

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH METHODS FOR PSYCHOLOGY - 830:256 (91)
COURSE SYLLABUS
Spring 2015

Instructor:	Dr. Charlotte N. Markey	Lecture:	T, Th, 3:00-4:20pm
e-mail:	chmarkey@camden.rutgers.edu		in FA 242
Office Phone:	856.225.6332		(Note: see schedule for days
Office:	318 Armitage		we do not meet as a class)
Office hours:	Tues 2:00-3:00pm		

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Welcome to Research Methods for Psychology!

This course provides an introduction to research methods in the field of psychology.

The following topics will be emphasized: the role of scientific inquiry in psychology, research questions, ethics in research, writing in psychology, reliability, validity, and research designs. Upon completion of the course, you should possess an understanding of the fundamental principles and procedures of psychological research.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The learning objectives of this course are consistent with the goals of the department. Course activities are designed to assess these learning objectives. Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify the fundamental principles and procedures of psychological research.
- Distinguish between scientific versus non-scientific sources of information.
- Critically analyze psychological research.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- 1) Cosby, P. C. & Bates, S. *Methods in Behavioral Research*, 12th Ed. New York: McGraw Hill. Textbook is available in the Rutgers-Camden bookstore and on the web.
- 2) *American Psychological Association Publication Manual* (6th edition). Washington D.C.: American Psychological Association.(Be sure to get the 6th edition!) Available in the bookstore or on-line at Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com
- 3) Articles are available via the course Sakai web page – consult the course schedule to determine when they should be read.

Please read all assigned readings BEFORE they are covered in class.

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1) ATTENDANCE, CLASS PARTICIPATION, AND MEETINGS: Class attendance and participation is expected (for the days class is held in person and not online). Most classes will include discussions and/or exercises designed to increase your understanding of the material and assure your success in this course. Further, you will be expected to turn in worksheets and exercises that will be completed in class. If you are not in class, there is no way to complete these assignments; make-ups will **not** be available. You will also be expected to meet with your instructor during the semester to discuss

progress on your research papers, and you are required to meet with her *at least once*; you should come to these meetings prepared. Thus, this component of your grade will be based on the following criteria: 1) Did you attend class? 2) Did you contribute to the intellectual climate in class (by listening to the professor and your classmates and participating in discussions and exercises)? 3) Did you turn in all of the worksheets and assignments that we completed in class? and 4) Did you meet with the instructor and prepare for these meetings with questions or the relevant assignment?

2) ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS: Following most online lectures, there will be an online assignment for you to complete. Usually, these will be evaluated on a credit/no credit basis (i.e., if you make sufficient effort to complete the assignment you will receive credit). Most of these will be available for completion via the “Tests and Quizzes” section of Sakai, but the online lectures will direct you as to where to find these assignments. Assignments **must be completed** the week of the lecture (by the date indicated) in order for credit to be received.

3) ONLINE QUIZZES: Following most online lectures there will be an online quiz for you to complete. These quizzes will be very brief (approximately 5 questions) and will address the material in the online lecture for that week as well as the material in the book chapter and other readings being covered. In other words, you should read the chapter and watch the online lecture before taking the quiz. You will have a limited amount of time to complete the quiz, and it is expected that you do so on your own and **without** notes or the textbook. The time limit will make it impossible for you to spend time looking up answers to the questions. Due to the number of quizzes and the anticipation of some minor technical problems when students attempt to take quizzes, the lowest quiz score will be dropped for each student. Thus, if you forget to take a quiz, or have a technical problem taking a quiz, that will be the quiz score (presumably, of “0”) that will be dropped.

4) EXAMS: You will be evaluated on your understanding of the material by taking three exams. Each exam will include questions based on the readings and lectures, with an emphasis on material explicitly discussed in class and online lectures. The third (final) exam will be partially cumulative. Study guides and review sessions should aid in your preparation for the exams. All exams will be administered online via Sakai’s “Tests and Quizzes” section. You will have a limited time to complete exams and are expected to complete them on your own. Exams are not intended to be open note or open book; the time limits imposed will make it impossible to look up answers to exam questions. You will have a restricted range of time during which to take the exam (a 6 hour window of time). No make-up exams will be given unless arrangements are made **prior** to an exam or proof of necessary absenteeism (e.g., a Dr. note) is provided. Forgetting to take the exam is not an excuse for missing an exam nor is a technical problem (with the time provided, finding another computer to take an exam on should be possible).

5) “RESEARCH IN THE REAL WORLD”: It is an important objective of this class to provide you with the skills necessary to become an informed consumer of research in the “real world.” Thus, during each in person class we will take some time to discuss how class material relates to research discussed in the media. Students should each sign up for a day to bring in relevant information to class –“Research in the Real World”-- (e.g., a newspaper, magazine article) and present it to the class. This presentation should be very brief (no more than 5 minutes) and relatively informal. If you are not comfortable with presenting in person, you should talk with the instructor. You have the option of presenting your Research in the Real World online. Additional information about this assignments and a related hand out will be made available in class.

6) RESEARCH PAPER: In order to show off your understanding of research and your writing skills, you will complete a research paper. This paper is broken into two main parts (with other minor assignments that will contribute to your paper). First, you will write a literature review paper on a topic of your

choosing (this topic needs to be discussed with and approved by the professor). You will receive instruction in class and assigned readings that discuss the best way to approach writing a literature review. This part of your paper should be 2-3 pages long (of text, double-spaced, 12 font, standard fonts) and is due **March 12th by 3pm via Sakai**. The second part of your paper will be approximately 2 pages long (of text, double-spaced, 12 font, standard fonts) and will be a proposal for a research project addressing the topic discussed in the literature review paper you already completed. This paper is due on **April 28th by 3pm via Sakai**. These papers should be in APA style and should include title pages, abstracts, and references. Additional information about the research paper will be made available in class and in separate handouts.

GRADING:

Grades will be computed as follows:

Attendance and in class participation	10%
Online assignments	5%
Quizzes	5%
1 st Exam	15%
2 nd Exam	15%
3 rd Exam (Final)	23%
“Research in the Real World” Presentation	2%
Research Paper (includes all parts)	25%

Readings in Sakai Resources:

- 1) Miller, G. A. (1969). Psychology as a means of promoting human welfare. *American Psychologist*, 24, 1063-1075.
- 2) Markey, P. M, French, J. E., & Markey, C. N. (in press). Violent movies and severe acts of violence: Sensationalism versus science. *Human Communication Research*.
- 3) Goldacre, B. (2010). *Bad Science: Quacks, Hacks, and Big Pharma Flacks*. (Using Ch 1, 5, and 12). New York: Farber and Farber.
- 4) Bem, D. J. (1987). Writing the empirical journal article. In: E.P. Zanna, & J. M. Darley (Eds.), *The compleat academic: A practical guide for the beginning social scientist* (pp. 171-201). Washington, DC, US: American Psychological Association.
- 5) Rosenthal, R. (1994). Interpersonal Expectancy Effects: A 30-year perspective. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 3, 176-179.
- 6) Markey, C. N. (2008). *Why I care about research and you should too (In spite of its limits)*. Unpublished Manuscript.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is a *tentative* schedule for this course. Dates may change slightly depending on our *actual* progress in covering the material.

* unless otherwise indicated, chapter readings refer to the Cozby & Bates text.

***unless otherwise indicated, class will meet in person on Tuesdays each week and class will be conducted exclusively online on Thursdays each week.

Week 1: Introduction to Method and Theory in Psychology

Tues Jan 20	Course introduction Why study research methods?	Chapter 1*
Thurs Jan 22	Ways of knowing Critical thinking	Chapter 1 QUIZ 1 ONLINE ***Meet in Class***

Week 2: Science and Research Questions

Tues., Jan 27	Pseudoscience Public knowledge of research	Reserve readings: Miller (1969), Markey et al. (2015), Goldacre (2010) Ch 1 Matter
Thurs., Jan 29	Developing research questions	Chapter 2 ONLINE LECTURE QUIZ 2 ONLINE ONLINE ASSIGNMENT

Week 3: Searching the Literature

Tues., Feb 3	Doing literature searches <i>Meet with the professor this week to discuss research paper topics</i>	Chapter 2
Thurs., Feb 5	Doing literature searches <i>Meet with the professor this week to discuss research paper topics</i>	Chapter 2 ONLINE LECTURE QUIZ 3 ONLINE ONLINE ASSIGNMENT

Week 4: Ethics

Tues., Feb 10	Ethics in research	Chapter 3
Thurs., Feb 12	Ethics in writing, plagiarism, academic honesty Review for Exam 1	Chapter 3 APA manual p. 12-20 ONLINE LECTURE RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS AND REFERENCES DUE

Week 5: Exam 1: Writing in Psychology

Tues., Feb 17	<i>Exam 1, Chapters 1-3 and Reserve Readings</i>	ONLINE EXAM
Thurs., Feb 19	Writing a research paper	Appendix A, Reserve reading: Bem (1987) ONLINE LECTURE QUIZ 4 ONLINE ONLINE ASSIGNMENT

Week 6: Writing in Psychology

Tues., Feb 24	How to summarize and write BRING YOUR LAPTOP OR TABLET	Appendix A, APA Manual Chapter 1 and 2
Thurs., Feb 26	Writing skills	APA Manual Chapter 3

		ONLINE LECTURE QUIZ 5 ONLINE ONLINE ASSIGNMENT
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Week 7: Variables

Tues., March 3	Independent and dependent variables	Chapter 4 SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES FOR LIT SEARCH PAPER DUE
Thurs., March 5	Variables, measurement, tables, and basic statistics	Chapter 12; APA manual p. 125-167 (look over) ONLINE LECTURE QUIZ 6 ONLINE ONLINE ASSIGNMENT

Week 8: Reliability and Validity

Tues., March 10	Reliability and validity of measurements	Chapter 5
Thurs., March 12	Reliability and validity, cont.	Chapter 5 RESEARCH PAPER 1 DUE

Week 9: Spring Break (March 17 and 19; no class)

Week 10: Nonexperimental Designs

Tues., March 24	Case studies and Archival Research	Chapter 6
Thurs., March 26	Observational Research	Chapter 6 ONLINE LECTURE QUIZ 7 ONLINE ONLINE ASSIGNMENT

Week 11: Survey Research

Tues., March 31	Conducting Surveys Review for Exam 2	Chapter 7
Thurs., April 2	<i>Exam 2, Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, Appendix A, APA Manual and Reserve Readings</i>	ONLINE EXAM

Week 12: Basic Experiments

Tues., April 7	Begin Experiments	Chapter 8
Thurs., April 9	Experiments and Control	Chapter 9, Reserve readings: Goldacre (2010) Ch 5 The Placebo Effect; Rosenthal (1994) ONLINE LECTURE QUIZ 8 ONLINE ONLINE ASSIGNMENT

Week 13: Experimental Research

Tues., April 14	Doing an Experiment Writing a Method Section	Chapter 8 and 9
Thurs., April 16	<i>Meet with the professor to discuss 2nd research papers</i>	

Week 14: Factorial experiments

Tues., April 21	Factorial designs	Chapter 10
Thurs., April 23	Factorial Designs, An example	Chapter 10 ONLINE LECTURE QUIZ 9 ONLINE ONLINE ASSIGNMENT

Week 15: Quasiexperiments and The Limits of Science

Tues., April 28	Quasiexperiments and a review of designs	Chapter 11 RESEARCH PAPER 2 DUE
Thurs., April 30	The limits of science Review for Exam 3 (Final), Partially Cumulative	Chapter 14, Reserve: Markey (2008); Goldacre (2010) Ch 12 And Another Thing ***Meet in class***

FINAL EXAM: MAY 12, 2:45-5:45PM

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES:

- 1) This class will be most rewarding for you if you are an active participant in class and view this experience as a collaborative enterprise. To this end, throughout the semester you are encouraged to communicate with your professor (during class and during office hours) and are expected to keep up with all readings and assignments.
- 2) Additional information about this class, and a copy of the syllabus is available on the instructor's web page (www.CharlotteMarkey.com) and the course Sakai web page (sakai.rutgers.edu). Being unaware of course requirements and expectations is not an excuse for failing to complete any of the assignments in this course.
- 3) If you are in class, you will be expected to be attentive, participate, stay the entire class time, and be prepared for any activities and exams scheduled for that day. You will be asked to leave class if you do any of the following:
 - ~Talk on your cell phone (turn phones off!)
 - ~Text on your cell phone
 - ~Open your laptop computer or tablet
 - ~Pass notes to classmates
 - ~Sleep

You attendance in this course is voluntary. If you do not wish to be in class or prefer to do any of these activities instead of being in class, then you should leave.

- 4) ***Power point slides presented in class will not be available*** except in class (i.e., these will NOT be posted on the web). If you miss class, you should obtain notes from a classmate and read the textbook. Note that the majority of material discussed in class (approx. ~85%) is in the textbook or other readings. Course lectures are designed to aid in your understanding of the assigned readings, focus you on the most important material, and offer an opportunity to further your understanding through class discussion. (In other words, power point slides are not a substitute for class attendance and participation thus will not be available outside of class.)

- 5) If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to become informed of any announcements made in class. Further, while class worksheets/ exercises will **not** be accepted late, it will increase your understanding of class material (and help you to prepare for exams) if you complete them.
- 6) This is a hybrid class and completing this class successfully requires access to online materials and activities available through Sakai (sakai.rutgers.edu). **You must be able to log into this site on a regular basis.** This means that you must resolve any problems with registration as quickly as possible, and make sure that you can log into the site either from campus or from home. If you have trouble logging into Sakai, you should contact the instructor or teaching assistant immediately. It is important that you have access to the computer resources necessary to complete all class lessons, assignments, quizzes, and exams. Online lectures will be uploaded to the “Lessons” section of Sakai. Prior to watching the video, you will be prompted for your name. Please use your last name and first name as they appear on your Rutgers ID. Note that campus computer labs are accessible to all Rutgers students; thus, problems with your personal technology is not an excuse for not completing work for this course.
- 7) No make-up exams will be given unless arrangements are made **prior** to an exam or proof of necessary absenteeism (e.g., a Dr. note) is provided. If you unexpectedly miss an online exam due to exceptional circumstances (e.g., a serious car accident), it is your responsibility to contact the instructor within 24 hours of the exam to discuss the possibility of a make-up exam. You may also contact the department secretary, in the case of an emergency at 856-225-6520. Any make-up exam is likely to differ from the exam the rest of the class takes and will typically be in essay format.
- 8) For disability accommodations, please call the Disability Services Coordinator (Timothy Pure: (856) 225-2717, tpure@camden.rutgers.edu, Armitage Hall, Room 240). Students who require special accommodations should notify me during the first week of class.
- 9) Academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating on exams and plagiarism. Students caught participate in academic dishonesty will receive a score of zero on the relevant assignment. In addition, instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Scholastic Conduct Committee. Sanctions for academic dishonesty range from failing an assignment to failing a course or expulsion from the University. For additional information about Rutgers’ policies concerning academic dishonesty refer to: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>.