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PSYC 120.02: Introduction to Psychological Research Methods

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The University of Montana

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Introduction to Psychological Research Methods

Psychology 120

Tuesday - Thursday 6:10-7:30

GBB 123

Instructor: Baine Craft

Office Hours: Tuesday 4:30-6:00, Thursday 4:30-6:00 or by appointment

Office Phone: 243-6514 (not so good way to contact me)

Email: craftyasu@yahoo.com (best way to contact me)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to psychological research methods has been designed to provide students with a fundamental understanding of the scientific method, basic research methods, the implementation of the appropriate research methods in specific situations and the ethical issues involved in conducting research. Specifically, the course will emphasize the scientific method as it is applied to the investigation and explanation of psychological phenomena.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Elmes, David G.; Kantowitz, Barry H.; and Roediger III, Henry L. (2003). *Research Methods in Psychology*, 7th Edition. Wadsworth: Belmont, CA. ISBN: 0-534-55819-4

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- An introduction to the function and purpose of psychological research
- An introduction to the function and purpose of the scientific method
- An understanding of the major experimental and quasi-experimental designs
- The inherent problems associated with experimental, non-experimental and quasi-experimental designs
- The ability to develop an empirically testable hypothesis as well as the ability to critically evaluate the validity of other experiments
- The ethical issues involved in conducting research

I. GRADING

Grades will be derived from four out of five exams and ten out of thirteen pop quizzes.

A. TESTS (400pts)

There will be four tests and one cumulative final. Each test, including the final, is worth 100 points. You will be allowed to drop your lowest grade, either one of the four tests or the comprehensive final. The format of the tests will be a combination of 35 multiple choice questions and 3 out of 5 essay questions. The tests will cover information from the current lecture material as well as material covered in the book. The cumulative final will cover material from the entire semester.

B. QUIZZES(100pts)

There will be thirteen pop quizzes given throughout the course of the semester. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. The best 10 quizzes will be factored into the final grade (note: this is equivalent to one test grade).

i. Make-Up Policy

In order for you to take a test or quiz at an alternative time, you must provide me with a university approved excuse, preferably PRIOR to the test date.

ii. Disabilities

The University of Montana provides certain services for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities have the responsibility to declare their disability to me at the beginning of the course if they require accommodations. Such students have the responsibility to arrange for such accommodations with Disability Services for Students.

II. GRADING SCHEME

500 Points Possible for the Course

A	=	100 - 90%
B	=	89 - 80%
C	=	79 - 70%
D	=	69 - 60%
F	=	59% and below

III. COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>READINGS/LECTURE</u>	<u>TEST</u>
Tuesday, Jan. 28 th	syllabus, intro. to Research Methods	
Thursday, Jan. 30 th	Ch. 1	
Tuesday, Feb. 4 th	Finish Ch. 1; begin Ch. 2	
Thursday, Feb. 6 th	Finish Ch. 2	
Tuesday, Feb. 11th		TEST I: Ch. 1 and 2
Thursday, Feb. 13 th	Begin Ch. 3	
Tuesday, Feb. 18 th	Finish Ch. 3	
Thursday, Feb. 20 th	Begin Ch. 4	
Tuesday, Feb. 25 th	Finish Ch. 4	
Thursday, Feb. 27 th	Begin Ch. 5	
Tuesday, Mar. 4 th	Finish Ch. 5	
Thursday, Mar. 6th		TEST II: Ch. 3, 4, and 5
Tuesday, Mar. 11 th	Begin Ch. 6	
Thursday, Mar. 13 th	Finish Ch. 6	
Tuesday, Mar. 18 th	spring break	
Thursday, Mar. 20 th	spring break	
Tuesday, Mar. 25 th	Begin Ch. 7	
Thursday, Mar. 27 th	Finish Ch. 7	
Tuesday, Apr. 1 st	NO CLASS	
Thursday, Apr. 3 rd	Begin Ch. 8	
Tuesday, Apr. 8 th	Finish Ch. 8	
Thursday, Apr. 10th		TEST III: Ch. 6, 7, and 8
Tuesday, Apr. 15 th	Begin Ch. 9	
Thursday, Apr. 17 th	Finish Ch. 9	
Tuesday, Apr. 22 nd	Begin Ch. 10	
Thursday, Apr. 24 th	Finish Ch. 10	
Tuesday, Apr. 29 th	Begin Ch. 11	
Thursday, May 1 st	Finish Ch. 11	
Tuesday, May 6th		TEST IV: Ch. 9, 10, 11
Thursday, May 8 th	Review for final	
Tuesday, May 13th		Comprehensive Final

--Due to time restrictions we will skip chapter 12, 13, and 14. This schedule is tentative and may change depending upon time restrictions, life's conflicts, obstructions, noncompliance with our agenda, and student anxiety.