3703C-021 Building 39-4075/4024
Spring 2004 8:00-9:40 TR

Instructor: Dan Richard, Ph.D.
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Course Description:
• This course provides hands-on experience with using computers in psychological research. The focus is on computer applications in literature searches, in conducting actual and simulated experiments, and in statistical data analysis.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:
• Prerequisite: PSY 3214 – Research Methods in Psychology
• Prerequisite: PSY3214L – Research Methods Lab

Main Course Objectives:
• Students will use electronic resources (PsychINFO, SSCI) to identify and retrieve relevant research in psychology.
• Students will read and critically evaluate psychological research.
• Students will design experiments, collect data, and report research results in written form in accordance with APA guidelines.
• Students will employ experimental software (E-Prime) and web-based scripting methods (HTML) to conduct psychological research.
• Students will use data management and data analysis (Excel, SPSS) software to evaluate psychological research outcomes.

Support Materials:
• **Required Materials:**

**Research Articles** – To complete the course, students must locate and read research articles in social psychology. The additional articles may be found in the UNF library or online at subscription service websites. The students hold
complete responsibility for securing these additional research articles. Some financial cost to the student is expected. See Appendix A for a basic required list.

- **Other Support Materials**: Students may find the following resources useful in preparing course assignments as well as in learning more about psychological research:
  - *APA Publication Manual (5th Edition)*: Several copies are on reserve in the library at the circulation desk. You will use this guide to prepare your writing assignments.
  - *Blackboard*: [http://blackboard.unf.edu](http://blackboard.unf.edu), All students enrolled in this course will have access to a Blackboard (Version 6; v6) account. Students will be required to submit assignments using the Blackboard (v6) site and to receive feedback through the site. In addition, course information, discussion groups, web resources, and grades will be available. (See Appendix B)
  - *Social Psychology Network*: [http://www.socialpsychology.org/](http://www.socialpsychology.org/), Use this web resource to learn more about social psychologists, to participate or learn about social psychological research, and to gain access to a complete listing of topical web references in social psychology.

**Evaluation**:
- **Participation Credit** (up to 70 points)
  - Participation credit will be awarded according to the level of participation documented by the instructor and the student during class discussions, lab activities, unannounced in-class quizzes, homework assignments, and on-line blackboard discussion forums. The student must be present and have some valuable contribution during class discussions to receive participation credit. No make-up credit will be given. Timelines for homework assignments will vary and will be strictly enforced. Students are responsible for attending class, documenting their participation, and completing assignments within the scheduled timeline. Appendix C outlines activities considered for participation credit. **Missing classes, coming to class unprepared, failing to participate in group discussions, and missing critical group meetings will make it impossible for students to complete class assignments and will adversely affect the student’s final grade.**
- **Research Group Project**: (See Appendix D for details)
  - Article Summaries (80 points total)
  - Hypothesis Summary (10 points; due Feb 5th)
  - IRB Form (20 points; due Feb 13th)
  - Method (20 points; due Feb 26th)
  - Introduction (30 points; due Mar 23rd)
  - Results (20 points; due Apr 6th)
  - Group Presentation (50 points; due Apr 13th and 15th)
  - Final Research Paper (100 points; due Apr 27th)
- Each student will be assigned a grade in the course according to the points obtained on the assignments, group project, and participation activities listed above. For each student, a letter grade will be assigned according to the following distribution:
360-400 points = A  
320-359 points = B  
280-319 points = C  
240-279 points = D  
< 240 points = F

- Students requiring special accommodations for taking exams or for other aspects of the course must be registered with the Disabled Services Program and submit a description of the requested accommodations to the instructor during the first week of the course.

- Students are required to attend class regularly and are responsible for all materials and announcements presented in class. On rare occasions, extenuating circumstances (illness, court summons, religious holidays, and death in the immediate family) may prevent students from completing assigned work in a timely manner or from taking a regularly scheduled exam. In such cases, notice must be communicated to the instructor (via telephone, e-mail, or written) as soon as possible, not to exceed 24 hours following the completion time of the assignment.

- Assignments are due on the announced date by the beginning of the class period (unless indicated otherwise). Assignments (including major assignments such as papers, IRB forms, etc.) turned in up to 24 hours late will result in a 10% reduction in the total point value of the assignment. Assignments turned in more than 24 hours late will result in a 50% reduction in the total point value of the assignment. No work of any type will be accepted after Friday, April 23, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. Missed in-class assignments will not be accepted late and will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

Academic Integrity:
In accordance with the UNF Academic Integrity Code, “any attempt to misrepresent one's performance on any exercise submitted for evaluation is (considered) academic misconduct” (see UNF Student handbook, http://www.unf.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/handbook.pdf, pp. 22-23). The Academic Integrity Code prohibits cheating, fabrication/falsification, multiple submissions, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. The primary responsibility of upholding these standards rests with the faculty and with students. Attempts at academic dishonesty will result in the student receiving a zero grade for that assignment and the assignment of a grade no higher than a “C” in the course for the student(s) involved. Further action (such as an assignment of an “F” grade in the course and/or referral to the dean/director of the academic unit in which the student is enrolled) may be taken depending on the nature of the offence. (See Appendix E for details)
Appendix A: Course Readings (Required)


