Advanced Research in Psychology  
(PSY. 400, 10-11:15 (sect. 1, ASH 1117) and 2:30-3:45 (sect. 5, 2119 ASH)

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

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e-mail: henderse@gvsu.edu  
Office hours: T 1-2pm and Th 1-2pm 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.

There will be one major paper, 2 exams, article summarization assignments, and various optional short assignments. The final paper should range from 9-12 pages in length excluding references, table and figures, 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. Although you will be working as a group and presenting your research as a group, you will be writing individual papers.

**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 and participation in class discussions.

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 1 -- 35 points
Exam 2 -- 35 points
Summary of Project -- 15 points
Group Presentation 1 -- 30 points
Group Presentation 2 -- 45 points
Group Evaluation 1 -- 15 points
Group Evaluation 2 -- 20 points
Intro & Method -- 40 points
Final Paper -- 60 points
Class Participation -- 20 points

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Total Points -- 305 points
Grade Distribution:

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Lower Limit</th>
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<td>A</td>
<td>100-94%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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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.

8-26  Introduction & Research Methods Review
Survey Design
Assignment into groups

Readings:


9-4  Experimental Design

9-9  Experimental Design

9-16 Experimental Design and Survey Design

9-23 Survey Design
9-23 ONE PAGE SUMMARY OF PROJECT DUE – 120 ABSTRACT, PROPOSED METHODOLOGY, REFERENCE PAGE WITH ALL RELEVANT REFERENCES THUS FAR COLLECTED

9-30 Survey Design

10-7  EXAM 1 -- Correlational & Experimental Designs: Covers lecture and
readings

10-14 Group presentations

10-17 ***Introduction (approx. 3 pgs) and Method Section (approx. 2 pgs) Due via Blackboard

10-16 Data Analysis Techniques

10-21 Data collection begins

10-21 Data Analysis Techniques

10-28 Data Analysis Techniques and Data entry
Data collection continues
Take-home exam given

11-4 Data Analysis Techniques, Data entry and Data interpretation
Take-home exam due

11/11 Data Analysis and interpretation

11/18 Data Analysis and interpretation

11/25 Data Analysis and interpretation

12/2 and 12/4 Group presentation

12/6 Final paper due via Blackboard