PSY 3393-0U2—Experimental Projects—Summer 2016

Erik Jonsson Academic Center (JO 3.209) Mondays & Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Instructor Contact Information:
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Hours: 11.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. Mon & Wed
& by appointment

TA Contact Information:
None

Course Description:
This course will focus on designing and conducting psychological research, with a major emphasis on the writing of research reports. This course fulfills the advanced writing requirement for Psychology majors and also fulfills the Texas Core Area requirement 010 Communication (English rhetoric/ composition).

Prerequisite:
PSY 3392 Research Design and Analysis or
PSY 3490 Accelerated Quantitative Measures (same as CGS 3340).

Student Learning Objectives:
After completing the course, students should be able to:

- Locate, accurately summarize, and evaluate bodies of scientific literature in psychology in order to construct an argument.
- Use critical thinking to design and conduct basic studies to address psychological questions using appropriate research methods.
- Apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice.
- Demonstrate effective writing skills in various formats (e.g., summaries, integrations, critiques, technical reports in APA Style) and for various purposes (e.g., informing, teaching, explaining, defending, persuading, arguing).

Required Text and Readings:
1. Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition (2010).
2. There are several required handouts and readings for this course that will be posted on e-learning. Check at least once a week for new postings.

Overview of the Class:
The objectives of the class for each student are twofold:

1) To design, carry out, and interpret the results of a psychological experiment.
2) To write-up the research using APA formatting.

I place considerable emphasis on the ability of students to write effectively and clearly. So, although designing and carrying-out your experiment are important components of this class, the quality of your writing is equally, if not more, important.

Early in the semester, students will work on designing individual experiments and locating appropriate references from the literature, which provide theoretical and practical support for the experiment. As the semester progresses, students will turn in preliminary versions of each section of the paper. Turning in individual sections of the final paper during the semester ensures that students keep up with the great deal of writing that this course requires, and also allows students to receive feedback on their writing, which is useful for the revisions needed for the final paper.

Structure of Final Course Grade:

	Component	*Points*	*Weight*
1	Summary – Article 1	5	2.5%
2	Summary – Article 2	5	2.5%
3	Summary – Article 3	5	2.5%
4	Activity 1: References	6	3%
5	Activity 2: Mechanics of Writing	5	2.5%
6	Activity 3: APA Style	4	2%
7	Activity 4: Statistics	20	10%
8	Experimental Sketch	5	2.5%
9	Online Training/IRB Approval	bonus 5	
10	Conducting Your Experiment	5	2.5%
11	Data Table	5	2.5%
12	Draft of Abstract	5	2.5%
13	Draft of Introduction	10	5%
14	Draft of Methods	10	5%
15	Draft of Results	20	10%
16	Draft of Discussion	10	5%
17	Class Presentation	20	10%
18	Final Research Paper	60	30%
19	Attendance	( )	
	Total	**200 (+5)**	**100%**

Components	*Weight*	*Points*
1. Writing assignments	30.0%	(60 pts)
2. Statistical analysis	17.5%	(35 pts)
3. Class Presentation	10.0%	(20 pts)
4. Final paper	30.0%	(60 pts)
5. Other	12.5%	(25 pts)
Total:	**100.0%**	**(200 pts)**

Final Letter Grades:

A+ = 196-200	C = 146-155
A = 186-195	C- = 141-145
A- = 181-185	D+ = 136-140
B+ = 176-180	D = 126-135
B = 166-175	D- = 121-125
B- = 161-165	F = 120 & below
C+ = 156-160	

Writing assignments (60 pts)

There are three writing assignments (article summaries) due early in the semester. In addition, there are five writing assignments that coincide with each of the major sections in your paper: Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion (see syllabus).

Data collection and analysis (35 pts)

There will be three graded assignments that involve data collection and analysis. In addition, before you collect any data, you will need to obtain IRB approval for your experiment.

Class Presentations (20 pts)

At the end of the semester, you will give a PowerPoint presentation on your experiment to the class.

Final Paper (60 pts)

Your final paper will include revised sections of the paper that you turned in earlier in the semester, as well as a reference page, figures, tables (if necessary), and, an appendix.

Your grade on the final paper will not necessarily equal the sum of the grades of its original parts. Because rewriting is an important part of the process of academic writing and research publication, you are expected to revise your paper as the semester progresses.

Course and Instructor Policies:

Attendance

Students are expected to take responsibility for attending class and attendance will be formally taken each class. If you do miss a class, you are responsible for getting any notes and/or assignments from a willing classmate. As this is not a typical course with exams, I do not post lecture notes, although I do post information about assignments on e-learning.

This course covers a lot of ground in a short amount of time; poor attendance will make it very difficult for you to meet due dates. Should you find that you are unable to attend a significant number of classes, you should consider withdrawing from the course. For details see: http://www.utdallas.edu/academiccalendar/files/AcademicCalendarSummer2016.pdf

Late Assignments

• Do not miss deadlines. So that I can read your papers and get them back to you in a timely fashion, I strictly enforce due dates and thus, do not accept late papers.
• Assignments are due during class on the due date posted on the syllabus. In other words, if you are unable to submit your assignment during class hours on the day an assignment is due, then your assignment will be counted as "late" (deduction of one letter grade).
• If you have a true emergency, then you should notify me by email. In case of illness, accommodations will be made only with a doctor's note. If you know in advance that you will be unable to attend class on the date that an assignment is due, you must make arrangements with me before the due date.
• ***I never accept assignments that are sent by email. You must turn in all assignments as a hard copy.*** While grading, I typically include several written comments on your paper—a process that is much easier for me to do with a hard copy. The final paper should be submitted as a softcopy uploaded onto turnitin.com. More instructions on this will be available later in the course.
• In case of inclement weather, you should check e-learning for updates on assignment submissions. Also, subsequent due dates will remain the same.

Important—Read all

~When sending email to me, use only your UTD email account. For security reasons, I will only respond to email with a UTD address.
~Plagiarism, especially from the web, is taken seriously. Should you have questions about how to correctly cite and paraphrase the work of others, please ask.
~The papers that are available for students to purchase on the Internet are some of the worst papers on Earth; do not use them.
~ If you like to text, send emails, check Facebook, or simply enjoy browsing the Internet during class, then please stay home.

Class Policies

http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies

Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UT Dallas account you may email assist@utdallas.edu or call the UT Dallas Computer Help Desk at 972-883-2911.

Course Syllabus, PSY 3393-0U2 Summer 2016

Please Note: As the course progresses during the semester, it is not uncommon for minor adjustments to be made to the syllabus so that more time can be spent on certain topics. Any changes will be announced in advance.

All **handouts may be downloaded on e-learning **Please bring your **APA** manual to every class

Date	Topic	Assignments Due	Reading Due
23 May Mon	1. Course overview; Syllabus 2. Research in Psychology 3. Demonstration of Literature Search 4. Writing Summaries	---	**APA:** Chapters 6 & 7 **Handouts:** Writing Summaries; Finding References; Citing References; Key Terms
25 May Wed	1. Writing References 2. **Activity 1: References** 3. Components of an Experiment 4. Generating Research Ideas	Bring APA Manual Come with an idea for an experiment	**APA:** Chapters 3 & 4
30 May Mon	*MEMORIAL DAY – HOLIDAY*		
01 Jun Wed	1. Generating Hypotheses 2. Experimental Sketch–1 3. In-class conferences	---	Article 1 of your choice; Articles 2 & 3 related to Article 1
06 Jun Mon	1. **Activity 2: Mechanics of Writing** 2. Experimental Sketch–2 3. In-class conferences	Summary – Articles 1, 2, & 3 (with reference)	**APA:** Chapter 1 (also Pg. 20, Ethical Compliance)
08 Jun Wed	1. Talk on IRB 2. Doubts with IRB 3. Experimental Sketch–3 4. In-class conferences	Experimental Sketch	**Handouts:** Data Collection and Table; Methods
13 Jun Mon	1. Conducting your experiment 2. Writing the Methods 3. In-class conferences	Complete NIH training IRB applications to be completed in class	**APA:** Chapter 2
15 Jun Wed	1. Conducting your experiment 2. In-class conferences	**Resubmit:** Summary – Articles 1, 2, & 3	**Handout:** Introduction
20 Jun Mon	1. In-class Data Collection 2. Writing the Introduction	Draft of Methods **IRB approval**	---
22 Jun Wed	1. In-class Data Collection	---	**APA:** Chapter 5 **Handout:** Results
27 Jun Mon	1. Introducing Data Analysis 2. **Activity 3: APA style**	Draft of Introduction	**Handout:** SAS code

Date	Topic	Assignments Due	Reading Due
29 Jun Wed	1. **Lab 1: Activity 4: Statistics** 2. **Lab 2:** Creating Graphs	---	---
04 Jul Mon	*INDEPENDENCE DAY – HOLIDAY*		
06 Jul Wed	1. **Lab 3:** Data Analysis-1 2. Interpreting your Data	Bring completed SAS code Data Table Statistics Activity	**Handout:** Results
11 Jul Mon	1. **Lab 4:** Data Analysis-2 2. Interpreting your Data 3. Writing the Results	Bring completed SAS code Data Table	---
13 Jul Wed	1. Interpreting your Data 2. Putting Results in context	Draft of Results Your Graph	**Handout:** Discussion
18 Jul Mon	1. Writing the Discussion	---	**Handouts:** Sample Research Paper; Final Paper Guidelines
20 Jul Wed	1. Writing up your Final Paper 2. Writing the Abstract 3. In-class conferences	Draft of Discussion	**Handout:** Presentation Guidelines
25 Jul Mon	1. Presenting your Research 2. Presentation Example 3. In-class conferences	Draft of Abstract	---
27 Jul Wed	12-minute Class Presentations using PowerPoint	---	---
03 Aug Wed	***Research Paper due at 12 noon***		