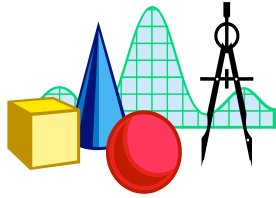


Personality Research Lab

PSY U616

Northeastern University
Fall 2004



11:45-1:25 Monday and Thursday

Instructor: Prof. Richard Gramzow
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Course Description

Recommended Text: Any recent text that covers *Research Methods for the Social or Behavioral Sciences*. I have attached a list of appropriate texts that are available at Snell Library.

Prerequisites: Statistics and Personality 1 must be completed. Because of the high demand for this course, I will check that each student enrolled has satisfied these requirements.

This course will introduce you to the basic concepts, logic, and procedures underlying research on personality and individual differences. You will gain hands-on experience with all phases of the research process. These phases include developing hypotheses, surveying the literature, collecting and analyzing data, and reporting results.

For psychology majors, lab courses are probably the most labor-intensive in the curriculum. During the quarter, you will write three reports (approximately 15 pages each). The first report will be based on a personality measure that we develop in class. The second report will be based on a research project that you develop in small groups. The third report will be a research proposal that you develop individually. Each report will require a lot of work. It will not be possible to write these reports in one sitting. There also will be five take-home tasks (described below). Finally, you will give a 5-min presentation on your research proposal. There will be no formal exams.

Despite the hard work, many students consider labs to be among the most rewarding courses they take in psychology. This is true especially for students who proceed to graduate school, where sound research skills are crucial. Even those of you with other career goals should benefit from a more thorough understanding of the logic underlying this type of research. At the very least, you will gain expertise that will allow you to evaluate studies that are reported in the media.

Finally, I enjoy teaching this course because it truly is practice-oriented. You will actively do things, rather than passively learn abstract concepts. Unlike many courses, you will be an active participant. I will try to keep the length of lectures to a minimum, although some material will require systematic presentation.

Specific Course Objectives

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Understand research design issues (e.g., validity, reliability, random assignment, random sampling)
- Describe the strengths and limitations of different research methodologies (e.g., experimental vs. correlational methods, within-subjects vs. between-subjects designs)
- Translate abstract ideas into testable research hypotheses
- Analyze experimental and correlational data, using both descriptive and inferential statistics
- Critique published research reports
- Write research reports in the style outlined by the American Psychological Association (APA)

Class policies

Paper Deadlines and Late Policy: All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day specified in the course calendar. **No late papers will be accepted without prior approval.**

Reading Assignments: All readings should be completed before class on the day specified in the syllabus.

Take-home tasks: There will be no quizzes or exams. However, there will be five take-home tasks. These tasks are designed to facilitate your understanding of the material. Completing the tasks should enable you to be an active discussant during class. I will provide a detailed description of each task before it is due. For now, here's a list of the general topic associated with each:

- Take-Home 1: Literature Search
- Take-Home 2: Critique of Correlational Study – Part 1
- Take-Home 3: Critique of Correlational Study – Part 2
- Take-Home 4: Critique of Experimental Study – Part 1
- Take-Home 5: Critique of Experimental Study – Part 2

Academic Integrity: Feel free to work together on your papers and take-home tasks. You will find it useful to confirm your logic, results, and formatting with classmates. That being said, ***all of your writing must be your own work***. It is not acceptable to borrow a paper from a classmate and simply rephrase the content. Such actions represent academic dishonesty. You will receive a failing grade for the course and be referred to the appropriate University disciplinary committee. If you have a question about what constitutes plagiarism, ask me (Prof. Gramzow).

Grades

<u>Grade Source</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>	
Take-Home Tasks (5)	50	93-100% = A	73-76% = C
APA Report #1	50	90-92% = A-	70-72% = C-
APA Report #2	60	87-89% = B+	67-69% = D+
Proposal	30	83-86% = B	63-66% = D
Presentation	10	80-82% = B-	60-62% = D-
TOTAL	200	77-79% = C+	< 60% = F

Course Calendar

Day / Date	Topics and Activities	Assignment Due
Thu / Sep 9	Intro and Course Overview	
Mon / Sep 13	<i>Developing a Personality Measure</i> Study 1: A personality scale	
Thu / Sep 16	<i>Developing a Personality Measure</i> Measurement Study 1: Choosing the construct	Take-Home 1
Mon / Sep 20	<i>Developing a Personality Measure</i> Reliability and Construct Validity Study 1: Creating the measure	Take-Home 2
Thu / Sep 23	<i>Developing a Personality Measure</i> Statistics Review Study 1: Making predictions	Take-Home 3
Mon / Sep 30	<i>Developing a Personality Measure</i> APA Style: I Study 1: Data-collection and entry plan	
Thu / Sep 30	<i>Developing a Personality Measure</i> Data Analysis: I	(Draft of Intro and Method 1)
Mon / Oct 4	<i>Developing a Personality Measure</i> Data Analysis: II	
Thu / Oct 7	<i>Developing a Personality Measure</i> APA Style: II Unresolved issues	
Mon / Oct 11	No Class - Columbus Day	
Thu / Oct 14	No Class - Conference	Report 1
Mon / Oct 18	<i>Conducting an Experiment</i> Independent and Dependent Variables Groups: Planning experiment	Take-Home 4
Thu / Oct 21	<i>Conducting an Experiment</i> Internal and External Validity Groups: Further planning	Take-Home 5
Mon / Oct 25	<i>Conducting an Experiment</i> Interaction Patterns Groups: Specifying predictions	
Thu / Oct 28	<i>Conducting an Experiment</i> Statistics Review II Groups: Data-collection and entry plan	
Mon / Nov 1	<i>Conducting an Experiment</i> Data Analysis	
Thu / Nov 4	<i>Conducting an Experiment</i> Interpreting Results	(Draft of Intro and Method 2)
Mon / Nov 8	<i>Conducting an Experiment</i> Writing it up Results	
Thu / Nov 11	No Class – Veterans Day	
Mon / Nov 15	<i>Conducting an Experiment</i> Unresolved Issues	

Thu / Nov 18	<i>Proposing Research</i> Thinking Ahead Reading the Literature	
Mon / Nov 22	<i>Proposing Research</i> What's My Idea?	Report 2
Thu / Nov 25	No Class – Thanksgiving	
Mon / Nov 29	<i>Proposing Research</i> How Do I Test It?	
Thu / Dec 2	<i>Proposing Research</i> Unresolved Issues Presentation Guidelines	
Mon / Dec 6	<i>Proposing Research</i> Presentations	
Mon / Dec 13	No Class – Finals Week	Proposal Due

Research Methods Texts (Apparently) Available in Snell Library

- A practical guide to conducting empirical research / R. Barker Bausell. BF76.5 .B388 1986.
- Research design and methods: a process approach / Kenneth S. Bordens, Bruce B. Abbott. BF76.5 .B67 1988.
- Doing quantitative psychological research: from design to report / David Clark-Carter. BF76.5 .C53 1997.
- Research methods and statistics in psychology / Hugh Coolican. BF76.5 .C664 1990.
- Designing and conducting behavioral research / Clifford J. Drew, Michael L. Hardman. BF76.5 .D68 1985.
- Thinking about research: methods and tactics of the behavioral scientist / Francis T. Durso, Roger L. Mellgren. BF76.5 .D87 1989.
- Doing psychological research: gathering and analysing data / Nicky Hayes. BF76.5 .H39 2000.
- Doing psychological research / Joseph Horvat, Stephen Davis. BF76.5 .H67 1998.
- Foundations of behavioral research / Fred N. Kerlinger. BF76.5 .K4 1986.
- Psychological research methods: a conceptual approach / Harold O. Kiess, Douglas W. Bloomquist. BF76.5 .K45 1985.
- Introduction to behavioral research methods / Mark R. Leary. BF76.5 .L39 1991.
- Introduction to behavioral research methods / Mark R. Leary. BF76.5 .L39 1995.
- Measuring behaviour: an introductory guide / Paul Martin, Patrick Bateson. BF76.5 .M35 1993.
- Understanding and conducting research: applications in education and the behavioral sciences / Emanuel J. Mason, William J. Bramble. BF76.5 .M37 1989.
- Critical thinking about research: psychology and related fields / Julian Meltzoff. BF76.5 .M45 1998.
- Research design explained / Mark Mitchell, Janina Jolley. BF76.5 .M57 2000.
- Conducting research in psychology: measuring the weight of smoke. BF76.5 .P34 1999.
- Psychological research: innovative methods and strategies / John Haworth. BF76.5 .P79 1996.
- Beginning behavioral research: a conceptual primer / Ralph L. Rosnow, Robert Rosenthal. BF76.5 .R64 1993.
- Beginning behavioral research: a conceptual primer / Ralph L. Rosnow, Robert Rosenthal. BF76.5 .R64 1996.
- Exploring research / Neil J. Salkind. BF76.5 .S24 1991.
- Exploring research / Neil J. Salkind. BF76.5 .S24 1994.
- Introducing research and data in psychology: a guide to methods and analysis / Ann Searle. BF76.5 .S38 1999.
- Research methods in psychology / John J. Shaughnessy, Eugene B. Zechmeister. BF76.5 .S46 1985.
- The psychologist as detective: an introduction to conducting research in psychology / Randolph A. Smith, Stephen F. Davis. BF76.5 .S54 2001.
- Research methods for the behavioral sciences / Charles Stangor. BF76.5 .S66 1998.
- How to think straight about psychology / Keith E. Stanovich. BF76.5 .S68 1998.
- Ten steps to behavioral research / Thomas E. Whalen. BF76.5 .W47 1989.
- Essentials of research methods in psychology / Jeanne S. Zechmeister, Eugene B. Zechmeister, John J. Shaughnessy. BF76.5 .Z42 2001.