PSYCH 302. Research Methods in Psychology
Mondays and Wednesdays 1:10 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. W272 Lagomarcino
Instructor: Lisa Larson, Ph. D., 216 W Lagomarcino
Office hours: Mondays, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Thursdays, 10:00 a.m -11:30 a.m.
Fall, 2009
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Teaching assistant: Verena Bonitz, vsbonitz@iastate.edu

Course overview: Discussion of and experience in designing research studies, collecting and analyzing data, and preparing research reports in psychology.

Course goals:

1. Development of skills and confidence in basic research design.

2. Practice in the writing of a research manuscript. Students will replicate an experimental study and write up the results in the form of a research manuscript.

3. Development of an original research proposal based on your own ideas. Students will write a research proposal and present it to the class.

Prerequisites: Stat 101 and Psych 301

Required readings:

Recommended:

Evaluation: A total of 600 points is possible in the course:

- Exam: 100 points
- Exercises 1-6: 90 points (15 points each)
- Replication Project Paper: 100 points
- Independent Proposal: 100 points
- Draft of Replication Paper: 20 points
- Draft of Intro and Method: 20 points (10 points each)
- Draft of Proposal: 20 points
- Proposal Presentation: 100 points
- Class Participation: 50 points
  (includes critiquing study assignments during class)
Final letter grades will be determined based on the following scale:

- **A**: 93-100%
- **A-**: 90-92%
- **B+**: 87-89%
- **B**: 83-86%
- **B-**: 79-82%
- **C+**: 75-78%
- **C**: 71-74%
- **C-**: 67-70%
- **D+**: 63-66%
- **D**: 59-62%
- **D-**: 55-58%
- **F**: 0-54%

**Deadlines**: Assignments will often be discussed in class on the day before they are due, and many of the assignments will build off of previous ones. Therefore, assignments must be handed in on the due date. Assignments will be accepted in hard-copy form only.

**Class Participation**: This component includes coming to class, discussing during class, and providing feedback to peers.

**Exams**: The exam on **September 30th** will be essay and short answer. The material for the exam will be from lectures, class discussions, and the *Research Design in Counseling* text.

**Exercises**: The exercises break down the components of the replication paper project. Assignments will be made available on WebCT. We will also be working on the exercises during class.

**Replication Project**: The experiment is a cognitive study that we will administer during class time. The students will serve as the participants in the class and then we will use the data from the class for your results. We will be working on the components of the paper using the *Effective Writing in Psychology* text. The replication project will be due October 26th. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. THE PAPERS WILL BE DUE BY class time.

**Research Proposal**: The research proposal will be based on an original idea you have. It will include an introduction, methods, and references. The research proposal should be no more than 10 pages of text. A rough draft of your paper is required November 11th during class time. Rough drafts turned in on time will receive 20 points. The final research proposal is due the Monday of finals week **Dec. 14** by 5 p.m. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

**Class Presentation**: Near the end of the semester you will present your proposal to the class allowing some time for oral discussion and feedback of your proposal.

**Weeks, Topics, Readings, and due dates in the course**:

- **Week 1. Aug 24** Overview/ Introduction / Student information sheet
- **Week 1. Aug 26** Hypothesis and operational definitions / Student Information sheet due;
Exercise 1

**Week 2. Aug 31** Internal and External Validity Chapter 5 (Heppner et al., 2008) / Exercise 1 due;

**Week 2. Sept 2** Matching the hypotheses to the analyses Chapter 8 (Beins & Beins, 2008)

**Week 3. Sept 7** Labor Day – Enjoy the holiday!

**Week 3. Sept 9** Between Group Designs / Within Group Designs Chapter 7 (Heppner et al., 2008)

**Week 4. Sept 14** Designing and Evaluating the Independent Variable Chapter 12 (Heppner et al., 2008)

**Week 4. Sept 16** Critiquing a Study / Small group exercise

**Week 5. Sept 21** Population and Sampling Issues Chapter 14 (Heppner et al., 2008)

**Week 5. Sept 23** Critiquing a study / Small Group exercise

**Week 6. Sept 28** Research Ethics Chapter 6 (Heppner et al., 2008)

**Week 6. Sept 30** Exam

**Week 7. Oct 5** Writing in Psychology Chapter 1 (Beins & Beins, 2008) / Collecting Data

**Week 7. Oct 7** Literature Searches Chapter 4 (Beins & Beins, 2008) / Exercise 2

**Week 8. Oct 12** Introductions Chapter 10 (Beins & Beins, 2008) / Exercise 3, Exercise 2 due

**Week 8. Oct 14** Method Chapter 11 (Beins & Beins, 2008) / Exercise 4, Exercise 3 due

**Week 9. Oct 21** Results Chapter 12 (Beins & Beins, 2008) / Exercise 5, Exercise 4 due

**Week 9. Oct 23** Discussion and References Chapter 13 and 14 (Beins & Beins, 2008) / Exercise 5 due

**Week 10. Oct 26** Peer review of Replication Project. / **Replication paper is due.**

**Week 10. Oct 28** Choosing own Topic Chapter 3 (Heppner et al., 2008) or Chapter 2 and 3 (Beins & Beins, 2008) / Exercise 6

**Week 11. Nov 2** Individual meetings with instructor and/or teaching assistant / Exercise 6 due
**Week 11. Nov 4** Rough draft of introduction due  Peer review of introduction

**Week 12. Nov 9** Rough draft of methods due  Peer review of methods

**Week 12. Nov 11** Rough draft of research proposal is due. Peer review of proposal

**Week 13. Nov 16** Giving presentations Chapter 17 (Beins & Beins, 2008)

**Week 13. Nov 18** Presentations

**Week 14. Nov 23, Nov 25** Thanksgiving break

**Week 15. Nov 30** Presentations

**Week 15. Dec 2** Presentations

**Week 16. Dec 7** Presentations

**Week 16. Dec 9** Presentations/wrap up/evaluation

17. **Dec 14 Finals / Final papers are due** by 5 p.m. No late papers will be accepted. No exceptions.

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**Academic Integrity:** Please respect the work of others by giving them the credit they deserve. Plagiarism or cheating of any sort will not be tolerated and will be dealt with on an individual student basis. For more information about ISU’s policy on academic integrity, see: [http://www.lib.iastate.edu/commons/resources/facultyguides/plagiarism/dishonest.html](http://www.lib.iastate.edu/commons/resources/facultyguides/plagiarism/dishonest.html)

**Accommodations:** If you have a documented disability and think that you may need accommodations in this course, please let me know as soon as possible. Contact the Disability Resources Office and arrange to have a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) sent to me that specifies your disability and what accommodations you will need.

**Exam Makeup and Paper deadline extension policy:** A student may be unable to take the exam on the scheduled date or turn in a paper on the assigned date. A makeup date for the exam and an extension deadline for the paper will be given under the following conditions: (a) serious illness (e.g., flu, H1N1 virus) or (b) death in the family. I need documentation except for unusual circumstances.

Note: The syllabus may be revised over the duration of the semester; I will notify you during class and on WebCT.