

Syllabus Psychology U600 Research Design in Psychology NU Fall 2007

Text: Jackson, S.L., Research Methods, A Modular Approach 2008 Thomson Wadsworth
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Meetings: Sequence 4 1:35-2:40 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday Room 454 Ryder

Course web site: <http://blackboard.neu.edu>, **PSYU600 RES DES LAB 53797 Fall 2007**

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%
Two quizzes (10% each)	20%
Group Project One and Paper	25%
Individual Project Two	45%

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 aspects. 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, perhaps, 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 requested 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.

9/3	9/5 Course Introduction Ch. 1 Psychology and science Ch. 2 Overview of Res. Methods	9/6 Ch. 3 The research process, journal articles, research reports, literature search. Ideas for Study 2
9/10 Ch. 4 Ethics and the IRB. Ch. 5 Variables, data types, measurement	9/12 Ch 6 Reliability and validity Discuss ideas for Study 2	9/13 Ch. 7 Correlational methods Overview of Study 1
9/17 Quiz 1 Discuss ideas for Study 2	9/19 Ch.12, Validity, threats to Validity. Independent groups experimental design	9/20 Ch 13 Related groups experimental design
9/24 Ch 14 Factorial designs i.e., Study 2	9/26 Quiz 2	9/27 Discuss Study 1
10/1 Roommate study paper reports from groups.	10/3	10/4 Study 1 Intro and Methods draft due
10/8 No class – Columbus Day	10/10 S1 Intro and methods draft returned. Begin data collection	10/11 Collect data for S1
10/15 Submit S1 data for analysis Receive completed analysis	10/17	10/18 S1 Results and Disc. draft due
10/22 S1 Results and Disc draft returned	10/24	10/25 Final version of Study 1 due
10/29 Final ideas for Study 2 due. The research process, journal articles, research reports, Searching the literature	10/31 Consultations for Study 2	11/1 Consultations for Study 2
11/5	11/7	11/8 Study 2 Intro and methods draft due
11/12 No class – Veterans Day	11/14 S2 Intro and methods draft returned Begin data collection for S2	11/15
11/19	11/21 No class – Thanksgiving	11/22 No class - Thanksgiving
11/26 Submit S2 data for analysis if necessary, receive statistical results	11/28	11/29
12/3 S2 Results and discussion draft due	12/5	12/6 No class – Reading Day S2 Results and discussion draft returned by noon.
12/10 Finals week	12/12 Finals week S2 Final version due at noon.	12/13 Finals week ends