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PSYX 320.01: Research Methods III

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Psyx 320 – Research Methods III

Spring, 2016

Course Location and Time

SB 246

Tuesday, Thursday 1:10 – 3:00pm

Instructor Information

Instructor: Yoonhee Jang, Ph.D.

Email: yoonhee.jang@umontana.edu (the **BEST** way to contact me)

Office: SB 205

Office hours: Thursday 3:30 – 5:00pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistant (TA): Zachary Ahlstrom

Email: zachary.ahlstrom@umontana.edu

Office: SB 363

Office hours: Tuesday 10:00 – 11:00am; Wednesday 11:00am – 12:00pm or by appointment

Textbook

Goodwin, C. J., & Goodwin, K. A. (2012). *Research in Psychology: Methods and Design* (7th Ed.). John Wiley & Sons, Inc. ISBN 9781118360026

Journal articles will be handed out or copied by students.

Recommended: American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychology Association* (6th Ed.). APA.

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to offer students an opportunity for conducting research and to better prepare them for graduate work (particularly in psychology) or advanced research. Students are expected to develop research ideas, perform experiments, analyze data, and present research projects. Additionally, this is an advanced college writing course, so students are expected to write journal-style reports using APA style.

Course Guidelines and Policies

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 may 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 you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Class Materials

Class materials can be found on [Moodle](#).

Expectations

1. Be respectful of everybody in the classroom. Do NOT engage in behaviors that will disrupt class, interfere with the learning of other students, or distract me from teaching (e.g., talking, coming late or leaving early **consistently**, having cell phones on, etc.). A failure to meet this expectation will result in you being dismissed from the class.
2. Ask questions whenever needed. Simply raise your hand if you have something to share. You are welcome to stop by my office at the office hours bringing any questions. Please speak with me privately if you are being disturbed or encounter unanticipated difficulties in class.
3. Comply with the Academic integrity policy and honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

e.g., V. Academic Conduct

- **Misconduct during an examination or academic exercise:** Copying from another student's paper, consulting unauthorized material, giving information to another student or collaborating with one or more students without authorization, or otherwise failing to abide by the University or instructor's rules governing the examination or academic exercise without the instructor's permission.
 - **Unauthorized possession of examination or other course materials:** Acquiring or possessing an examination or other course materials without authorization by the instructor.
4. Do not apologize for missing classes. Just be responsible for the consequences.

Grading

Grades will be rounded to the nearest whole %.

e.g., if raw score=89.4xxx%, then grade=B; if raw score=89.5xxx%, then grade=A.

(fill in the blank) if your score is 89.49%, then your grade is _____, and if 89.50%, then _____.

- 90%=< A
- 80-89% B
- 70-79% C
- 60-69% D
- =<59% F

Make sure that I am not giving you a grade: You are earning YOUR grade.

Final Grades will be based on the following:

Component	%	Note
Short assignments	24	Hand in hard copies unless announced otherwise
Exam	16	Bring PSYCHOLOGY scantrons and #2 pencils
Research papers	32	Hand in hard copies
Research presentation	10	Through computer projector
Final paper	18	Hand in hard copies by 1:10pm, Thursday, 5/5/2016
Subtotal	100%	
Human subjects protection course	2	Extra credit: by 1:10pm, Thursday, 5/5/2016
Extra credit from in-class experiments	2	If you complete all assignments, papers, and presentation on time, then you will earn 2% of extra credit
Total	104%	

- **Short assignments: 24% (= 8 × 3%)**

There will be 8 short assignments, which will cover library search, research idea development, reporting results, etc.. Each should be handed in as hard copies unless announced otherwise. Each is worth 3% of your course grade, so the total of all of your homework assignments is worth 24% of your course grade. If possible, please bring and use your own laptop computer, which would be needed for some of them (in class).

- **Exam: 16%**

There will be one exam, which will cover everything from the textbook and lectures and take the entire class period to complete. The questions will consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions. Bring PSYCHOLOGY scantrons and #2 pencils.

- **Research papers: 32% (= 2 × 16%)**

You will write 2 research papers using APA style. Each should consist of a minimum of 5 pages (only main text parts, excluding title page, abstract, references, tables, figures, etc.) and be handed in as hard copies.

Each is worth 16% of your course grade, so the total of your in-class research papers is worth 32% of your course grade.

- **Research presentation: 10%**

The last 3.5-4 weeks of the semester will be devoted to about 20 min student presentations based on your research proposal. This will allow others to benefit from your research and you to benefit from everyone's feedback before you complete the final paper. You should provide your presentation through computer projector.

- **Final paper: 18%**

Each student is required to submit a minimum of 5 page (only text parts, excluding title page, abstract, references, tables, figures, etc.) research proposal using APA style, **by 1:10pm, Thursday, 5/5/2016**. It should be handed in as hard copies.

The proposal can address any one (or a combination) of the main topic areas of psychology, but it must be an experiment: it should not be a correlational study or survey. You may use a quasi-experimental factor, and if so, you must add at least one independent factor which you should be able to manipulate so that your research can be an experiment.

Before then, you will be required to submit your research idea(s) very briefly, by 1:10pm, Thursday, 3/10/2016 (early submission is encouraged), including (at least) the following things:

- (1) Tentative title;
- (2) Independent and dependent variables; and
- (3) Experimental design.

Then, I will meet with you about your idea(s). Nobody will be allowed to present and turn in the final paper without accomplishing the preliminary task. The initial step towards your research will benefit you more than worrying and procrastinating.

- **Human subjects protection course: 2% extra credit points**

All researchers involved in research activity must complete a course in human subject protection: see more information at [the UM human subjects protection course webpage](#).

To receive the extra credit for this course, visit the website of [CITI](#), open an account using your UM student email address, and choose and take the course of social & behavioral research.

Once you have successfully completed the course, you should print out the completion report and hand in **by 1:10pm, Thursday, 5/5/2016**, in order to earn 2% extra credit points of your course grade. There will be NO opportunity to make up failing the report beyond that time/date. Note that you can add it into your cv or resume (when applying for jobs).

- **Completing all assignments, papers, and presentation on time: 2% extra credit points**

If you complete all assignments, papers, and presentation (basically all class activities) on time (as scheduled), then you will earn 2% extra credit points of your course grade.

Late-assignment (from all activities in class, except the exam) Policy

Each will have a deadline (will be announced in class) which must be met. Assignments handed in after the due date will have 10% of the grade deducted for every day you are late (including weekends and holidays).

Make-up Exam Policy

The exam can ONLY be made up with a documented absence for University sanctioned reasons (such as illness and family emergency): you will not be considered for a makeup exam for your family reunion, vacation, etc. If for some emergency you must miss an exam, you should contact the instructor via email BEFORE the test takes place. If you fail to do so, you will not be allowed to take a make-up exam and will receive a score of 0. The document (only hard copies accepted) should fully provide the information about the absence and be handed in by the next class meeting of the missing exam.

The Writing Outcomes

- Identify and pursue more sophisticated questions for academic inquiry
- Find, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information effectively from diverse sources
- Manage multiple perspectives as appropriate
- Recognize the purposes and needs of discipline-specific audiences and adopt the academic voice necessary for the chosen discipline
- Use multiple drafts, revision, and editing in conducting inquiry and preparing written work
- Follow the conventions of citation, documentation, and formal presentation appropriate to that discipline
- Develop competence in information technology and digital literacy

Course Schedule

Schedule of classes: subject to changes by instructor! (NO class on Th, 3/31)

Date	Topic	Chapters
Tu; 1/26	Introduction	
Th; 1/28	Scientific Thinking	Ch.1
Tu – Th; 2/2 – 2/4	Developing Research Ideas	Ch.3
Tu – Th; 2/9 – 2/11	Experimental Research	Ch.5
Tu – Tu; 2/16 – 2/23	Data Analysis and Control	Ch.4 & 6
Th; 2/25	Exam (Ch.1 and 3-6)	
Tu – Tu; 3/1 – 3/29	Conducting Experiments and Reporting Data	
Tu – Th; 4/12 – 5/5	Research Presentation	