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PSYX 120.01: Research Methods I

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Psychology 120 (Section 1)—Research Methods I

Spring 2016

Course Location and Time

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:10am – 11:00am
Chem 123

Instructor Information

Instructor: Brook Clark
Office: Skaggs Bldg. 237
Email: brook.clark@umontana.edu (the best way to contact me)
Office hours: M/W from 8:10am - 10:00am, or by appointment

Required Text

Leary, M.R. (2011). Introduction to Behavioral Research Methods, 6th Edition. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

Course Objectives

The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with an overview of the research methods used in psychological research. Specific topics to be covered include the foundations of research, sampling procedures, measurement, research design, and analysis. Students are expected to think critically and to actively participate in class discussions and activities. The format of the course will rely on both lecture and discussion.

In order to accomplish this objective, it is expected that students will exhibit professional behavior throughout the course. This includes, for example, student attendance, preparedness, and active participation and involvement in class.

COURSE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

Academic Misconduct

You are expected to adhere to the university's student conduct code with regard to academic integrity. Academic misconduct in this course will result in an academic penalty commensurate with the offense as well as possible disciplinary action by the university. Please familiarize yourself with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work

with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Courtesy

Courtesy is expected. Come to class on time and stay for the entire session. If you have an emergency and must come in late or leave early, please do so quietly. Please be quiet and polite during class. If you are not enthralled, that's OK; if you read the paper, talk to your neighbor, or do anything else that is distracting to me or to others, that is NOT OK. It is my responsibility to create a good learning environment, and I will ask individuals who are being distracting to leave. **A note about phones:** please practice cell phone courtesy. Turn your phone to silent during class.

Attendance/Announcements

Attendance is not mandatory and role will not be taken. However, your course grade is determined by exams (which will include material from lecture as well as the text), and in-class assignments. **Course notes are not posted and I do not give my notes out– if you miss class, you are responsible for the material covered.** Further, students are responsible for any announcements made in class. These may include changes in policy, due dates, assignment requirements, etc.

Course Withdrawal

March 28th is the last day to drop classes with an add/drop slip (both the instructor's and the advisor's signatures are required). After that date, no petitions to drop the course will be signed and no Incompletes will be given except in documentable emergency situations.

HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED

Exams

You will have 3 exams throughout the course. Each exam will contain a total of 50 multiple-choice questions (2 pts. per question = 100 pts. each exam). The exams will test your knowledge of topics covered in lecture as well as in the text. **A cumulative final exam will be an option** during final exam week. Students choosing to take the cumulative final may drop their lowest test score. There are no make-up exams, except in the case of a documented emergency (medical, family death, etc.), in which case you will need to notify me prior to the missed exam.

In-Class Assignments

In-class assignments will be given throughout the semester. These assignments will vary depending on the topic discussed in class. For example, students may be asked to reflect upon a particular issue in research and turn in a brief written response. Assignments are designed to increase students' ability to apply concepts from class. There are no make-ups for in-class assignments (except in the case of a documentable emergency).

Grading

Your final course grade will be based upon a total of 350 possible points that will be distributed as follows:

- 3 Highest Exam Scores (100 points each): 300 points
- In-class Assignments (5-10 points each): 50 points

Course grading will be based on the following point scale:

A:	90% or higher
B+:	86-89%
B:	83-85%
B-:	80-82%
C+:	76-79%
C:	73-75%
C-:	70-72%
D+:	66-69%
D:	63-65%
D-:	60-62%
F:	59% and below

Be warned now: I will round decimal places equal to or greater than ".5" up (so a total of 89.5% will be an "A"); however, beyond this, the grade you receive will be whatever the numbers say, **NO EXCEPTIONS** (so an 89.4% will be a "B+"). I am aware that this can create some unfortunate circumstances for those students who are on the "bubble". However, the problem with changing the criterion for a given student is that, once I change that criterion, inevitably another student is "right on the bubble," so ultimately *someone* just barely misses it. I don't want to be overly subjective in my judgment of who should get to surpass the objective criteria; thus, no one will.

NOTE: If you are a psychology major, you must get a C, not a C- for the grade to count.

The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus if necessary.

	Course Schedule PSYX 120	
DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READING/EXAMS
Jan. 25	Course Overview/Introduction	Course Overview
Jan. 27-Jan 29	Research in the Behavioral Sciences	Chapter 1
Feb. 1-Feb. 5	Behavioral Variability and Research **Guest Lecturers on Wed. and Fri.**	Chapter 2
Feb. 8-Feb. 12	The Measurement of Behavior	Chapter 3
Feb. 15	President's Day-NO CLASS	
Feb. 17-Feb. 19	Approaches to Psychological Measurement	Chapter 4
Monday, Feb. 22	EXAM 1	Chapters 1-4
Feb. 24-Feb. 26	Selecting Research Participants	Chapter 5
Feb. 29-Mar. 4	Descriptive Research	Chapter 6
Mar. 7-Mar. 11	Correlational Research	Chapter 7
Mar. 14-Mar. 18	Advanced Correlational Strategies	Chapter 8
Monday, Mar. 21	EXAM 2	Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8
Mar. 23-Mar. 25	Basic Issues in Experimental Design	Chapter 9
Mar. 28-Apr. 1	Experimental Design	Chapter 10
Apr. 4-Apr. 8	SPRING BREAK- NO CLASS	
Apr. 11-Apr. 15	Analyzing Experimental Data	Chapter 11
Apr. 18-Apr. 22	Quasi-Experimental Designs	Chapter 13
Apr. 25-Apr. 29	Ethical Issues in Behavioral Research	Chapter 15
May 2	Scientific Writing	Chapter 16
May 4	Exam 3 Review- during regular class time	Chapters 9-11, 13, 15-16

	Course Schedule PSYX 120	
DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READING/EXAMS
May 6	EXAM 3	Chapters 9-11, 13, 15-16
Thursday, May 12 10:10-12:00	Optional Cumulative Final Exam	Chapters 1-11, 13, 15-16