

SAMPLE SYLLABUS—WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE ANY CHANGES

**Basic & Applied Research Methods
PSY 6615**



Course Description: You will learn about descriptive, experimental, and quasi-experimental research procedures. We will focus on (a) the nature of empirical scientific inquiry, (b) the strengths and weaknesses of various research methodologies, and (c) procedures of data analysis and interpretation.

Texts:

- (1) Research Design in Counseling, 2nd Ed. 1999. Heppner, Kivlighan, & Wampold. Brooks/Cole/Wadsworth. ISBN: 0534345174.
- (2) Understanding Research Methods: An Overview of the Essentials, 5th Ed. 2005. Patten. Pycszak Publishing. ISBN: 1884585647.

Exams: Exams 1, 2, & 3 are worth 50, 75, & 100 points, respectively (Exams 2 & 3 are semi-cumulative). Each exam consists of multiple choice and essay questions and covers material from lectures and text.

Homework Assignments: There will be 10 homework assignments taken from the Understanding Research Methods textbook. Each assignment will be worth 10 points.

Attendance: Excused absences consist of a documented personal illness or death in the family. Everyone is allowed 2 unexcused absences (car wouldn't start, overslept, won the lotto & celebrated). *For every additional unexcused absence, 10 points will be subtracted from the total points earned in the class.*

Grading:	Exam #1	= 50 points	A	= 291 - 325 (90-100%)
	Exam #2	= 75 points	B+	= 282 - 290 (87 - 89%)
	Exam #3	= 100 points	B	= 269 - 281 (83 - 86%)
	Homework 10x10	= 100 points	B-	= 259 - 268 (80 - 82%)
	-----		C+	= 250 - 258 (77 - 79%)
	Total	= 325 points	C	= 236 - 249 (73 - 76%)
			C-	= 226 - 235 (70 - 72%)
			D+	= 217 - 225 (67 - 69%)
			D	= 204 - 216 (63 - 66%)
			D-	= 194 - 203 (60 - 62%)
			F	< 194

Make-up Policy: If you know beforehand that you will not be able to take an exam (or turn in an assignment) please see me to take it (turn it in) at an earlier time. Make-up exams and assignment extensions will only be given for excused absences.

Drop Deadlines: For the Spring semesters: Jan. 27 - last day to drop without grade; Mar. 3 - last day to drop with a "W". Those who stop attending class but do not officially drop will receive an F.

Reasonable Accommodation for Students With Disabilities: If you require assistance or accommodation (testing, note taking, etc.) due to a disability, or you have questions related to such accommodations, speak to the instructor as soon as possible. Also, the Office of Disabled Student

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Services (898-2783) can provide information about such accommodations.

Tips for Doing Well in the Course

Attend all lectures: There is overlap between lecture and book material, but much of what you need to know to do well in this class will only be covered in lecture.

Read ahead of time: If you have a general understanding of the chapter contents before lecture, we you will take better notes, recall more information, and understand the material better.

Ask questions: If you have any questions about class or reading material, please ask them during lecture. Also, the instructor is available during office hours to discuss any questions you have.

No cheating: Any evidence of cheating on an exam or assignment will result in 0 points on that exam/assignment. Academic disciplinary measures will follow.

Tentative Course Outline

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Introduction & Pre-Test	
Syllabus	
The Nature of Psychological Research	Chapter 1 (pgs 5-8, 18-30)
Research in Peer-Reviewed Journals (Single Studies, Multiple Studies, Literature Reviews, Meta-Analyses)	
How to Access/Search the Psychological Literature	
Relevance for Mental Health Care Practitioners	
Independent Variables	Chapter 11
Theoretical & Operational Definitions	
Manipulated vs. Non-manipulated (status var.)	
Best Ways to Op. Define IVs	
Manipulation Checks	
Dependent Variables	Chapter 12 (pgs 282-303, 314)
Theoretical & Operational Definitions	
Best Ways to Op. Define DVs	
Reactivity	
Measurement Validity	
Measurement Reliability	
Participant Selection	Chapter 13
<i>Exam #1</i> <i>Given Date</i>	
Descriptive and Small N Research Designs	Chapter 8 & Various Handouts
Correlational Studies	
Purpose	

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Data Analyses & Interpretation
Strengths & Weaknesses
Single-Subject Designs
Case Studies
AB Time Series Designs
(AB, ABAB, rand. AB)
Multiple Baseline Designs
Strengths & Weaknesses

Experiments

Chapter 6

Between-Subjects Designs
Single- and 2-factor
Purpose, Strengths, & Weaknesses
Within-Subjects Designs
Single- and 2-factor
Purpose, Strengths, & Weaknesses

Experimental Data Interpretation Techniques

Various Handouts

T-test
F-tests
P-Values & Effect Sizes

Exam #2 Given Date

(Overcoming) Threats to Internal and External Validity
106)

Chapters 4, 14, & Chpt. 5 (pgs 93-

Random Assignment
Instrumentation
Scripts, Instructions & Procedures
Deception, Cover Stories & Props

Quasi-Experimental Designs

Chapters 7 & 9 (pgs 222-225)

Ex Post Facto Designs
Longitudinal Studies
Cross-Sectional Studies
One-group Pre-post Test Designs
Equivalent & Non-Equiv. Control Group Designs
Data Analyses and Interpretation
Strengths and Weaknesses

Exam #3 Given Date