

Introduction to Research Methods

PSY 234 – Fall 2008

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey S. Anastasi
Office Location: AB4 336
Office Phone: 936-294-3049
E-mail: jeff.anastasi@shsu.edu

Class Time: MWF 10:00 - 10:50 AM
Class Location: LDB 205
Office Hours: MWF 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Course Overview:

This course deals with the principles of research methodology and design in psychological research. Therefore, research approaches and methodologies in a wide range of content areas will be discussed. This course will primarily consist of lectures and reading assignments dealing with research methodology and the applications of these methodologies to various research areas in psychology. There will also be periodic in-class assignments and homework assignments to get you better acquainted with research methodology and design. This course is designed to accompany PSY 214 (Introduction to Research Methods Laboratory). PSY 214 will provide you with hands-on experience with all aspects of psychological research including the collection, analysis, and reporting of behavioral data. Thus, you will learn more about how research methodology works in this course and then apply that knowledge in PSY 214.

Course Goals:

1. Students should gain an understanding of the scientific process involved in conducting psychological research.
2. Students should be able to conduct and understand research in the discipline of psychology.
3. Students should learn the skills necessary to communicate the results of psychological research.
4. Students should learn to apply the course material to improve critical thinking and problem solving skills.
5. Students should learn specific skills and competencies needed by psychology professionals.
6. Students should learn the skills necessary to find and use scientific resources to answer psychological questions and solve problems.

Grading:

Each of the four exams is worth 20% of your grade in this course. If you miss an exam, you will receive a 0 for that exam. However, you may take the optional cumulative exam at the end of the semester to replace that grade. All students are given the option of replacing their lowest exam grade by taking this optional cumulative exam. All other assignments (in-class assignments, homework, quizzes, etc.) are worth 20% of your grade in this course. All assignments are expected to be handed in the day that they are due. Assignments will not be accepted late and you will not be allowed to make up any in-class assignment. Thus, if you miss a class day when an assignment is due, you will receive a 0 for that assignment. Your grade in this class will consist of exams, in-class assignments, homework assignments, and periodic quizzes. Quizzes and in-class assignments on the assigned reading material will be given throughout the term. Therefore, be sure that you are current with your reading assignments. Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

Class Average:	Above 89.4	89.4 - 79.5	79.4 - 69.5	69.4 - 59.5	Below 59.5
Grade:	A	B	C	D	F

Research Participation:

Participation in research or practicum experiences conducted by members of the Department of Psychology and Philosophy is a *requirement* of this class. You can satisfy this requirement in several ways: (1) by participating in research studies being conducted in the department, (2) by participating in mock therapy sessions being conducted by graduate students enrolled in PSY 691, Practicum I, or (3) by participating in intellectual assessments being conducted by graduate students enrolled in PSY 595. Many different choices scheduled at various times will be available to you, but you must complete **5 hours** of participation in these activities before 5:00 PM on the last day of class. Failure to fulfill this requirement will result in a grade of "Incomplete" in this course. Incomplete grades are governed by University policies. You will need to complete the course requirements by the close of the following semester in order to receive a grade of A, B, C, or D for the course; if you do not complete the course by then, your incomplete grade will become a failing grade. If you believe that you will be unable to devote five hours to these activities - because, for instance, this class is the only time you are on campus during the week - you should discuss your constraints with me. If necessary, an alternative project, which is likely to be written reports on assigned readings, will be arranged to ensure that the course requirements are met. However, if you seek to arrange alternative activities, you must do so before the end of the second week of classes. More details about this requirement, and instructions about how to get started, are available at the departmental website (http://www.shsu.edu/~psy_www/ResearchParticipation.html). Please read the guidelines for this requirement carefully.

Required Text:

- Myers, A. & Hansen, C. (2006). *Experimental Psychology* (6th Ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson Learning Academic.

Class Schedule:

<u>Day:</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Myers & Hansen</u>
8/25 (Mon.)	Introduction to the Course.....	<i>none</i>
8/27 (Wed.)	Research in the Media Discussion	Chapter 1
8/29 (Fri.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapters 7 & 8
9/1 (Mon.)	<i>No Class – Labor Day</i>	
9/3 (Wed.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapters 7 & 8
9/5 (Fri.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapters 7 & 8
9/8 (Mon.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapters 7 & 8
9/10 (Wed.)	Basics of Experimentation	Chapters 15
9/12 (Fri.)	EXAM #1	
9/15 (Mon.)	History of APA Style	<i>none</i>
9/17 (Wed.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 16
9/19 (Fri.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 16
9/22 (Mon.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 16
9/24 (Wed.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 16
9/26 (Fri.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 16
9/29 (Mon.)	Writing Research Reports	Chapter 16
10/1 (Wed.)	Data and Measurement.....	Chapter 13
10/3 (Fri.)	Data and Measurement.....	Chapter 13
10/6 (Mon.)	Analyzing Results	Chapters 14
10/8 (Wed.)	Analyzing Results	Chapters 14
10/10 (Fri.)	Analyzing Results	Chapters 14
10/13 (Mon.)	Analyzing Results	Chapters 14
10/15 (Wed.)	EXAM #2	
10/17 (Fri.)	Nonexperimental Research Methods	Chapters 3
10/20 (Mon.)	Nonexperimental Research Methods	Chapters 4
10/22 (Wed.)	Nonexperimental Research Methods	Chapters 4
10/24 (Fri.)	Nonexperimental Research Methods	Chapters 5
10/27 (Mon.)	Nonexperimental Research Methods	Chapters 5
10/29 (Wed.)	Between-subjects Designs.....	Chapters 9 & 10
10/31 (Fri.)	Between-subjects Designs.....	Chapters 9 & 10
11/3 (Mon.)	Within-subjects Designs	pgs 308-319 (Chp 11)
11/5 (Wed.)	Within-subjects Designs	pgs 308-319 (Chp 11)
11/7 (Fri.)	Mixed-factor Designs.....	pgs 319-338 (Chp 11)
11/10 (Mon.)	Mixed-factor Designs.....	pgs 319-338 (Chp 11)
11/12 (Wed.)	EXAM #3	
11/14 (Fri.)	Small N Designs.....	Chapter 12
11/17 (Mon.)	Small N Designs.....	Chapter 12
11/19 (Wed.)	Presenting & Publishing Research	<i>none</i>
11/21 (Fri.)	Presenting & Publishing Research	<i>none</i>
11/24 (Mon.)	Presenting & Publishing Research	<i>none</i>
11/26 (Wed.)	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</i>	
11/28 (Fri.)	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</i>	
12/1 (Mon.)	Ethics in Research	Chapter 2
12/3 (Wed.)	Ethics in Research	Chapter 2
12/5 (Fri.)	Ethics in Research	Chapter 2
12/8 (Mon.)	Ethics in Research	Chapter 2
12/10 (Wed.)	EXAM #4	
12/15 (Mon.)	Cumulative Final Exam (11:00 AM)	

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to university disciplinary action (Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Section 5.3, as printed in Student Guidelines) **AND WILL RECEIVE AN IMMEDIATE FAILING GRADE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT AND/OR THE COURSE.** The university and its official representatives, acting in accordance with Subsection 5.32, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work that has been submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

- **Cheating** includes:
 - Copying from another student's exam, laboratory report, assignment, computer files, data listings, and/or programs.
 - Using materials not authorized by the instructor during an exam or other assignment.
 - Collaborating with another student during an exam or in preparing academic work without authorization from the instructor.
 - Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
 - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take an exam or complete any assignment.
 - Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by another individual or firm.
- **Plagiarism** refers to the use of another individual's work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one's own work offered for credit. If you would like to use someone else's ideas, summarize their work **USING YOUR OWN WORDS and then CITE THEIR WORK** using the accepted American Psychological Association's Guidelines.
- **Collusion** means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.

Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual attendance is expected for this course. However, no course points are linked to class attendance but you must be in attendance to hand in assignments, participate in in-class assignments, or take exams. In-class activities are *only* provided during class, and thus *cannot* be made up at a later time. Although this class will not carry a "failure due to absences" policy, failure to attend class will decrease your grade for each assignment missed. Further, information covered in class will be included in exams. Poor attendance is strongly related to poor grades, so each student is strongly encouraged to attend class regularly. If you must be absent, be sure to arrange for a peer to obtain handouts and/or notes for you. They will not be available from me except on the date initially provided.

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who are disruptive to the class may be dismissed from the classroom for their inappropriate behavior and will not be allowed to hand in any assignments due for the remainder of that class. Additionally, students may be withdrawn from the course for repeated disruptive behavior.

Religious Holy Days:

Students have the responsibility of notifying the professor of each scheduled class day that the student will be absent due to a religious holy day. *This must be done not later than the 15th class day.* Students who are absent from class for observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within one week of returning to class. However, any in-class assignments cannot be made up, but will not count against their other assignment average since the one lowest assignment grade will be dropped.

Notice to Persons with Disabilities:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no individuals otherwise qualified shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program activity. Students with a disability that may affect their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor as soon as possible. This is done so that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired since there will be no retroactive accommodation. Furthermore, accommodations will be made **only** to those people who have documented the disability with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Office in the Student Counseling Center. The number there is 936-294-1720.

Instructor Evaluations:

Towards the end of the semester, students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form. I encourage you to be complete and honest in your evaluations. I particularly encourage you to provide constructive feedback in the open-ended section of the evaluation form. IDEA is the faculty evaluation system used at SHSU.