

Advanced Research in Psychology
(PSY. 400, Sections 1 and 4)
1117 ASH and 227 LSH

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

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Office hours: T 2-3 pm and Th 2-3pm 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 seriously 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**.

The group projects will examine some aspect of one of the following three issues: **a) sexual harassment, b) intergroup relations, c) the influence of media on the individual, or 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, 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.

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.

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	-- 70 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

Total Points	-- 290 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 -- $45/75 = .60$, thus, Mary would be receiving a D- in the course.

8/30 – 9/01 Introduction & Research Methods Review
 Survey Design
 Assignment into groups

Readings:

Crano & Brewer (2002). *Principles and Methods of Social Research* (pgs. 61-124).

Dillman, Smyth, & Christian (2009). *Internet, Mail, and Mixed-Mode Surveys: The Tailored Design Method* (pgs. 65-181).

9/8 Experimental Design

- 9/13 – 9/15 Experimental Design
- 9/15 Meet with Groups 1 and 2**
- 9/20 – 9/22 Experimental Design and Survey Design
- 9/20 Meet with Groups 3 and 4**
- 9/27 – 9/29 Survey Design
- 9/27 Meet with Groups 1 and 2**
- 10/4 – 10/06 Survey Design
- 10/11 -- 10/13 Group Presentations**
- 10/11 Meet with Groups 3 and 4**
- 10/15 ***Introduction Due (approx. 3 pgs) and Method Section (approx. 2 pgs) via e-mail by 12 NOON**
- 10/18 Meet with Groups 1 and 2**
- 10/18 EXAM -- Correlational & Experimental Designs: Covers lecture and readings and Analysis of Variance**
- 10/20 Data Analysis Techniques and Data Collection Begins
- 10/25 – 10/27 Data Analysis Techniques and Data collection continues
- 10/25 Meet with Groups 3 and 4**
- 11/2 – 11/4 Data Analysis Techniques and Data collection continues
- 11/9 – 11/11 Data Analysis Techniques and Data collection continues and Data Entry
- 11/9 Meet with Groups 1 and 2**
- 11/16 – 11/18 Data Analysis Techniques and Data Entry and Analysis
- 11/23 – 11/27 Thanksgiving break**
- 11/29 – 12/1 Data Analysis and preparation for final presentation

12/6 – 12/8 **Final group presentations**

12/10 **Final paper due, by Noon**