Syllabus
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Research Design and Analysis
PSY6217-011 Building 39-4029/4075
Spring 2004 10:00-11:40 TR

Instructor: Dan Richard
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Course Description:
- The course involves advanced study of the research design and analysis in psychology. Emphasis is placed on issues concerning the choice of appropriate designs for implementation of research and the appropriate use and interpretation of statistical analysis. Both experimental and correlational designs are explored. The course includes learning the effective use of computerized statistical packages.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:
- Prerequisite: PSY 3214 – Research Methods in Psychology
- Prerequisite: STA 5126 – Statistics

Main Course Objectives:
- Students will discuss critical issues of research design such as sampling, reliability, validity, statistical analysis, and causal inference as they relate to real-world research problems.
- Students will design complex experiments according to relevant research hypotheses and select appropriate statistical techniques to test these hypotheses.
- Students will use computerized statistical packages to analyze and interpret complex data.
- Students will read and critically evaluate psychological research.

Support Materials:
- Required Materials:
Article Readings (See Appendix A)
• **Blackboard,** [http://blackboard.unf.edu](http://blackboard.unf.edu): All students enrolled in this course will have access to a blackboard account where course information, discussion forums, and grades will be made available. Additional web resources and materials will be made available throughout the semester. If you have problems connecting to the Blackboard server [http://blackboard.unf.edu], contact the Help Desk (620-3898 or helpdesk@unf.edu) or refer to the online support materials at [http://blackboard.unf.edu/support/students.asp](http://blackboard.unf.edu/support/students.asp).

• **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.

**Evaluation:**

• **Research Proposal:** (200 points total)
  o **Annotated Bibliography (30 points; due Feb 3rd, Feb 19th, Mar 11th):** Students will read relevant research articles and complete summaries of these articles in preparation for a research proposal. Three sets of article summaries (2 articles in each set) will be completed at different times in the semester. The summary will be typewritten in 12-point font (Times New Roman or Arial). The summary will be scored according to its completeness, accuracy, clarity, and brevity. Students will include the following in each research summary:
    • Student’s Name; Date
    • Bibliographic Reference of the article in APA Style
    • Provide a summary of the introduction, indicating important points outlined by the author(s).
    • Give the hypothesis stated by the author(s).
    • Outline each experiment including a description of the number and type of participants, how they were recruited, the independent and dependent variables, how these variables are manipulated or measured, and any important aspects of the procedure. Evaluate the construct validity of the experiment.
    • Discuss the statistical tests used to test the hypothesis. Describe the findings for each experiment. Evaluate the magnitude of the effect.
    • Specifically address the contribution this article makes relative to the research area in which it is situated. Evaluate the internal and external validity of the study. Note any important issues that arise because of the results. Note limitations of the experiment (including those not cited by the author).

  o **Hypothesis Summary (20 points; due Mar 2nd):** Students will provide a summary of a research hypothesis relevant to their research area. The summary will be typewritten in 12-point font (Times New Roman or Arial) and will include a brief description of the theoretical rationale for the hypothesis (including citations as necessary), a statement of the theoretical hypothesis, and a (relatively detailed) summary of how the variables will be operationally defined. The summary should address the reliability and validity of any measures used.
o Method (20 points; due Mar 30th):
Students will provide a detailed Method proposal for the research project. The proposal will use the future tense. The summary will be typewritten in 12-point font (Times New Roman or Arial) and will include the appropriate descriptions of participants, materials, and procedure. Students will include a statement as to the design of the experiment and the statistical procedures that will be employed to test the hypothesis.

o Introduction (30 points; due Apr 8th):
Students will complete a review of the literature to serve as an Introduction to their research proposal. The Introduction will outline relevant research in the area as it applies to the hypothesis of the research project. A minimum of 10 refereed research articles is required for a complete review of the literature. The relevant research will be summarized according to its relevance to the research hypothesis. The review will conclude with the statement of the research hypothesis. Students are required to use APA style in citing and listing references (See Appendix D for avoiding plagiarism). The Introduction will be typewritten in 12-point font (Times New Roman or Arial), will include a title page, and will include a References section (in APA style) listing all cited works.

o Final Research Proposal (100 points; due Apr 27th):
The final paper will include all appropriate sections: a title page, and abstract, the Introduction, the proposed Method section, the anticipated Results section, a Discussion section. A minimum of 15 refereed research articles is required. All bibliographic appendices, methods-related appendices, and tables/graphs will be included. Students are required to use APA style in citing and listing references (See Appendix D for avoiding plagiarism). The Final Research Proposal will be typewritten in 12-point font (Times New Roman or Arial).

• Participation Credit (100 points)
  o Participation credit will be awarded according to the level of participation documented by the instructor and the student during class discussions, lab activities, homework assignments, and on-line blackboard discussion forums. Approximately half of the points will come from homework assignments and half will come from class participation. Timelines for homework assignments will vary and will be strictly enforced. Students are responsible for attending class and participating in class discussions. The student must be present and have some valuable contribution to receive participation credit. At the beginning of each class session, a student will be selected to lead a discussion over the required material. The participation of the class is critical to the success of the class. It is highly recommended that each student be prepared with discussion questions in hand at the beginning of each class. Both the discussion leader and the remaining class members will be evaluated on their level of preparedness and participation (as evidenced by their participation on that day).
• Exams:
  o Three exams (100 points each; 300 points total) will be administered. Exams will be short-answer, essay, and interpretation. The exams will cover all reading material and lecture/discussion. The content of the course makes each exam naturally cumulative.

• 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:
  540-600 points = A
  480-539 points = B
  420-479 points = C
  360-419 points = D
  < 360 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/exam.

• Assignments are due on the announced date by the beginning of the class period (unless indicated otherwise). Assignments 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 Thursday, April 29, 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 a failing grade in the course for the student(s) involved and a letter submitted to the MAGP program director to be placed in the student(s) permanent record. Further action (such as an assignment of an “F” grade in the course or a recommendation that the student be removed from the course or program of study) may be taken depending on the nature of the offence. (See Appendix B for details)
Appendix A: Course Readings (Required)


