PSY 240 Introduction to Research Methods

Wintermester 2019

Number of Credits

3

Instructor

Alexandra Scurry

Catalog Description

Major techniques and problems encountered in both survey and experimental research in behavioral sciences.

Required Textbooks/Materials

The following texts are required material in this course:

Research in Psychology: Methods and Design, 8th Ed., 2017
Kerri A. Goodwin & C. James Goodwin

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to

- prove themselves critical consumers of information by evaluating knowledge claims encountered in both the scientific and popular media;
- identify and address common ethical issues in research with special emphasis on research with human subjects;
- identify and analyze an ethical issues in psychology research;
- identify types of validity and reliability and their application to real world questions;
- identify a range of methods of data collection and understand their relative advantages/disadvantages;
- assess factors that determine common experimental designs, including how to; identify independent and dependent variables, and how research data is described, presented, and organized; and
- explain theory and rationale of hypothesis testing.

First Week of Materials/Assignments

The following schedule is subject to change:

January 2: Lecture: Chapters 1 and 3

January 3: Lecture: Chapters 4 and 5
In Class Assignment: Chapter 4 Review Exercises

January 4: Lecture: Chapter 2
In Class Assignment: Case Studies

January 7: Exam 1
Research Topic Due
Workshop on how to effectively search for papers

Course Details

This course is intended to teach students about the theory and practice of science. Topics will include theory of how scientific knowledge accumulates, how scientific questions are formulated and posed, and the role of ethics in designing scientific studies. Practical techniques will also be emphasized which will include how to structure and formulate a research paper, how to find and cite relevant background sources, and how to effectively design and implement experiments.

Grade Breakdown

The point distribution for the course is:

Assignment	Points	Percentage
Exams	300	50
In-Class Assignments	120	20
Research Proposal	180	30
Total	*600*	*100*

The percentage distribution for the course is:

Letter	Percentage
A	94–100
A-	90–93
B+	87–89
B	84–86
B-	80–83
C+	77–79
C	74–76
C-	70–73

Letter	Percentage
D+	67–69
D	65–66
D-	62–64
F	below 62