


Syllabus Psychology U600 Research Design in Psychology NU Spring 2006

Text: Graziano, A.M. & Raulin, M.L. (2004). Research Methods 5th edition.
Allyn and Bacon Boston

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Office hours: Mondays 11:00-12:30, Thursdays 12:00-1:30

Meetings: Sequence 4 1:35-2:40 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday Room 130 Hurtig (for now)

Course web site: <http://blackboard.neu.edu>,  **[PSYU600 RES DES LAB 54940 spring 2006](#)**

Psychology literature search engine: Go to Psych Dept. home page: <http://www.psych.neu.edu>
Click on Resources then PsychInfo.

Grading: Participation and Collaboration	10%
Four quizzes (~6% each)	25%
Group Project One and Paper	25%
Individual Project Two, Paper, and Poster	40%

This course covers the conceptualization, implementation, analysis, and communication of research in psychology. This laboratory course covers the real-time problems and their solutions that arise when doing something that has never been done before. Day-to-day involvement and a continuing commitment from both the students and the instructors are important parts of this kind of course. Regular participation and interaction is necessary and expected.

It is the responsibility of each individual student to achieve the highest standards of academic integrity. Refer to your NU Student Handbook. Lapses will result in appropriate course penalties and automatic referral to the Student Judiciary.

Statistics (PsyU320) is pre-requisite for this course. In addition to the presence of these courses on your transcript it is assumed that you understand and can use the material from these courses. We will not re-cover that material in this course. An introduction to and help with the SPSS statistical package will be available.

The observational, correlational, and experimental methods are most useful to psychologists. Two studies will be performed. The first, a correlational study, will be done in groups, pooling data, and writing an APA style paper. The second will be an experimental study done individually. “The art of the science of psychology is to ask a meaningful question to which you can actually get an answer.”

There are three main goals of this course. The first is to cover the material in the text. This is general information pertaining to all areas of psychology. The second goal is to write a good research report. The particular style defined by the APA will be the standard for the course. However, journals in all areas require reports with similar parts. The third goal is to perform, from beginning to end, an original study of your own, culminating in the preparation of a poster suitable for presentation. A possible fourth goal is to present this poster at a professional meeting. A talk or poster would be a notable addition to your resume or grad school application.

During the first part of the course much of the class time will be spent on lecture and discussion. As the course progresses there will be much less lecture time and much more independent work and consultation. The instructors will be available regularly during all scheduled classes and at other times to make suggestions and offer help. Your personal engagement and initiative is a major part of this course.

A weekly schedule of events is attached. Have fun.

1/9 Intro, knowledge, psychology Text Ch 1	1/11 Science and research, Ch 2 Ethics, IRB, Informed Consent, Ch3	1/12 Data and Measurement Ch 4
1/16 Holiday Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday	1/18 Begin Study 1 Intro, library work	1/19 Quiz 1 on Chs. 1-4 Provide outline Intro and Methods
1/23 Observational, Correlational research Chs 6, 7	1/25 Draft of Intro & Methods Due	1/26 Quiz 2 on Chs 6,7
1/30 Return drafts with suggestions, begin data collection.	2/1 Validity, threats to validity, Ch 8	2/2 Controls threats to validity, Ch 9
2/6 SPSS demo	2/8 Quiz 3 on Chs 8,9 Consolidate data, distribute file for analysis	2/9 One variable independent groups experimental designs, Ch 10
2/13 One variable matched groups Ch 11 Draft of results and discussion due	2/15 Factorial designs, Ch 12	2/16 Return results and disc drafts
2/20 Holiday Presidents' Day	2/22 Quiz 4 on Chs. 10-12	2/23 Consultations on Paper 1
2/27 Final copy of Paper 1 Due	3/1 Discuss Ideas for Study 2	3/2 Library work for S2
3/6 Spring Break	3/8 Spring Break	3/9 Spring Break
3/13 Library and consultations	3/15 Library and consultations	3/16 Operational definitions for S2 due
3/20 Consultations	3/22 Consultations	3/23 Intro and Methods Draft due
3/27 Return drafts, begin data collection	3/29 Consultations, data collection	3/30 Consultations, data collection
4/3 Consultations, data collection	4/5 Consultations, data collection	4/6 Consultations, data collection
4/10 Results and discussion draft due	4/12 Consultations	4/13 Return results and discussion drafts
4/17 Holiday Patriots Day	4/19 Poster preparation	4/20 Poster preparation Final copy of Paper Due
4/24 Finals week Posters displayed.		