Advanced Research in Psychology  
(PSY. 400, Sections 6 and 8)  
2132 ASH and 2320 ASH

Prerequisites: Psy. 101 and Research Methods (Psy. 300)

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Office hours: T 9-10am and Th 9-10am or by appt.

Text: APA publication manual

Readings: Readings will be on e-reserve

Overview: The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the experimental aspects of social psychology. It is expected that you already have some knowledge of psychology, research methods and statistics. Although I will review each of these areas throughout the term, the review will not be extensive. The course will be most useful for those who are interested in psychology as a career and research in general; however, it will also be useful for those who simply want to hone their critical thinking skills.

While the course is interesting, it also difficult and time consuming. You must be open to critically assessing your own work, the past research in the field of social psychology, and the work of your peers. You must also be able to think on your own, and work in an environment where there is more freedom than in most of your previous courses. It is also ESSENTIAL that you are able to meet with your group members outside of class. If you cannot fulfill this expectation you should consider dropping the course.

There will be one major paper, 2 exams, article summarization assignments, and various optional short assignments. The final paper should range from 8-10 pages in length and should include no less than 15 references. All of the assignments are expected to be well-written and thoughtful.

Please note that each student in the group MUST collect a minimum of 5 sources. Each student will write a short 500-word discussion of how and why five of the sources he/she has collected relates to the group’s study.

The group projects will examine some aspect of one, or some combination, of the following four areas: a) sexual harassment, b) intergroup relations, c) the influence of media on the individual, and/or d) attitudes toward global warming. Each group will be responsible for coming up with its' own study, conducting the research, data analysis and interpretation, and presenting the
work to the class at the end of the semester. The projects must be either an experimental or survey
design. Given the fact that this is only a lab class, each project must be feasible.

The first draft of the paper, which comprises the Introduction and Method sections, will be a
group paper. Each group member MUST make a contribution to the paper, and that
contribution must be clearly communicated in an addendum to the paper. Please note that
merely typing the reference section does NOT constitute a significant contribution.

The final paper which consists of the title page, abstract, a revised introduction, a revised
method section, results and discussion sections can be written EITHER individually or in groups
consisting of no more than three people.

Outside of Class Meetings

Each group is required to meet for a minimum of 1 hour outside of class per week. In
addition, from week 3 to week 8 each group, or designated group members, will meet with me every
other Monday to discuss the group project as well as group dynamics.

Each group must send me a least of who has, and has not, attended each meeting. This
information will be used in assisting me in determining whether there are any potential problems
developing within the group, and will assist me in determining each student’s class participation
grade.

Group Presentations

Each group will give two class presentations. The first presentation will last for 20 minutes and
will include an 8-minute question and answer period. In the first 12 minutes of the presentation, the
group will present the purpose of the study, review the relevant literature, state the expected
hypotheses, and present the study’s methodology.

In the second presentation, the group will once again present a 12-minute presentation followed
by 8 minutes of question and answer. However here, you will present your entire study – including the
results and discussion within the 12 minutes.

Exam

There will be one exam that will cover experimental design, survey design and Analysis of
Variance.

Assignments

There will also be a number of optional assignments throughout the semester. These
assignments are designed to assess your understanding of course material.

Class Participation

The class participation grades will be based on attendance, participation in class
discussions, group interactions, and completing group evaluations in a timely fashion.

Group Evaluations
Students will evaluate each other’s performance twice during the semester. These evaluations will be based on attendance at meetings, participation in developing and conducting the research project, analyzing the data, preparing the group presentations, and collegiality. The evaluation is NOT designed to assess liking.

Absences

Since people will be working in groups throughout much of the term, absenteeism must be kept to a minimum. In order to make all of our lives easier the following shall apply: for each class missed 2 points will be deducted from your final grade, and if class is missed on the day of a group presentation 10 points will be deducted. No excuses are acceptable and a formal doctor’s note will be required for any medical emergency. Furthermore, I reserve the right to extract any group member who continually makes life difficult for the remaining members of the group. I will then determine what the individual will do to fulfill the course requirements (Please note that this alternative may be considerably more difficult than the group assignment).

Graded Assignments

Exam -- 60 points
Individual Discussion of Sources -- 20 points
Group Presentation 1 -- 30 points
Group Presentation 2 -- 45 points
Group Evaluation 1 -- 15 points
Group Evaluation 2 -- 20 points
Intro & Method -- 30 points
Final Paper -- 60 points
Class Participation -- 20 points
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Total Points -- 300 points

Grade Distribution:

A -- 100 -94%  A- -- 93.9-90%
B+ -- 89.9-87%  B -- 86.9-83%
B- -- 82.9-80%  C+ -- 79.9-77%
C -- 76.9-73%  C- -- 72.9-70%
D+ -- 69.9-67%  D -- 66.9-63%
D- -- 62.9-60%  F -- 59.9%-->

Example of how to calculate your grade during the course of the semester:

Student: Mary Francis

Exam 1 score: 30 out of 35
Intro & Method score: 15 out of 40
Total Midway through the term 45 out of 75 -- \( \frac{45}{75} = .60 \), thus, Mary would be receiving a D- in the course.

1/2 – 1/4  Introduction & Research Methods Review
Survey Design
Assignment into groups

**Readings:**


1/19 – 1/21  Experimental Design

1/26 – 1/28  Experimental Design

**Meet with Groups 1 and 2**

2/2 – 2/4  Experimental Design and Survey Design

**Meet with Groups 3 and 4**

2/9 – 2/11  Survey Design

**Meet with Groups 1 and 2**

2/16 – 2/18  Survey Design

2/18  **Individual Discussion of Source Papers Due**

2/23 -- 2/25  **Group Presentations**
2/23 – Groups 1 and 2
2/25 – Groups 3 and 4

**Meet with Groups 3 and 4**

2/27  **Introduction Due (approx. 3 pgs) and Method Section (approx. 2 pgs)**
via e-mail by 12 NOON

**Meet with Groups 1 and 2**
3/1  EXAM 1 -- Correlational & Experimental Designs: Covers lecture and readings

3/3  Data Analysis Techniques and Data Collection Begins

3/6 – 3/13  SPRING BREAK

3/15 – 3/17  Data Analysis Techniques and Data Entry and Analysis

3/22 – 3/24  Data Analysis Techniques and Data Entry and Analysis

      Meet with Groups 1 and 2

3/29 – 3/31  Data Entry and Analyses

      Meet with Groups 3 and 4

4/5 – 4/7  Data Analysis and Preparation for final presentation

4/12 – 4/14  Preparation for final presentation

4/19 – 4/21  Group Presentations
      4/19 – Groups 3 and 4
      4/21 – Groups 1 and 2

4/23  Final paper due by Noon