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### PSYC 120.01: Introduction to Psychological Research Methods

Teresa Kamman

*The University of Montana*

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# INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS

Psychology 120, Section 1  
Fall 2001

*Time & Location:* M W F, 2:10-3:00, GBB 122  
*Instructor:* Teresa Kamman  
*Office:* Skaggs Building, #368  
*Office Hours:* M W F, 3 – 4PM  
*Telephone:* 243-4521 (department) or 243-6514 (office)  
*E-mail:* [tkamman@hotmail.com](mailto:tkamman@hotmail.com)  
*Text:* Research Methods on Psychology. Elmes, Kantowitz, & Roediger (6th ed.). Brooks/Cole.

## Course Topics and Objectives

This course is an introduction to the methods used to study psychology. There are three extremely important objectives of this course:

**One:** You will be introduced to the basic tenets of the scientific method. It is anticipated that you will gain a solid foundation in the assumptions, attitudes, goals, and procedures of science for answering questions about the nature of behavior. You will learn the terminology of research methods in psychology and some of the philosophical underpinnings of science in general.

**Two:** You will be exposed to common research methods as they relate to behavioral research. Both naturalistic observation and the fundamentals of experimentation will be central concerns of the course. It is expected that you will learn the essentials of various types of research designs and to begin to develop a sense of when a particular approach is appropriate.

**Three:** You will be given the means to be a “critical” consumer of research, whether it is published in a referred journal or your hometown newspaper.

Toward these objectives, we will engage in a series of in-class exercises designed to illustrate the practical necessity of careful attention to research methods when attempting to answer questions about behavior. We will also engage in a brief discussion each class period about how we might apply research methodology to the world around us.

A scientific approach to psychology will be emphasized throughout the semester. It is expected by the end of the course that students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of the terminology and essential concepts that are fundamental to answering questions about behavior.

**EXAMS:** There will be a total of four midterm exams and one cumulative final exam. The exams will consist of both multiple choice and short answer questions. Each midterm exam will be worth 60 points and will consist of 30 multiple choice or true/false items (1 point each) and 3 short essay questions (10 points each). At the end of the semester, the lowest quiz score will automatically be dropped. The final will consist of 60 multiple choice questions, each worth one point. The final may NOT be dropped. There are no make-up examinations for individual midterm exams except in cases of true, documented emergencies. If you miss a quiz, that will be your dropped grade. If you miss the final exam, your grade will be withheld until the final exam is made up.

Please note that material from both the lecture and the text will be on the quizzes and final exam.

**GRADING:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating in this class will result in an F. The grading scale is as follows:

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
A: 90 – 100% correct	216 - 240
B: 80 – 89% correct	191 - 215
C: 70 – 79% correct	166 - 190
D: 60 – 69% correct	141 - 165
F: 0 - 59%	0 - 140

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance is not required. However, consistent attendance is highly recommended. (I have been known to give extra credit points for brief, in-class exercises or assignments.) Although the lectures will cover many of the main points of the book, supplemental material will also be presented. Exams will include questions covering lecture material potentially not covered by the book. I do not give out my lecture notes. If you must be absent, ask to borrow the notes from another student.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students with disabilities have the responsibility to declare their disability to the instructor at the beginning of the course if they require accommodations. These students have the responsibility to arrange for such accommodations with Disability Services for Students.

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### SEMESTER SCHEDULE

<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
Wed Sept 5	Chapter 1: Beginning Psychological Research
Fri Sept 7	Chap 1: Elements of Research
Mon Sept 10	Chap 2: The Scientific Method
Wed Sept 12	Chap 2: Theory & Hypotheses
Fri Sept 14	Chap 3: Observation in Psychological Research
Mon Sept 17	Chap 3: Reliability and Validity of Psychological Observations
Wed Sept 19	Chap 3: Basic Principles of Observational Research
Fri Sept 21	Chap 4: Relational Research
Mon Sept 24	Chap 4: Contingency Tables in Relational Research
Weds Sept 26	Chap 4: Principles of Correlation
Fri Sept 28	<b>Exam 1</b> (Chapters 1-4)
Mon Oct 1	Chapter 5: Basics of Experimentation
Wed Oct 3	Chap 5: Control in Experimental Designs
Fri Oct 5	Chap 5: Internal and External Validity

<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
Mon Oct 8	Chap 5: Variables in Experimentation
Weds Oct 10	Chap 6: Conducting Ethical Research
Fri Oct 12	Chap 7: Exploring the Literature in Psychology
Mon Oct 15	Appendix A: Selected Descriptive Statistics
Weds Oct 17	Appendix B: Selected Inferential Statistics
Fri Oct 19	<b>Exam 2</b> (Chapters 5-7 and Selections from Appendices A & B)
Mon Oct 22	Chap 8: Measurement in Psychological Research
Weds Oct 24	Chap 8: Assessment of Reliability & Validity of a Measure
Fri Oct 26	Chap 8: Psychometric Scaling: Guttman & Likert scales
Mon Oct 29	Chap 9: Experimental Design
Weds Oct 31	Chap 9: Between-subjects & Within-subjects Methods
Fri Nov 2	Chap 9: Design Problems
Mon Nov 5	Chap 10: Complex Designs
Weds Nov 7	Chap 10: Factorial Designs
Fri Nov 9	<b>Exam 3</b> (Chapters 8-10)
Mon Nov 12	Veteran's Day Holiday
Weds Nov 14	Chap 11: Small- <i>n</i> Experimentation
Fri Nov 16	Chap 11: Types of Single-case Designs
Mon Nov 19	Chap 11: Problems in Single-case Designs
Weds Nov 21	Thanksgiving Holiday:
Fri Nov 23	Thanksgiving Holiday
Mon Nov 26	Chap 12: Quasi-experimentation
Weds Nov 28	Chap 12: Types of Quasi-experiments
Fri Nov 30	Chap 12: Problems in Quasi-experimentation
Mon Dec 3	Chap 13: Interpreting the Results of Research
Weds Dec 5	Chap 13: Problems of Interpretation
Fri Dec 7	Chap 13: Replication and Converging Operations
Mon Dec 10	Chap 14: Presenting Research Results
Weds Dec 12	<b>Exam 4</b> (Chapters 11-13)
Fri Dec 15	Final Exam Review
Mon Dec 17	<b>Final Exam (1:10 - 3:10)</b>