

Psychology 1180

Introduction to Behavioral Research. Syllabus, Fall 2009

College of DuPage

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Office Hours

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
8:30-10:00	8:30-11:00	8:30-10:00	8:30-11:00
		1:00-3:00	

Because I am often meeting with people, it is safest to make an appointment with me during my office hours (although you are welcome to drop by). I can also meet outside of my regular office hours by appointment.

Text

Essentials of Research Methods in Psychology, 1st Edition, by Jeanne Zechmeister, Eugene Zechmeister, and John Shaughnessy. I do not intend for this book to be available in the COD bookstore. It is several years old, and you will be able to find it used at half.com or amazon.com. You can search for the isbn number: 0072932341. The publication date might be listed as 2000, 2001, or 2003. All three are the same book.

Course Description (from COD course catalog)

An introduction to descriptive and experimental designs used in the study of behavior. Course content emphasizes: methodology, procedures, ethics in research, psychological measurement, basic data analysis, and research report writing. Prerequisite: Psychology 1100.

Course Objectives

By taking, and actively participating in, this course you will:

- Become familiar with the principles, and advantages and disadvantages of various methods of research in the behavioral sciences.
- Develop an appreciation for the precision, procedural considerations, and ethics of psychological research.
- Get hands-on experience conducting experiments, observational research, and survey research.
- Learn how to report research in American Psychological Association format.

Blackboard/Web Page

This course will use the Blackboard course management system. With it, you will be able to access the syllabus and assignments, download PowerPoint lectures, check grades, and participate in online discussions, among other activities. Instructions for logging in to Blackboard will be provided in class. In addition, I have a web page at www.cod.edu/grayke. The web page contains links to my different courses, as well as advising information for psychology majors.

Requirements

Exams	20% of final grade
Small projects	20% of final grade
Final project	20% of final grade
Attendance and Participation	30% of final grade
Reading-on-time points	10% of final grade

Exams

There will be two in-class exams during the semester. They are not cumulative, and each is worth 10% of your final grade. The exams will contain multiple-choice and essay questions and will cover material from the text and lecture.

Exam Dates:

Exam 1: Oct 16

Exam 2: Nov 20

Small projects

There will be several small projects assigned throughout the semester. Two of them will be:

Observational study. The whole class will design and conduct an observational study. Each student will be required to write an independent report.

Journal Article critical summary. You will be writing a very short paper that summarizes and critiques a psychology journal article.

I will be giving more information about these two projects during the semester. There may be additional small projects assigned in class. Together, the small projects are worth 20% of your final grade.

Final project

Small groups of students will design and conduct an experiment and write a report of the

results in American Psychological Association style. Only one report is required for each group, but each individual student's contribution to the project will be evaluated. Students may choose to work alone on the final project. During the final exam period (Dec 14 from 10:00 – 11:50), each group will give a brief informal presentation about their project. The final project is worth 20% of your final grade.

Attendance and Participation

It will not be possible to achieve the course objectives if you do not attend and participate in class. As a result, you are expected to attend class every day and participate actively in discussions and classroom exercises. If you miss more than 12 class meetings (approximately 25% of classes), it will be impossible to earn a passing grade in this class. You must be in class by 10:10 in order for your attendance to count. If you miss 6 classes before mid-semester (Oct 19), you will be automatically withdrawn from the class. If your total absences for the semester reach 12 at any point, you will fail the class, unless you are granted permission to withdraw (see below). Attendance and participation are worth 30% of your final grade.

Reading on time points

In order for us to make progress planning research during class time, it is essential that you read the textbook material first. In order to demonstrate that you have read and thought about the material, you will be required to submit a reading response on the dates listed in the syllabus. The response will follow a standard format, which will be described in class, and must be submitted through Blackboard. Reading on time points are worth 10% of your final grade.

Grading Scale

90% and up	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
59% and below	F

Quiz Makeup and Late Policies

You must notify me beforehand if you will miss a quiz in order to be allowed to make it up. All makeups must be completed within one week of the original quiz date. I will accept small projects up to one week late if you provide a valid excuse. I cannot accept the final project late unless you have a documented emergency.

Withdrawal Policy

As noted above, I will withdraw you from the class before Mid-Semester (Oct. 19) if you

miss 6 class meetings, or if you are otherwise failing to make progress in the course. After Mid-Semester, permission to withdraw from the course will be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Course-Related Communication

All students are expected to use their College of DuPage email accounts and Blackboard for course-related electronic communication. I occasionally send out messages to the whole class through these systems, and if you do not use them, you will miss these messages. In addition, if you choose to not use the COD system, your email messages to me are more likely to be removed by the college's junk mail filter. Please see me if you would like any assistance setting up your COD email.

If you choose to use email to submit work, it is at your own risk. Emailed work that does not reach my inbox will be counted as missing.

Academic Assistance

Students who are having difficulty with the course should consider taking advantage of the services offered through the Academic Support Center. The Center offers tutoring services and reading assistance (help with reading comprehension, study skills, and organizing information). Most of the services that the Center offers are free.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty, such as cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Students who are caught may be penalized up to the level of receiving a failing grade in the course. In addition, all cases will be referred to the Office of Student Affairs for possible further action. For more information, read the College's statements on Student Rights and Responsibilities and Course-Related Academic Integrity (COD Catalog 2007-2009, pp. 51-52).

Research Disclosure

From time to time, I conduct research on teaching methods to improve your educational experiences. Please be assured that all data will be kept completely confidential, and participation will not affect your grade. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please do not hesitate to contact me.