

Psychology 440 – Syllabus Spring 2015

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The purpose of this course is to gain experience conducting research and to gain experience writing and presenting research.

CLASS COMPONENTS

Project Guidelines: She will conduct her own research project and she will be first author for her paper. She will generate at least 3 – 5 hypotheses that she would like to investigate.

Participation: Her participation grade will be based on attendance at the meetings and work effort.

Assignments: She will be expected to turn all assignments in on their due-date.

1 – Hypotheses and Statistical Analyses

As stated above she will generate at least 3 – 5 hypotheses that she would like to investigate related to her topic. The hypotheses should be related to one another and each one should be a testable question based on the variables from questionnaire packet. These hypotheses should be interesting and not an exact replication of other research.

She also should decide upon the appropriate statistical test that she will use for each hypothesis and give a sentence explanation as to why they chose that test.

2 – Title

The title should be 10-12 words in length and catchy, but not cute. Include key variables in the study.

3 – Literature Review

The draft needs to include all relevant articles for the main topic and variables used in study. The length should be determined by the topic, but it should have no fewer than 5 pages.

4 – Method Section

She should look at other articles for ways to write a method section. She should describe:

- The sample.
- The procedure of the study.
- The surveys including reliability and validity information.

5 – Statistical Analyses

She will write her hypotheses on her SPSS printouts. Then she will write her interpretations of her statistical findings. She will state whether or not a result is significant and write out the statistical test (e.g., ANOVA - $F(1,3)=2.43, p<.001$). She will make sure her assignment is organized in order of hypotheses.

6 – Results

She should look at other articles she has read in class to see how to format the results. The results should be typed, APA style, free of errors, and should be in order following the hypotheses. She should discuss the results using statistics. She can include tables or figures, if warranted. She should only be used if they add new, additional information to the paper.

7 – Discussion

The discussion should be at least 3 pages, typed, APA style, free of errors, and have a logical flow. She should look at other articles to see how to format the discussion.

a) First Paragraph of the Discussion

The first paragraph of the discussion section should be a summary of the results using plain English.

b) Comparison with Prior Research

The paragraphs (at least 3) should compare the results with prior research and theory.

c) Implications-applications Paragraphs

She should include at least 3 reasons as to how the results are applicable or come up with implications of the findings using 2 to 3 paragraphs.

d) Strengths Paragraphs

She should include at least 3 selling points in 1 to 3 paragraphs that are specific to her paper.

e) Weaknesses Paragraphs

She should include at least 3 weaknesses in 1 to 3 paragraphs that are specific to her paper and should try turning the weaknesses into positives.

f) Future Work Paragraphs

She should include at least 3 possible future research projects that are relevant to her paper using 2 to 3 paragraphs.

8 – Paper Abstract

The paper abstract should:

- Frame the context of study.
- Mention why the study is important
- Summarize the findings without using numbers.
- Mention the applications and implications of the study.

9 – Reference List

She should include the articles she thinks she will use in her paper.

10 – Final Paper

The paper should be typed, APA style, free of errors, and have a logical flow. The paper should be 10 to 25 pages, not including the title page, abstract, references, tables, or figures. The paper should contain the following sections:

- Title page (1 page)
- Abstract (1 paragraph on 1 page)
- Introduction (Minimum of 3 pages)
 - Literature review
 - Statement of purpose/hypotheses
- Method (Minimum of 2 pages)
 - Sample
 - Procedure
 - Surveys/Questionnaires
- Results (Minimum of 2 pages)
 - Outcome of analyses

- Discussion (Minimum of 3 pages)
 - Restatement and interpretation of major findings (without statistics)
 - Whether the hypotheses were supported
 - Comparison of the results with previous research literature and theory
 - Theoretical and practical implications of the results
 - Methodological strengths and limitations
 - Future directions for research
- References (must have at least 10 references)
- Tables (if any)
- Figures (if any)
- Appendix (if any)

Late Work: Any work that is late will be penalized a letter grade for being late and another letter grade for every additional 24 hours that it is late.

Grading:

A = 93 - 100	A- = 90 - 92	B+ = 87 - 89
B = 83 - 86	B- = 80 - 82	C+ = 77 - 79
C = 73 - 76	C- = 70 - 72	D+ = 67 - 69
D = 63 - 66	D- = 60 - 62	F = 59 or less

Point Allocation:

Hypotheses and Proposed Statistical Analyses	50
Title	5
Literature Review	50
Method Section	10
Statistical Analyses	10
Results	20
First Paragraph of the Discussion	10
Comparison to Other Research	20
Implications/applications Paragraphs	10
Strengths Paragraphs	10
Weaknesses Paragraphs	10
Implications/applications Paragraphs	10
Future Work Paragraphs	10
Abstract	10
Reference List	10
Final Paper	100
Poster	50
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Total	395

Research Schedule Spring 2015

Class Date	Class Discussion	Class Activity	Activities Outside Class	Assignment Due
Week 1	Discuss Project <i>Handouts Plagiarism, Identifying Literature for Review, Summarizing a Research Article, and General Guidelines for Analyzing Literature</i>	Develop hypotheses	Identify Articles to Use in Literature Review	
Week 2		Article Discussion		# 1 Hypotheses and and Possible Statistical Analyses
Week 3	<i>Handout Synthesizing Literature Prior to Writing Your Paper, Guidelines for Writing a First Draft and Writing a Literature Review</i> Discussion about Titles	Develop Titles Article Discussion		# 2 Titles
Week 4	<i>Handouts Guidelines for Developing a Coherent Essay and Guidelines on Styles, Mechanics, and Language Usage and Style Points for Scientific Writing</i> Discussion about Literature Reviews	Article Discussion		
Week 5				# 3 Literature Review
Week 6	Discussion of What to Include In Method Section			
Week 7		Run Statistical Analyses and Reliability Analyses		# 4 Method Section
Week 8		Continue Statistical Analyses		
Week 9	Discussion about Results			# 5 Statistical Analyses
Week 10	Discussion about Discussions and Abstracts			# 6 Results
Week 11				# 7 Discussion

Week 12	<i>Handout Incorporating Feedback and Refining the First Draft</i>		# 8 Abstract
			# 9 Reference List
Week 13		Create Poster	# 10 Final Paper
Week 14			# 11 Poster
