

Research Methods

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Research Methods in Psychology I (PSY 221) Sections 02 and 03
Fall 2009

Instructor: Steven W. Horowitz, Ph.D.

Office: 100500 Barnard Hall (HB)

Phone: 832-3119 EMAIL: HOROWITZS@CCSU.EDU

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., Wednesday 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., and Monday 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. or by appointment.

Required Texts: Shaughnessy, J.J., Zechmeister, E.B., & Zechmeister, J.S. (2009).

Research Methods in Psychology. (8th. Ed). New York: McGraw Hill.

APA Publication manual, Sixth Edition

Prerequisites: PSY 112 and STAT 215.

Course description: This course is an introduction to research design and analysis for psychology. Each student will plan an independent research project. This is required of all Psychology majors.

Students are held responsible for all announcements and information given during class and lab sessions and for the completion of all course work. If you miss an assignment or exam, you are responsible for arranging for the completion of missed work. In addition to the 4 hour per week commitment for class times, you will need to schedule 2-4 additional on-campus hours per week for library and computer assignments.

Students with disabilities: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

Calculators: I strongly recommend that you buy an inexpensive calculator with a square root key. You will be able to use your calculator on exams. You must have your own, since there will be no sharing of calculators during exams. Please bring your calculator to class each day.

Exams and assignments: There will be 3 exams during the semester, the last exam being scheduled during final exam week. Although the last exam is not a cumulative final, course material in earlier sections provides a base for later concepts. Each exam will be worth 50 points and will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. Additional course work (up to 50 points total) will include computer, library, and writing assignments. These assignments will require you to use on-campus computer and library facilities for several additional hours per

week outside of class time. These assignments are an essential part of your final grade and must be turned in on time. Plan ahead to meet specified deadlines. Late work will receive little or no credit. Your research proposal will be worth up to 100 points and also must be turned in on time. Each student will present their research proposal to the class orally. Twenty-five percent of your proposal grade will be for the oral presentation.

The total number of points for the course is approximately 300. Grades will be assigned on the basis of the number of points you have earned during the semester as a percentage of the highest total in the class. The percentages are translated into letter grades below. There will be no extra credit work available.

95-100 A	76-79.5 C+	60-62.5 D-
90-94.5 A-	73-75.5 C	<60 F
86-89.5 B+	70-72.5 C-	
83-85.5 B	66-69.5 D+	
80-82.5 B-	63-65.5 D	

Make up exams: Make up exams will be given in certain extreme cases. Please let me know immediately (832-3119) if you missed an exam or if you anticipate missing an exam. I would appreciate your cooperation in keeping make up exams to a minimum. Make up exams may differ from the scheduled exams in format and content.

Class participation and attendance: The success of this class depends on your participation. In order to participate, of course, you must attend class. I strongly urge you to make a habit of coming to class every day. Material will be presented in class that is not in the book.

Incompletes: Incompletes can only be given to students who have successfully completed 75% of the course material. This usually applies to a student who missed the final exam or has been excused by the Dean for medical reasons. I cannot give an incomplete to a student who is failing the course. Because of the above University regulations, very few incompletes are awarded. We must discuss incompletes before they are given.

Withdrawals: If you are not doing well in the course, you may decide to withdraw. Before the middle of the term (October 26) you may withdraw by contacting the registrar. After the middle of the term you must follow an involved procedure which requires approvals from several individuals. Be sure to check with me before filling out the withdrawal form, since the approval depends on the reasons stated on the form. You should continue to attend class until the withdrawal has been approved by the Dean. If the withdrawal is not approved, I will have to grade you for the course. The first exam is scheduled before the deadline for withdrawal so you can have some feel for what is expected. Speaking with me is not the same as withdrawing from the course. Please officially withdraw if that is your intent.

Computer: All students are expected to complete assignments on the computer. You must have a University NT or "BlueNet" account. If you do not have this, stop by the Marcus White Annex

Microcomputer Lab early in the semester and the information services staff will assist you.

Miscellaneous: Please feel free to ask questions in class. If you have a question about the presented or text material, others are probably wondering about the same issues. Reading assignments are found in the text and are listed on the accompanying schedule. It is expected that the assignments will be read in advance.

Research Proposal: For Psych 221 you are required to submit a research proposal for a project that you will complete in Psych 222. The proposal should be approximately 8-12 typed pages with 1 inch margins on all edges, double-spacing the entire text, including abstract and references. The manuscript should follow APA 6th edition guidelines for format and style. A separate photocopy of one of your reference articles and your proposal should be also be included with your submission. In other words you are turning in two (2) copies of your proposal. Your proposal must include at least seven reference citations. This would include books and journal articles. **Cite no web sites.** Every citation in the text must be represented as an entry in the Reference section. Every entry in the Reference section must be cited in the text of the paper.

Plagiarism on your papers or cheating on quizzes and examination will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is sometimes difficult to understand. Visit this web site for a clear statement and explanation of CCSU's policy. <http://finalsite.ccsu.edu/page.cfm?p=541>

Ask about this in class if you have any questions.

Schedule

<u>Date</u> (week of)	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Aug 31	Intro - Psychology as a Science	1 and 2
Sep 8	Introduction to Experimental Methods tour of the library <i>...meet in the library on 9/9 for Section 03 9/10 for Section 02</i>	7
14	Ethics in Research	3
21	Descriptive Statistics: Central Tendency & Variability	
*28	Introduction to Computing	
Sep 30	EXAM ONE section 03	
Oct 1	EXAM ONE section 02	
5	Descriptive Methods: Observation Linear Regression and Correlation	4, 12
12	Surveys and Tests	5
19	Random Sampling and Probability Questionnaire Construction	
26	Normal Curves and Standard Scores	
Nov 2	EXAM TWO section 03	
Nov 3	EXAM TWO section 02	
4/5	Physical Traces, Archival Data	6
9	Unobtrusive Measures	
16	Normal distributions and the Z-test	
23	Independent Groups and t-tests	13 (to page 426)
30	Proposal Presentations	
Dec 7		

FINAL EXAM: Section 02 Thursday December 17 11:00 a.m.

Section 03 Monday December 14 8:00 a.m.

***** ALL WRITTEN PROPOSALS DUE Week of November 23 *****

*[you MUST have a valid NT account by this date]