

PSYC2980 Research Design in Psychology
Spring 2008 MWF 12:20-1:10
Park Hall, room 265

Course Instructor: Dr. Kacy Welsh
Email: kacywelsh@gmail.com

Office: Psychology 235
Office hours: MWF 10-12
(Email first to make sure I'll be there!)

Teaching Assistants:

Red and Green Groups:

Freya Liu Email: freyal@uga.edu Office Psychology 612

Blue and Yellow groups:

Allison Foote Email: footeal@uga.edu Office Psychology 612

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to teach you about designing research in psychology. The knowledge we have in the field of psychology comes primarily from research. An understanding of how scientific research is designed and carried out is vital to your understanding of psychology. During this semester, we will discuss experimental designs used in psychology and apply that knowledge to activities that will help you to develop an understanding of experimental design. You will also learn APA style, the writing style preferred in this discipline, and propose your own experiment in a final paper.

Required Text:

Ray, W. J. (2006). *Methods: Toward a Science of Behavior and Experience*, 8th edition. Thomson Wadsworth: Belmont, CA.

Strongly Recommended Text:

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. (5th Edition).
Washington, D. C.

Course Policies:

TA Assignment: Because of the number of students in this course and the nature of the writing assignment for this class, students will be divided into four sections and each section will be assigned to a Teaching Assistant (TA). This TA will be responsible for grading all APA style assignments, drafts, and the final APA paper of the students in their section. You will also meet with your TA in "break out sessions" 3 times during the semester where you will receive more individual feedback on your paper. You will not be permitted to change the TA you are assigned to and grades given by TAs are final. To make things easier, sections will be color-coded either blue, red, green, or yellow. You will receive your section assignment during the first week or so of class.

Attendance: Writing labs/breakout sessions taught by your TA are mandatory and cannot be missed. There will only be a total of 7 of these mandatory breakout sessions during the semester and you must attend at least 6 of them. To encourage attendance to these sessions, points will be deducted from your final grade if you do not attend them. For each mandatory session you miss, 10 points will be deducted from your final grade. You may miss one session without penalty, but absolutely **NO EXCUSES** (even documented illnesses) will be accepted for missed labs, so use this "freebie" wisely. Mandatory lab days are indicated on the schedule at the end of the syllabus.

Class attendance is not required on regular lecture days. It is, however, strongly recommended that you attend all classes. I will not be available to go over material presented on days when you were absent from class. I will **not** give out my lecture notes under any circumstances. Also, **you will be unable to make up points for assignments completed during class or class participation on days when you were absent.** There are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to the rule (again, even documented illness does not excuse you!)

It is a very good idea to exchange email addresses and phone numbers with several people in class- if you must miss a class, it will be **UP TO YOU** to contact another student to get any assignments that will be due and to find out what you may have missed. You can also use the bulletin board on WebCT to get in contact with other students in class.

Exams: There will be two exams, each covering 5-7 chapters of your text and the accompanying lecture material. Each exam will be worth **100 points**. The exams will not technically be cumulative but some material may draw on things you have learned throughout the course. Exams may consist of multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank, short answer and essay questions. Exam format will vary and more details will be given before each exam.

Make up exams will only be given in rare circumstances and I will require proper documentation of the reason for your absence. If you know you need to miss an exam ahead of time, please let me know **ASAP!** If you arrive late (more than 5 minutes) to an exam, my policy is that you have until the last person who arrived on time finishes to complete your exam- at which point you must turn it in whether or not you are finished with it.

In-class/Homework Assignments: There will be **100 points** given out for in-class/homework assignments throughout the semester. **If an assignment is completed during class, you must be in class on the day it is completed to receive these points!** There are **NO exceptions to this rule.** Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a homework assignment is late. This includes days we don't have class (weekends count!).

All assignments must be typed unless they are completed in class, or I tell you that they don't need to be typed. Proofread your assignments for spelling and grammar errors. Do not rely exclusively on a word processor's spell check function because it will not catch everything. It is always a good idea to read your finished assignment out loud. This can help you catch errors you might otherwise miss. **You will lose points for excessive spelling and grammar errors, not stapling, and not including your first and last name on ALL assignments.**

Writing Assignments: One of the most important things we will cover during the semester is APA style, the primary writing style used in psychology. To do so, you will be writing a research proposal in which you will propose your own research. You will be working on this paper throughout the semester, and will be required to turn in rough drafts of each section so that you can get feedback on your progress. Each draft (or other writing assignment) will be worth 10 points. At the end of the semester, you will turn in your final research proposal, which is worth 100 points. Thus, the writing section of the course will be worth a total of **150 points** of your final grade.

Academic Honesty: Any form of academic dishonesty (e. g., plagiarism or cheating) will not be tolerated and will be met with severe penalty. For more information see the Academic Honesty guidelines outlined in the UGA handbook.

Final Grade Breakdown:

Exam 1:	100 points
Exam 2:	100 points
Assignments:	100 points
Writing assignments:	50 points
Final paper:	100 points
Total:	450 points

Grade	Point Value	Percentage
A	407.25- 450	90.50-100
A-	402.75- 407.24	89.50-90.49
B+	393.75- 402.74	87.50-89.49
B	362.25- 393.74	80.50-87.49
B-	357.75- 362.24	79.50-80.49
C+	348.75- 357.74	77.50-79.49
C	317.25- 348.74	70.50-77.49
C-	312.75- 317.24	69.50-70.49
D	267.75- 312.74	59.50-69.49
F	0- 267.74	59.49 and below

Tentative Schedule of Important Dates

Date		Attendance	Due
Jan 7-10	Drop/Add		
Friday Jan 18	Library session	All students	
Monday Jan 21	MLK day	No class	
Friday Jan 25	APA style lecture: Introduction, Citations	All students	
Monday Jan 28	Blue breakout session #1	Only Blue students	Library Assignment/Annotated Bibliography
Wednesday Jan 30	Red breakout session #1	Only Red students	Library Assignment/Annotated Bibliography
Friday Feb 1	Yellow and Green breakout session #1	Only yellow and green students	Library Assignment/Annotated Bibliography
Monday Feb 11			Intro rough draft
Friday Feb 22	APA style lecture: Methods, References	All students	
Wednesday Feb 27	Exam 1 (Ch 1-7, 14)		
Friday Feb 29	Red breakout session #2	Only red students	
Monday Mar 3	Yellow and Green breakout session #2	Only yellow and green students	
Tuesday Mar 4	Midpoint		Last day to withdraw
Wednesday Mar 5	Blue breakout session #2	Only Blue students	
Mar 10-14	Spring break	No class	
Monday Mar 17			Methods Rough Draft
Friday Mar 28	APA style lecture Results, Discussion, Abstract	All students	
Monday Mar 31	Yellow and green breakout session #3	Only Yellow and green students	
Wednesday Apr 2	Blue breakout session #3	Only Blue students	
Friday Apr 4	Red breakout session #3	Only Red students	
Monday Apr 7			Results/Discussion Rough Draft
Friday April 25			Final Paper
Monday April 28	Option Early Final Exam	Students who want to take the final	

		early	
Monday May 5	Final Exam: 12-3		