

PSYCHOLOGY 7: INTRODUCTION TO EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
SUMMER SESSION A 2012
SYLLABUS

Instructor: Alexander Swan
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COURSE INFORMATION:

MTW 2:00 – 3:25 PM
Location: Psychology 1924
Course Website: Gauchospace

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Goodwin, C. J. (2009). *Research in Psychology: Methods and Design, 6th Ed.* Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. ISBN-13: 978-0-470-52278-3

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTBOOK/RESOURCE:

Two professors from Cal State Fresno created a Research Methods site. Full PDF of book: <http://psych.csufresno.edu/psy144/AllReadings.pdf> OR Website with individual links for each topic: http://psych.csufresno.edu/psy144/content/all_topics.html

ADDITIONAL READINGS:

Additional journal articles will also be assigned for reading during the course, and they will be made available in a .pdf format on the course website. Reading material should be read prior to the lecture in which it is assigned on the course schedule.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the diverse field of Experimental Psychology. One aim of the course is to familiarize you with methods and concepts of experimental psychology, including theories, the formulation of hypotheses, operational definitions, variables, and measurement scales. In addition, we will discuss different experimental and non-experimental research methods, when to apply them, and what inferences can be drawn from different designs. And finally we will explore ways of analyzing and interpreting data from different experimental designs. Throughout the course you will be exposed to a variety of past and current psychological research. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with some of the basic necessary tools to examine the existing evidence about a variety of topics in the field and to be able to generate new ideas and ways of testing those ideas.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the course, you should be able to

- Search for, understand, and *critically analyze* peer-reviewed and popular press articles
- Evaluate research studies in terms reliability and validity
- Compare and contrast the advantages and weaknesses of different study designs
- Generate new hypotheses and identify ways to test these hypotheses
- Analyze, interpret, and report results of studies

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Exam #1:	30%	Monday, July 9, 2012
Exam #2:	30%	Tuesday, July 17, 2012
Final Exam:	40%	Wednesday, August 1, 2012

EXAMS AND COURSE GRADES:

- All three exams consist of multiple-choice questions based on both the lectures and readings. Exam 1 will cover material from the first unit, Exam 2 will cover material from the second unit, and the Final Exam will cover material from the third unit. Although none of the exams are cumulative, new material tends to build upon previous material. ANY material covered in the lectures or reading may appear on the exam. Some of the material in the reading will not be covered in the lecture and some of the material in the lecture will not be covered in the reading. You are responsible for both!
- Exams must be taken on the date scheduled. Vacation is not a valid excuse, nor is an exam scheduled at the same time. No make-ups of the multiple-choice test are given for any reason!! If you must miss an exam due to some emergency, then you can make it up by taking an essay exam. A doctor's note or some other formal verification of absence is required to make-up an exam. All make-up exams are ESSAY in format and must be taken during a make-up period convenient for the TA. Make-up exams must be completed prior to the next exam.
- No use of notes is allowed for any exam. Please be aware that cheating on an exam results in a grade of 0 for the exam and reporting the incident to the University Ethics Board. Cheating includes use of notes, books, or copying from someone else's exam.

GRADING SCALE:

As you may know, your performance in this class will affect whether you will be eligible to declare a major in Psychology. Consequently, the Psychology Department has determined that this class be graded on a curve. The department grading policy appears below:

PSYCHOLOGY	DEPARTMENT	EQUALIZATION	OF	GRADING	POLICY
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In order to ensure that grading procedures are consistent across all courses required for entrance into the major, the Psychology Department utilizes a grading policy that is applied to all pre-major courses (Psych 1, 3, 5 & 7). This policy ensures that all students will be evaluated consistently across different classes and different instructors.

According to this policy, approximately 10–15% of the class can receive a grade of A– or higher, approximately 40–45% of the class can receive a grade of B– or higher, and approximately 80–85% of the class can receive a grade of C– or higher. Thus, the final distribution of grades in this course will be based on these guidelines and on overall student performance. This means that your final grade will be based both on your *absolute* performance and on your performance *relative* to other students in the course.

RESEARCH REQUIREMENT:

A separate handout will explain the research requirement for this course. Each student is required to accumulate three (3) credits. If you fail to fully complete the research requirement (either Option 1 or Option 2), your final grade will be reduced one level after the calculation of the class curve (e.g., if you had an A-, you will receive a B+; if you had a C, you will receive a C-; etc.).

COURSE WEBSITE:

The power point slides used for the lectures will be made available online after each lecture.

PARTICIPATION:

Due to the format of the class, participation will not be required. However, active participation is strongly recommended. Students who take notes, ask questions, respond to questions, and come to office hours are typically the ones who succeed in this class (I know 2:00 PM is nap time, but do your best!).

ATTENDANCE:

Although lecture attendance is not required, it is highly recommended. You will be responsible for *all* material covered in lecture, some of which will not be covered by the textbook.

CLASS ETIQUETTE:

- Please do not use your cell phones during class. I would prefer them to be put on silent or off. If your cell phone goes off during class or an exam, please silence it immediately; do not let it ring through. I will remind everyone prior to exams to make sure their phones are turned off. Please refrain from text messaging during class. I know you think you're being subtle; I assure you that I can see you texting.
- Please do not leave the class partway through unless it is an emergency; it is very disruptive.
- Please have respect for the class, your peers, and yourselves by being fully present in the class. Please avoid anything not relevant to the class, such as sleeping or doing homework for other classes.

LATENESS:

Please try to arrive a few minutes before the start of lecture. We will begin promptly at 2:00 PM, and it can be distracting to me and to your peers if you arrive late. I will not keep you late.

GETTING INFORMATION:

TIP: I use email for almost all communication. If you do not check your UCSB email often, forward it to an address you do check.

Contacting Me: The best way to contact me is always via email.

Office Hours: If you have classes during my office hours, email me for an appointment. In your email, give me a wide range of days/times when you are available. I will do my best to accommodate you.

DISABLED STUDENTS PROGRAM (DSP)

The DSP provides academic support services to eligible students with temporary and permanent disabilities. Please inform the instructor if you require special classroom accommodations due to a disability – you must register with DSP prior to receiving these accommodations. If you require additional time on an exam, please schedule your own proctor through the DSP and confirm the arrangements with our TA at least one week prior to the exam. Please contact the DSP office for information and assistance (2120 Student Resource building, 893- 2668, www.sa.ucsb.edu/dsp).

COUNSELING SERVICES

If you are experiencing any difficulties meeting class requirements, or any difficulties in your personal life, please contact Counseling Services (located in Building 599). Counseling Services offers individual and group counseling, crisis counseling, stress-management workshops, self-help information, and connections to off-campus mental health resources. For information, please call (893-4411) or visit their web site (www.counseling.ucsb.edu).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, improper citations, or misrepresenting your work in any way. Students caught behaving in such a way will receive an automatic “0” on the assignment or an “F” in the class, depending on the extent of the infraction. At the discretion of the instructor, some students may be referred to Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.

Please familiarize yourself with the university’s policy on academic dishonesty here:

<http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu/PDF/academicintegflyer.pdf>

CHANGES TO SYLLABUS:

The Instructor reserves the right to make policy and course changes to the syllabus at any time with advance notice to students.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

Note: The schedule is subject to change depending on the progress of the course.

<i>Part I: Introduction to Experimental Psychology</i>					
Lecture	Day	Date	(week)	Lecture Topic	Readings
1	M	25-Jun	1	Introduction/Explanation of Research Requirement	
2	T	26-Jun		Scientific Thinking in Psychology	Ch. 1
3	W	27-Jun		Ethics in Psychological Research	Ch. 2; Milgram, 1963
4	M	2-Jul	2	Developing Ideas for Research	Ch. 3
5	T	3-Jul		Structure of a Research Article	Bem, 1995; Appendix A
----	W	4-Jul		No Class -- Happy Fourth of July!	
----	M	9-Jul	3	EXAM #1	
<i>Part II: Measurement Theory</i>					
6	T	10-Jul		Measurement and Data Analysis	Ch. 4
7	W	11-Jul		Experimental Research Essentials	Ch. 5
8	M	16-Jul	4	Control Problems	Ch. 6
----	T	17-Jul		EXAM #2	
<i>Part III: Experimental Designs</i>					
9	W	18-Jul		Single-Factor Designs	Ch. 7; Stroop, 1935
10	M	23-Jul	5	Factorial Designs	Ch. 8
11	T	24-Jul		Correlational Research	Ch. 9
12	W	25-Jul		Quasi-Experimental Designs	Ch. 10
13	M	30-Jul	6	Observational Research	Ch. 12
14	T	31-Jul		Survey Research	Ch. 12
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