

PSY 588: Intro to Experimental Design Spring 2008

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Lecture Time: Th 6:00 – 8:50 PM
Class Location: UCTR
Office Hours: MWF 11:00 – 12:00 or by appt

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. The course will include two primary components. The first component involves lectures and reading assignments dealing with research methodology and the applications of these methodologies to various research areas in psychology. The second component, deals with hands-on experience with all aspects of psychological research including the collection, analysis, and reporting of behavioral data. Each of the three lab projects will require you to prepare an APA-style laboratory report. The laboratory reports *MUST* be in proper APA-format and *MUST* be typed (reports will not be accepted unless they are typed). See page 3 of this syllabus for a sample grading sheet for the laboratory reports. The deadline for lab reports is the beginning of class for the date that they are due. Papers and assignments that are handed in late will have 10% subtracted for each day (or portion of a day) that they are late. In other words, if a paper is handed in 1 hour after class 10% will be subtracted from the grade for that paper.

Your grade in this class will consist of exams, APA-lab reports, quizzes, in-class assignments, and homework assignments. Periodic quizzes and in-class assignments on the assigned reading material will be given throughout the term. *You must be in class in order to hand in these assignments and they cannot be made up.*

GRADING PERCENTAGES

Exam #1	=	20%
Exam #2	=	20%
Lab Report #1	=	10%
Lab Report #2	=	15%
Lab Report #3	=	20%
Other Assignments	=	15%

GRADING CUT-OFFS

above 89.4	=	A
79.5 - 89.4	=	B
69.5 - 79.4	=	C
59.5 - 69.4	=	D
below 59.5	=	F

Required Text:

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

Recommended Text:

- *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th Ed., 2001). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Class Schedule:

<u>Day:</u>	<u>Class Topic</u>	<u>Lab Activity</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
1/17 (Thurs.)	Introduction to Research Methods	none	Chapter 1
1/24 (Thurs.)	The Basics of Experimentation	none	Chapters 7, & 8
1/31 (Thurs.)	The Basics of Experimentation	none	Chapters 7, & 8
2/7 (Thurs.)	Starting Psychological Research	Conduct Lab #1, Score Data, Discuss Literature Search	Chapters 6 & 15
2/14 (Thurs.)	Writing the Research Report	Discuss Lab #1 Write-up & Literature	Chapter 16 & Appendix C
2/21 (Thurs.)	Data and Measurement	Discuss Lab #1 Write-up & Literature	Chapter 13
2/28 (Thurs.)	Analyzing Results	Discuss Lab #1 Write-up & Data Analysis	Chapters 14
3/6 (Thurs.)	EXAM #1	none	none
3/13 (Thurs.)	NO CLASS – Spring Break	none	none
3/20 (Thurs.)	Review Exam #1	Lab #1 Due, Conduct Lab #2, Score & Analyze Data	none
3/27 (Thurs.)	Nonexperimental Designs	Discuss Lab #2 Data & Literature	Chapters 3, 4, & 5
4/3 (Thurs.)	Between-Subjects Designs	Discuss Lab #2 Data & Literature	Chapters 9 & 10
4/10 (Thurs.)	Within-Subjects Designs	Discuss Lab #2 Data & Literature	Chapter 11
4/17 (Thurs.)	Between & Within-Subjects Designs	Lab #2 Due, Conduct Lab #3, Score & Analyze Data	none
4/24 (Thurs.)	Small N Within-Subjects Designs	Discuss Lab #3 Data & Literature	Chapter 12
5/1 (Thurs.)	Presenting & Publishing Research	Discuss Lab #3 Data & Literature	none
5/8 (Thurs.)	Ethics in Research	Lab #3 Due	Chapter 2
5/15 (Thurs.)	EXAM #2 (8:00 – 10:00 PM)	none	none

Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual attendance is expected for this course. Although no course points are linked to class attendance, you must be in attendance to hand in assignments, participate in in-class assignments, or take quizzes and exams. In-class activities are *only* provided during class, and *cannot* be made up at a later time. Although you will not automatically fail this course due to excessive absences nor will you be automatically dropped for excessive absences, 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 often highly correlated with lower grades, so you are 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**. Notes will not be available from me except on the date initially provided.

Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. 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 disciplinary action (Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Section 5.3, as printed in Student Guidelines). 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 which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

- **Cheating** includes:
 - Copying from another student's exam, laboratory report, assignment, or 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 examination 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 an individual or firm.
- **Plagiarism** means the appropriation of another'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 (APA) Guidelines.
- **Collusion** means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.

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 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 no 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 (phone: 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 honest in your evaluations (whether good or bad) and encourage you to make any constructive comments that you'd like to provide feedback on the course or ideas concerning how the class can be improved in the future. IDEA is the faculty evaluation system used at SHSU.

Paper Grading Criteria

Heading	Criteria	Points	Score
Cover Page (10 pts.)	Does it give title, author, affiliation, running head, etc.?	0-10	_____
Abstract (10 pts.)	Is information from all parts of the experiment presented?	0-10	_____
Introduction (60 pts.)	Is there sufficient general background literature?	0-20	_____
	Is the reader guided to the current study with more specific info?	0-10	_____
	Are the basic methods of your study given?	0-10	_____
	Are the hypotheses/predictions specified?	0-10	_____
	Are proper reasons given for the expected results?	0-10	_____
Method (40 pts.)			
Participants	Is all pertinent subject information provided?	0-10	_____
Design	Is the proper design specified?	0-10	_____
Materials	Is there enough information to replicate?	0-10	_____
Procedure	Is there enough information to replicate?	0-10	_____
Results (50 pts.)	Are the ANOVA, DV, and IVs specified?	0-10	_____
	Have the descriptive statistics been given?	0-10	_____
	Have the inferential statistics been given?	0-10	_____
	Is the reader guided through the findings?	0-10	_____
	Are Tables and Figures provided?	0-10	_____
Discussion (60 pts.)	Are the current results discussed?	0-20	_____
	Are the current findings related to other studies or theories?	0-20	_____
	Are applications or theoretical implications of the research discussed	0-20	_____
References (30 pts.)	Are references in the proper format?	0-10	_____
	Are the citations in the proper format?	0-10	_____
	Do references match citations?	0-10	_____
Total Possible Points:		260	_____
Grade:	(_____/260) x 100 = _____		