

INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS LAB FALL 2008

PSY 224 TH 5:00-8:00PM IN MAGALE LAB 10 (CRN 10403)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

**METHODS IN BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH, NINTH EDITION
BY PAUL C. COZBY, 2004, MCGRAW HILL PUBLISHERS
PUBLICATION MANUAL OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 5TH ED.
BY AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 2001, APA**

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Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 10:00-1:00, or by appointment
However, you will find me in my office more often than this

In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice; In practice, there is.

--Chuck Reid

If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?

Albert Einstein

As a hands-on supplement and co-requisite to PSY214: Introduction to Research Methods, this course provides training and practice with the methods and techniques of psychological research methods. Coursework includes activities exploring research ethics, sampling, validity, factorial & quasi-experimental designs, surveys, and student's development of their own projects.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & ASSESSMENT METHODS:

- Identify and apply ethical principals in behavioral research
 - Lab Activities
 - Research Project Activities
 - Practical Exam
- Accurately apply methods and techniques of behavioral research
 - Lab Activities
 - Research Project Activities
 - Practical Exam
- Collect and code data in behavioral research paradigms
 - Lab Activities
 - Research Project Activities
 - Practical Exam
- Design and execute a simple behavioral science research project
 - Lab Activities
 - Research Project Activities
 - Practical Exam
- Identify and apply APA style
 - Lab Activities
 - Extra Credit APA Quizzes

GRADING:

40%	Lab Activities	Due: typically in-class as assigned
35%	Research Project Activities	Due: typically in-class as assigned
25%	Practical Exam	Given on Thursday, December 11 th
	Extra Credit (12½%) APA Quizzes	Due: 9/11, 10/2, 10/23, 11/13, & 12/11

Final grades are based on overall percentages:

A	92-100%	B	82-91%	C	72-81%	D	62-71%	F	61% or less
	≥ 366 points		326-365 pts		286-325 pts		246-285 pts		≤ 245 points

TRACK YOUR GRADE, 400 POINTS TOTAL!

Lab Activities (160 points)	Research Project Activities (140 points)
Methods Knowledge Pre-Test (10pts) _____	Topic Selection (20pts) _____
Critical Thinking (15pts) _____	Literature Review (25pts) _____
Ethics (20pts) _____	Design (25pts) _____
Sampling (15pts) _____	Data Collection (20pts) _____
Internal & External Validity (20pts) _____	Data Analysis/Simple Stats (25pts) _____
Writing Workshop (15pts) _____	Conclusions (25pts) _____
Factorial Designs (10pts) _____	APA Extra Credit Quizzes
Quasi-Experimental Designs (15pts) _____	Quiz 1 (10pts) _____
Survey Development (5pts) _____	Quiz 2 (10pts) _____
Survey Interpretation (15pts) _____	Quiz 3 (10pts) _____
Peer Review (20pts) _____	Quiz 4 (10pts) _____
	Practical Exam (100 points) (plus APA Quiz 5, 10pts) _____

ATTENDANCE:

Lab classes are designed to give you guided practice and better understanding of the material of PSY214: Introduction to Research Methods. Missing class will result in poor understanding of the material and lower grades in both PSY214 and this class. To encourage your attendance, **perfect attendance** (i.e., missing no classes for any reason) **will result in 5 extra credit points** applied to your final grade.

If you will miss lab due to a **school-sanctioned absence**, you should let me know as soon as you know and **make arrangements at least 2 weeks in advance** for the absence. If you can provide generally accepted documentation for an absence (e.g., doctor's note), you must make up the work before the next lab meeting in order to earn credit. If you cannot provide documentation for your absence, you have until Monday at 10am to complete the lab activity for ½ credit (please keep in mind that I will not likely be available to answer questions over the weekend).

LAB ACTIVITIES & RESEARCH PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

Most of your grade will be based on your performance on weekly in-lab activities and worksheets that are usually due at the end of each lab period. For some weeks' labs, you will need to bring in data collected outside of class, read, or answer some short questions in preparation for the lab. In many instances, these activities will tie back to take-home written assignments due in PSY214: Introduction to Research Methods.

PRACTICAL EXAM:

Our final meeting will be a practical exam worth 100 points in which students will apply the techniques learned throughout the term and interpret data and results.

EXTRA CREDIT QUIZZES ON APA STYLE (WORTH UP TO AN ADDITIONAL 12½% OF FINAL GRADE):

During weeks 3, 6, 9, 12, and 15, you will take a timed, on-line, open-book quiz on the contents of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological*

Association (aka the APA Style Manual). This manual is about more than mere formatting; it contains important information about style, tips on clear and professional writing, and strategies for publication. While you are not expected to have this manual *memorized* (thus the open-book), you should read through it at least once so that you are *familiar with its topics* so you'll know when there is a rule you should consult when writing APA-style reports.

Despite being open book, if you have not prepared in advance you will find you are not able to complete the quiz successfully. You are strongly encouraged to read and skim the indicated pages multiple times in advance of the quiz. Each quiz will cover the pages indicated in the syllabus and students are responsible for developing their own timetable for reviewing these materials. Questions about the style manual can be raised in class at any time, although no formal lectures will be devoted to the material. Across the five quizzes, the possible point value will total 12½% of the final course grade; it is in your best interests to take full advantage of these opportunities as they are the only extra credit option for this course.

SCHEDULE OF LAB TOPICS

Week	Day	Topic
1	Thurs	8/28 Scientific Understanding of Behavior
2	Thurs	9/4 Research Ethics Read Cozby, Chapter 3, pp. 39-51
3	Thurs	9/11 Sampling APA Quiz 1 (Chapter 2, pp. 31-76)
4	Thurs	9/18 Internal & External Validity
5	Thurs	9/25 Writing Workshop
6	Thurs	10/2 Factorial Designs & Research Project: Topic selection Bring Research Questions assignment (from PSY214) APA Quiz 2 (Chapter 3, pp. 77-116)
7	Thurs	10/9 Quasi-Experimental Designs & Surveys
8	Thurs	10/16 <i>No class meeting—Fall Break</i>
9	Thurs	10/23 Surveys Bring Survey Results APA Quiz 3 (Chapter 3, pp. 117-146)
10	Thurs	10/30 Research Project: Introduction/Literature Review
11	Thurs	11/6 Research Project: Methods/Design & Data Collection
12	Thurs	11/13 Research Project: Results/Data Analysis & Interpretation APA Quiz 4 (Chapter 3, pp. 147-214)
13	Thurs	11/20 Research Project: Discussion & Conclusions
x	Thurs	11/27 <i>No class meeting—Thanksgiving Break</i>
14	Thurs	12/4 Peer Review
15	Thurs	12/11 Practical Exam APA Quiz 5 (Chapter 4, pp. 215-281)

CENTENARY COLLEGE HONOR CODE:

All work is expected to be done *individually* and *independently* by students. You may consult any written sources (being sure to properly cite them, of course) or me on any assignments. Failure to properly cite sources or the use of other's language as your own are serious violations of the Honor Code—if you have questions about how these principles apply to your work, please ask. All Centenary students are bound by the Honor Code (see here for a refresher, <http://www.centenary.edu/handbook/honor>). Any violations or suspected violations will be referred to the Honor Court whose decision on the matter is final.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT:

It is my intent to respect and promote the value of every member of the class as an individual. As I cannot speak for all psychology professors or all women or all native-Californians, neither can any other student act as the representative of her or his gender, culture, race, sexual orientation, religion, gender identity, ability status, ancestry, color, national origin, or other background characteristics. I remind us all (myself included) that as anyone in the class is encouraged to share his or her unique perspectives as individuals, those experiences are shared as individuals, not as the parts (or even the sum) of those identity "categories." It is my intent to present material and classroom activities that respect diversity; your suggestions on how to improve the value of diversity in this course are appreciated and encouraged.

SERVICES TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

(<http://www.centenary.edu/attachments/services/counseling/services/accommodation.pdf>)

It is the policy of Centenary College to accommodate students with disabilities pursuant to federal and state law and our commitment to equal educational opportunities. Students seeking support services/accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Services (a division of the Counseling Center, 318-869-5466/5424, located on the ground floor of Rotary Hall) and should begin this process as early as possible. Students with accommodations approved through Disability Services are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss needed accommodations. I will gladly make appropriate accommodations based on disability to ensure the playing field is and remains level for all students.