

Research Design and Methods

Psychology 207

Fall 2015

3:30 – 4:45, Tuesday and Thursday

Campbell Hall, G-15

Dr. Bonnie Perdue

bperdue@agnesscott.edu

104 E Bullock Science Center

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 2:00-3:00, or by appointment

Fundamentals of research methodology in psychology. Topics include experimental, quasi-experimental and descriptive research designs, internal and external validity and research ethics. Prerequisite: PSY 206. This is a 4-credit hour course in which we will meet in the classroom for 3 hours each week. The additional credit hour will allow for course readings to be completed before class. This course will also involve projects, reading assignments and studying to be completed outside of class time.

After completing this course, students should be able to do the following. These objectives will be met through applied course assignments involving listening, discussing, reading, and writing.

- ❖ Apply a knowledge base of quantitative and qualitative research design and methods
- ❖ Demonstrate your ability to read and comprehend research articles
- ❖ Assess your critical thinking skills
- ❖ Discuss, present, and write about research
- ❖ Use SPSS to analyze data and accurately interpret output
- ❖ Evaluate the role of ethics in research.

The Psychology department also developed learning objectives for PSY 207. These objectives will be met through course assignments.

- ❖ Every student will participate in data collection and analyze data as part of the course
- ❖ Every student will write about data and results
- ❖ Every student will continue to learn about statistical tests and when to use them
- ❖ Every student will continue to practice SPSS
- ❖ Every student will be continue to practice APA style
- ❖ Every student will write a final research paper that is at least 10 pages and in APA style
- ❖ Every student will participate in an oral presentation about her research for at least 10 minutes
- ❖ Every student will create a poster about her research

CATEGORY	POINT ALLOCATION		GRADING SCALE (%)	
Team-based Learning	Individual Readiness Test	50		
	Group Readiness Test	100	A = 93 - 100	A - = 90 – 92
Proposal Project	Presentations	50	B+= 87 - 89	B = 83 - 86
	Proposal Drafts	75	B -= 80 - 82	C+ = 77 – 79
	Overall Paper	125	C = 73 - 76	C - = 70 – 72
Labs	Lab reports	100	D+ = 67 - 69	D = 63 – 66
	<i>Total Points</i>	500	D - = 60 - 62	F = 59 or less

REQUIRED READING MATERIAL

Lomand, T. C. Social Science Research. (7th edition). Pyrczak Publishing.

American Psychological Association (2010). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th edition, 2nd printing).

Any basic Statistics textbook

Any basic SPSS book

Reading Assignments: In this course the textbooks provides a good foundation of research methods and design. In class we will apply this material using demonstrations, group discussions, videos, surveys, and lecture. Additional related information not in your textbook will be covered in class.

Students also should be aware of the fact that not all of the material in the textbook can be covered in class, but they are responsible for knowing all of the material in the textbook even if it is not covered in class. To succeed in this course, students should keep up with the reading assignments and come to class.

CLASS COMPONENTS

Lab Reports: You will complete 4 lab reports across the semester. These will be based on the assigned section and integrate additional elements of research methods and statistical analyses. (25 points each).

Team-Based Learning: For each “section” of the course, we will begin with a team-based learning module. These will provide an exciting opportunity to learn more about the material, think critically, and engage more deeply in the content by working in a structured group process! More details will be provided in class, but these will involve readiness assurance tests (both individual and group tests) to ensure comprehension and completion of the reading assignments, as well as applications of the material. Your lowest Individual RAT and lowest Group RAT will be dropped. This includes any absences, excused or unexcused, as this will be dropped as your lowest grade. Your final Group RAT grade will be weighted by a peer-evaluation process. More details to follow.

Presentations: Each student will present her research proposal at the end of the semester. You will also have an opportunity to practice presenting your ideas and getting feedback from your peers during our critical friends exercise (50 points).

Proposal Drafts: Throughout the semester, you will select a major research topic and then submit 3 separate drafts of how you would test your ideas using observational, correlational, and experimental methods. These proposal drafts will be submitted after we complete the related module and give you an opportunity to receive feedback and develop your ideas for the final paper. (25 points each).

Research Paper: You will write a research paper on a topic of your choice that includes a literature review as well as proposals for three separate studies: one using observational methods, one using correlational methods, and one using experimental methods. (125 points)

APA Style: All assignments in this course should adhere to APA style. We will cover sections of the APA manual throughout the course, but it is your responsibility to make sure that any submitted assignment is correctly formatted. The APA manual is ultimately the most important resource to use to ensure that you are accurate (there are websites, handouts, etc, that cover APA style, but these sometimes contain errors and it is up to you to make sure that the APA manual (6th edition) is the style that you follow.

Late Assignments: Any assignment not turned in when the assignments are collected at the beginning of class (or other specified due date) is considered LATE. Late assignments will be accepted for up to 24 hours beyond the original deadline for ½ credit. No assignments will be accepted beyond 24 hours.

OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLASS

Departmental Tutors will be located in 131E Data Analysis Room (center of Psychology department) in the Bullock Science Center for help with APA style and statistics.

Martha Vorder Bruegge

Monday: 11:00 – 1:00

Tuesday: 3:00 – 5:00

Friday: 11:00 – 12:00

Aishwarya Murthy

Wednesday: 4:00-5:00

Thursday and Friday: 1:00-3:00

Meng Yu

Monday: 3:30-5:30

Wednesday: 10:30 – 11:30; 1:00-3:00

Disability Accommodations: Agnes Scott College seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, please contact Kelly Deasy in the Office of Academic Advising (X6150) to make complete the registration process. Once registered, please contact me so we can discuss the specific accommodations needed for this course.

Course Evaluations: Students' feedback about this course is extremely valuable to the professor, the psychology department, and the college administration. Students' comments are taken seriously and the comments are used to improve the course in the future. Students will be asked to complete evaluations of the course at the end of the semester.

Inclusion: This course adheres to the principles of diversity and inclusion integral to the Agnes Scott community. We respect people from all backgrounds and affirm people's decisions about gender expression and identity. Please feel free to correct me if your preferred name or gender pronoun are different from that listed on the class roster.

Title IX: For the safety of the entire community, any incidence of or information about sexual misconduct must be reported immediately to Title IX Coordinator Karen Gilbert (kgilbert@agnesscott.edu, 404-471-6435) or Deputy Title IX Coordinator Kristian Contreras (kcontreras@agnesscott.edu, 404-471-6394).

Key dates: Aug 31—last day to add or drop using AscAgnes; Sept 4—last day to add a fall class or change to audit; Sept 15—last day to drop without a W; Oct 28—last day to drop with a W or change to pass/fail.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Agnes Scott College honor code embodies an ideal of character, conduct, and citizenship, and is an important part of the College's mission and core identity. This applies especially to academic honesty and integrity. Passing off someone else's work as your own represents intellectual fraud and theft, and violates the core values of our academic community. To be honorable, you should understand not only what counts as academic dishonesty, but also how to avoid engaging in these practices. You should:

- review each course syllabus for the professor's expectations regarding course work and class attendance.
- attribute all ideas taken from other sources; this shows respect for other scholars. Plagiarism can include portraying another's work or ideas as your own, buying a paper online and turning it in as if it were your own work, or not citing or improperly citing references on a reference page or within the text of a paper.
- not falsify or create data and resources or alter a graded work without the prior consent of your professor. This includes making up a reference for a works cited page or making up statistics or facts for academic work.
- not allow another party to do your work/exam, or submit the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from the course instructors. Cheating also includes taking an exam for another person, looking on another person's exam for answers, using exams from previous classes without permission, or bringing and using unauthorized notes or resources (i.e., electronic, written, or otherwise) during an exam.
- not facilitate cheating, which can happen when you help another student complete a take home exam, give answers to an exam, talk about an exam with a student who has not taken it, or collaborate with others on work that is supposed to be completed independently.
- be truthful about the submission of work, which includes the time of submission and the place of submission (e.g., e-mail, online, in a mailbox, to an office, etc.).

You should understand that penalties result from dishonest conduct, ranging from failure of the assignment to expulsion from the college. You should speak with your professors if you need clarification about any of these policies.

Modified Pledge

Students pledge that they have completed assignments honestly by attaching the following statement to each test, quiz, paper, overnight assignment, in-class essay, or other work:

I pledge that I have neither given nor received any unauthorized aid on this assignment.

(Signed) _____

Research Design and Methods

(Although every effort will be made to follow the syllabus, I reserve the right to make changes.)

Class Date	To Read BEFORE Class	General Topic	Project Due Date
TH-Aug 27		Intro	
T-Sept 1	pp. 1-40, including Exercises	Survey Research – Team Based Learning	
TH-Sept 3		Survey Research	
T-Sept 8		Survey Research	
TH-Sept 10		Special Topics	Lab Report DUE
T-Sept 15	pp.41-52, including Exercises	Observational Research– Team Based Learning	
TH-Sept 17		Observational Research	
T-Sept 22		Observational Research	
TH-Sept 24		Special Topics	Lab Report DUE
T-Sept 29	pp.53-62, including Exercises	Correlational Research– Team Based Learning	Observational Research Proposal Draft
TH-Oct 1		Correlational Research	
T-Oct 6		Correlational Research	
TH-Oct 8	Fall break – No Class!		
T-Oct 13		Special Topics	Lab Report DUE
TH-Oct 15	pp.63-85, including Exercises	Experimental Research– Team Based Learning	Correlational Research Proposal Draft
T-Oct 20		Experimental Research	
TH-Oct 22		Experimental Research	
T-Oct 27		Special Topics	Lab Report DUE
TH-Oct 29	pp.153-220, including Exercises	Qualitative Research– Team Based Learning	Experimental Research Proposal Draft
T-Nov 3		Qualitative Research	
TH-Nov 5		Critical Friends Day	
T-Nov 10	pp.103-135, including Exercises	Program Evaluation– Team Based Learning	
TH-Nov 12		Program Evaluation	
T-Nov 17		Special Topics	
TH-Nov 19	No Class		
T-Nov 24		Presentations	
TH-Nov 26	Thanksgiving – No Class!		
T-Dec 1		Presentations	
TH-Dec 3		Presentations	
M-Dec 7	Last day of class for Fall! We do not meet on this day, but paper is due.		Final Paper Due at 5:00 p.m. EST