

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2015
SYLLABUS

PSYC 3200D: Research Methods; 3 Hrs			
Department of	Sociology & Psychology	Division of	Liberal Arts & Sciences
Instructor Name:	Suzie Manning, PhD, LSSP		
Office Location:	Adjunct Office-UNT-D, Building 2, Rm 302		
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Office Hours:	Mon and Wed 1-2		
Classroom Location:	Online		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Online		
Course Catalog Description:	This course introduces students to psychology research methods and addresses general issues in research methodology, such as experimental designs, survey research, mixed methods, and sampling procedures. This course highlights the way data is collected, analyzed, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of each methodological approach.		
Prerequisites:	PSYC 1100D or equivalent.		
Required Text:	Gravetter/Forzano (2016) Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences, 5 th edition, Cengage. ISBN 9781305104136		
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com		
Course Goals or Overview: The goals of this course are as follows -			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase learners' knowledge regarding core research methodologies used in psychology, for the purpose of enhancement of learners' general knowledge base within the field of psychology as a whole. 2. Communicate the research methods employed by psychologists, and the ability of those methods to properly evaluate evidence. More specifically, this course will illustrate the manner in which psychologists approach questions about the human condition -- from developing theories, to generating hypotheses, to designing experiments, to analyzing results. 3. Enhance learners' ability to effectively consume scientific information, so that they may evaluate claims made by various external sources (e.g., advertisers, politicians, reporters, etc.). 		
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, learners will be able to:			
1	Understand the ethics of psychological research		
2	Understand the basics of research design		
3	Understand the fundamentals of conducting solid psychological research		
4	Deconstruct a research article		
5	Demonstrate critical thinking skills		
6	Apply Humanistic principles to group-centered, intellectual exchanges and tasks		

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class. Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in the Readings and Activities/Assignments sections.

TOPICS	TIMELINE
Chapter 1 Introduction, Acquiring Knowledge, and the Scientific Method Reading: Gravetter/Forzano chapter 1	1/20
Chapter 2 Research Ideas and Hypotheses Reading: Gravetter/Forzano chapter 2 Quiz 1 Chapters 1-2	1/26
Chapter 3 Defining and Measuring Variables Reading: Gravetter/Forzano chapter 3	2/2
Chapter 4 Ethics in Research Reading: Gravetter/Forzano chapter 4 Quiz 2 Chapters 3-4	2/9
Chapter 5 Selecting Research Participants Reading: Gravetter/Forzano chapter 5 Assignment: Research Article Selection	2/16
Chapter 6 Research Strategies and Validity Reading: Gravetter/Forzano chapter 6 Quiz 3 Chapters 5-6	2/23
Chapter 7 The Experimental Research Strategy Reading: Gravetter/Forzano chapter 7 Project Draft 1 due 3/8	3/2
Chapter 8 Experimental Designs: Between- Subjects Design Reading: Gravetter/Forzano chapter 8 Midterm Exam Chapters 1-8	3/9
Spring Break	3/16
Chapter 9 Experimental Designs: Within- Subjects Design Reading: Gravetter/Forzano chapter 9	3/23
Chapter 10 The Nonexperimental and Quasi- Experimental Strategies: Nonequivalent Group, Pre- Post, and Developmental Designs Reading: Gravetter/Forzano chapter 10 Quiz 4 chapter 9-10	3/30

Chapter 11 Factorial Designs Reading: Gravetter/Forzano chapter 11 Project Draft 2 due 4/12	4/6
Chapter 12 The Correlational Research Strategy Reading: Gravetter/Forzano chapter 12 Quiz 5 chapter 11-12	4/13
Chapter 13 The Descriptive Research Strategy Reading: Gravetter/Forzano chapter 13	4/20
Chapter 14 Single- Subject Research Designs Reading: Gravetter/Forzano chapter 14 Quiz 6 chapters 13-14	4/27
Semester wrap up-Final Project Due	5/4
<i>Final Exam Week</i>	5/11

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Discussion Posts

There will be required discussion posts for each week in the semester. Students are required to post an initial post to the question(s) for the unit (by Thursday midnight) and post a response to a classmate (by Sunday 10pm) within the assigned weekly unit. Weekly discussion posts will be graded on a 100-point scale with the total discussion grade comprising 30% of the final grade.

Quizzes

There will be a total of 6 quizzes worth 10 points each. Quizzes cover the reading material from the textbook, assigned readings, activities, and lecture, and will typically consist of multiple choice questions. Quizzes will allow subsequent attempts to improve your grade. Total quiz grade will comprise 10% of your final grade. Quizzes are due by the close of the unit they are assigned (by Sunday midnight).

Exams

There will be a total of two exams worth 100 points each (each exam is worth 20% of your final grade). Exams cover material from the texts, assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions, and will typically consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions.

Research Project

Students are required to locate a recent (within 5 years) scientific research study from a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

- Title of the article and citation in APA format
- Brief summary of Literature review to show background research and why the study is needed
- Describe the research questions
- Type of study (Qualitative (specify type), quantitative, or mixed methods)
- Describe the Methods Section (participants, procedures, etc.)
- Data collection methods
- What type of Data analysis was used

- Summarize the Results and conclusions
- Describe the Scientific Merit of the study in the field
- How does this study lead to future research

Grading Matrix:

Activities/Assignments	Value (percentages)
Discussion Posts	30%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	20%
Research Project	20%
Total:	100%

Grade Determination

A = 90% or better

B = 80 – 89 %

C = 70 – 79 %

D = 60 – 69 %

F = less than 60%

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (i.e., ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (i.e., SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy:

No extensions are given, unless a legitimate excuse is received well before the due date. For illness or injury a doctor's note is required. An unexcused late assignment will result in an automatic 10 point deduction and an additional 5 point deduction for each day after that.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). Exams will be online only.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf for complete provisions of this code.

Classroom Policies

Discussion Post Policy:

No extensions are given for late discussion posts beyond the end of the unit without prior consent by the instructor, as students and the instructor will move to the next module after the unit ends. Late initial/response posts posted within the unit dates, will be graded with a 5 point deduction for each day late.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Blackboard classroom and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience, and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in the discussion board. Online presence and participation in all class discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible for notifying the instructor if they will be missing online class requirements, and they must share their reason for missing class.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.