

**PSCH 242**  
**Introduction to Research in Psychology**  
**Summer 2007**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**CRN 13738**

**Instructor:**

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**Lecture:** 2-3:40 MW; Lecture Center F4

**Discussion Sections:**

| Call No. | Time                  | Location |
|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| 13739    | 12:00 PM - 1:40 PM F  | 385 BSB  |
| 13740    | 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM F | 303 SH   |
| 13741    | 11:00 AM - 12:40 PM F | 311 BSB  |
| 16390    | 1:00 PM - 2:40 PM F   | 369 BSB  |

**Overview**

This course is designed to provide an overview of the most widely used methods employed by psychologists and other behavioral scientists. The course will provide you with a basic understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the various research strategies used by psychologists so that you can become an informed consumer of research both in the behavioral sciences and the media. In addition, you will begin developing a set of research skills that will prepare you for more advanced study in the behavioral sciences.

**Required Text and Materials**

Graziano, A. M. & Raulin, M. L. (2007). *Research methods: A process of inquiry* (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Boston, MA: Prentice Hall.

A basic pocket calculator. You should bring this calculator with you to lecture and lab sections. Any basic calculator will do as long as it can perform addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, as well as compute square roots. Note that you will only be able to use this basic calculator and not cell phone or graphing calculators on exams.

## Course Grading

Course grades will be based on exams (60%), quizzes (20%), and lab activities and homework (20%). Grades will be based on the following scale.

| Grade | Percent     |
|-------|-------------|
| A     | 89.5 – 100  |
| B     | 79.5 – 89.4 |
| C     | 69.5- 79.4  |
| D     | 59.5 – 69.4 |
| E     | 0 – 59.4    |

## Lab Sections and Homework

Weekly lab sections are designed to give you “hands on” experience with the concepts discussed in class. Attendance at lab sections is expected and will count toward your lab section grade. Attendance will be taken at the start of lab sections. If you arrive after attendance is taken, you may let your TA know that you were late the first time it occurs, if lateness becomes a chronic problem you will be marked absent in the future. In addition, if you leave early, after attendance has been taken but before you complete that day’s activity, you will be marked absent from the section. If you need to leave early on a particular day, see your TA. Your lab section attendance grade will be based on the percentage of sections you attend.

The other portion of your lab section grade will come from homework. A total of five homeworks will be assigned over the course of the semester. Homeworks will be due on the dates outlined in the syllabus. Your lowest of the five homework grades will be dropped.

Homework that require written answers must be typewritten. If your assignment is on multiple pages **STAPLE** the pages together (do not do the fold the corner and tear the top trick, it does not work). Homeworks that require numerical calculations or graphs may be hand written. However, neatness counts. If your work is illegible, crammed together, or so disorganized that it cannot be followed step by step in a logical sequence you will lose credit. Be sure to show all your work for each problem that requires written calculations. Do not simply report your final answer. If your final answer is incorrect it may still be possible to earn partial credit if some parts of the problem were done correctly. This is possible, however, only if you have shown all of your intermediate steps.

**Late homework will not be accepted under any circumstances.** Moreover, class assignments are to be handed in at the start of the class period in which they are due. No assignments will be accepted at the end of class or in my or your TA’s mailbox at a later time. If you are unable to turn in a homework assignment on or before a due date, you will receive a 0 for that homework and it will become the homework that will be dropped at the end of the semester. Please note that you are welcome to hand in assignments to your TA as early as you like.

## Exams

There will be four exams offered during the course; three exams during the semester and a final exam. Your lowest grade of the four will be dropped. The tests will be worth 60% of your final grade (See below for exam dates). Exams offered during the semester will be non-cumulative with the caveat that each section of the course builds on previous sections. Though I will not explicitly test you on concepts from an earlier unit, you will have to draw on knowledge from previous units on later exams. A cumulative final exam will be offered during the week of finals.

As mentioned above, the lowest of the four exams will be dropped. I will drop your lowest exam for several reasons. The primary reason one exam will be dropped is that it eliminates the need for make-up exams. **Make-up exams will not be given under any circumstances.** You may be sick or out of town on a particular

exam day, or oversleep on the day of the exam. If this were to occur, you would not need to worry about missing the exam because that exam will be dropped. A second reason I drop the lowest exam is that everybody has a bad day now and then. If you happened to take an exam on a day you were not prepared and you were not satisfied with your score, you could take the final exam. If the score on your final is better than one of your previous exams, the earlier exam would be dropped from your final grade calculation. However, this can only happen if you take the first three scheduled exams. In addition, if you are happy with your first three exam scores, you are not required to take the final.

## Quizzes

During any lecture I may give you a five-minute **pop quiz** during class. I will drop your lowest quiz score at the end of the semester. Quizzes can be administered on a Monday, Wednesday, or both days in a given week (I could even offer two quizzes in one day). Some weeks I may not offer a quiz. I strongly encourage you to come to class on time and stay for the entire class; **there will be no make-up pop quiz opportunities**. If you miss a class for **any** reason (e.g., illness, hospitalization, jury duty, did not feel like coming to class) on a day a quiz was offered, that will be the quiz I drop. If you cannot attend class regularly it is **highly** recommended that you drop the course.

Please note that even if you have a good reason for missing a class in which a quiz is given, that becomes the quiz you drop. You will not be given an additional opportunity to drop a quiz later in the semester. The only exception is if, for example, you are hospitalized for an extended period of time and you missed two quizzes as a result of that single incident. If something like this were to occur, please see me with documentation of the incident. However, if you missed a quiz because you were hospitalized, were released from the hospital, and then missed a quiz a week later when you went back for a follow-up with your doctor, you would not also be allowed to drop the second quiz.

These quizzes will not be difficult. My objective in administering these quizzes is to encourage you to keep up with the readings and the lecture material so you don't have to cram at the last minute for the exams. The best way to prepare for quizzes is to study the lecture notes from the previous lecture. A minimum of 4 and up to 10 quizzes may be given during the semester, and the lowest of your quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

## Miscellaneous

**If you miss class it is your responsibility to get the notes, handouts, homework assignments, and/or other announcements from one of your fellow classmates.**

When you are in class, I ask that you be courteous to me as well as your fellow students. **Please do not have conversations with or write notes to fellow students during lecture. In addition, please do not listen to your MP3 player, send text messages via your cell phones, or engage in similar distracting behaviors during lecture.** You may feel like you are an anonymous student in a class and that the instructor doesn't notice. Instructors do notice these things, and I find this distracting, and it ultimately disrupts the class. If I ask that you stop doing some behavior and you persist, I may ask you to leave class. In extreme cases, I will ask you not to come back, and you will have to forfeit any points you receive for attending lecture.

**It will be your responsibility to keep track of your scores in Blackboard.** If you notice that a score has been incorrectly entered into Blackboard, you must show the original paper with the correct grade to your TA by Monday of finals week. After that point, any errors will stand in your final grade calculation.

To the extent that you will need one, **cell phone or graphing calculators will not be allowed during exams.** You will need to find an inexpensive calculator that can do basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division as well as calculate square roots.

**In fairness to the vast majority of students who take their college career seriously, no form of cheating will be tolerated.** If you cheat on any assignment in this class, you will fail the entire class and I will file official

judicial charges against you immediately with the Dean of Students, who will place a notice about the incident in your permanent record. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, looking on others' tests or letting them look on yours during a test, copying or giving others test answers, and plagiarism which includes copying the words of a fellow student or any other author in your papers, copying even short phrases from written work that you are using as a reference (even if you cite it properly), handing in work that you have handed in for another class, handing in papers you've gotten from the internet or from other students, etc.

**Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS).** Please contact ODS at (312) 413-2103 (voice) or (312) 413-0123 (TTY).

**Observance of Religious Holidays.** Campus Policy States: The faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago shall make every effort to avoid scheduling examinations or requiring that student projects be turned in or completed on religious holidays. Students who wish to observe their religious holidays shall notify the faculty member by the tenth day of the semester of the date when they will be absent unless the religious holiday is observed on or before the tenth day of the semester. In such cases, the student shall notify the faculty member at least five days in advance of the date when he/she will be absent. The faculty member shall make every reasonable effort to honor the request, not penalize the student for missing the class, and if an examination or project is due during the absence, give the student an exam or assignment equivalent to the one completed by those students in attendance. If the student feels aggrieved, he/she may request remedy through the campus grievance procedure.

**University policy on incomplete grades is very strict and I follow this policy.** I will grant an incomplete grade only under the most extreme circumstances. Do not request an incomplete unless the following conditions apply (taken from the undergraduate catalogue):

Course work is incomplete when a student fails to submit all required assignments or is absent from the final examination; incomplete course work will normally result in a failing grade. The IN (incomplete) grade may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due. The instructor must submit an Incomplete report with the final grade roster for the IN to be recorded. This report is a contract for the student to complete the course work with that instructor or one designated by the department executive officer in the way described and by the time indicated on the report. In resolving the IN, the student may not register for the course a second time, but must follow the procedures detailed on the report. An IN must be removed by the end of the student's first semester or summer session in residence subsequent to the occurrence, or, if not in residence, no later than one calendar year after the occurrence. When the student submits the work, the instructor will grade it and change the IN to the appropriate grade. If an undergraduate fails to meet the stated conditions, the instructor will assign an E for the final grade.

Note that you will be graded according to the grading criteria listed above. **Please do not ask to be bumped up to the next highest grade at the end of the semester** (e.g., ask me for a C in the course when you have a 67.7% in the course). I will not do this. The number one factor that puts students in this situation is missed assignments and quizzes. I have a drop policy because I understand that sometimes students must miss class. However, if you are the type of student who frequently misses classes for any reason (e.g., work, family responsibilities, etc.), I recommend that you drop my course and take it with an instructor with a less conservative attendance policy.

With this said, **if you have any problems or concerns throughout the class, please come see us during our office hours, before it is too late at the end of the semester.** I and the TAs are happy to work with you during

the semester to help facilitate your understanding of the course material. Please use office hours whenever possible, but we are willing to make appointments if your schedule makes it impossible to make our office hours.

Note that you can also email me, however, please understand that I receive many e-mails in a given day. Each semester I teach up to three classes and have as many as 300-400 students. At this point I am unable to respond to all of the emails I receive. Provided you ask a reasonable question and articulate yourself clearly in your message, I will respond. If what you ask is a good question that is relevant to the rest of the class, I will frequently address your question in class instead of responding to the e-mail.

Many things I am asked in emails are things that are addressed in this document (e.g., can I drop a quiz?), others are things I cannot answer (e.g., will there be a quiz today?) or things that I have already addressed in class. I will not respond to these emails. Many e-mails I receive are incomprehensible. Either the author does not make clear who they are or what class they are in, and/or they write in text-speak (e.g., r u going 2 giv a quiz?). In either case I am unlikely to respond. If you e-mail the instructor or your TAs (or anyone for that matter) and you would like a response and want your mail to be taken seriously, your message should be well thought out, well-written, and include information about who you are and what course you are in (or discussion section for the TA).

Finally, note that although e-mail may seem private and secure, sending an e-mail is roughly like sending a postcard through the regular mail. Anyone who desires to take a look, and, in the case of email, has some technical knowledge, can do so. While I and your TAs will keep any information you send us via e-mail private, there is no guarantee that the information you send is secure and no one else would be able to read it. This is not likely to be a concern in most instances, but may be important to consider when contacting me regarding certain topics. If you would like to discuss a sensitive topic, it would be best to see me during office hours, after class, or by appointment.

## Tentative course topics and reading schedule

The following page contains a listing of topics and assigned readings. All readings will come from the Graziano & Raulin textbook. Students are expected to have read the required readings for the week each topic is covered.

Note: This topic schedule is tentative, topics may take more or less time to cover depending on class understanding of various topics. It is your responsibility to track these changes. Therefore, you must attend class every day to stay on top of any changes that might occur.

Note that you have lab section unless indicated otherwise (i.e., even if there is not a homework due).

| Week #             | Date | G & R Chapter              | Lecture Topic  |
|--------------------|------|----------------------------|--|
| 1                  | 5/28 |                            | <b>**No class Monday 5/28; Memorial Day Holiday</b>  |
|                    | 5/30 | CH 1                       | Introduction<br>Science and Psychology<br><b>**No Lab Section</b>  |
| 2                  | 6/4  | CH 2, 3                    | The Research Process<br>Developing Hypotheses  |
|                    | 6/6  | CH 3, 4                    | Research Ethics<br>Data and Measurement  |
| 3                  | 6/11 | CH 5                       | Description of Behavior through Numerical Representation<br><b>Lab Section: Homework 1 Due</b>   |
|                    | 6/13 | CH 5                       | <b>EXAM 1 – Wednesday, June 13 (First 50 Minutes)</b><br>Description of Behavior through Numerical Representation                        |
| 4                  | 6/18 | CH 5                       | Inferential Statistics   |
|                    | 6/20 | CH 5                       | Inferential Statistics<br><b>Lab Section: Homework 2 Due</b>   |
| 5                  | 6/25 | CH 6, 7                    | Naturalistic and Observational Research<br>Correlational Research  |
|                    | 6/27 | CH 7,8                     | <b>EXAM 2 – Wednesday, June 27 (First 50 Minutes)</b><br>Differential Research, Hypothesis testing<br><b>Lab Section: Homework 3 Due</b> |
| 6                  | 7/2  | CH 8,9                     | Threats to validity<br>Controlling Threats to Validity   |
|                    | 7/4  |                            | <b>No class Wednesday July 4; Independence Day Holiday</b>   |
| 7                  | 7/9  | CH 10                      | Single Variable, Independent-Group Designs<br><b>Lab Section: Homework 4 Due</b>   |
|                    | 7/11 | CH 11, 12                  | Within and Matched Subjects Designs<br>Factorial research Designs  |
| 8                  | 7/16 | CH 13(focus on<br>321-328) | Survey Research<br><b>Lab Section: Homework 5 Due</b>  |
|                    | 7/18 |                            | <b>EXAM 3 – Wednesday, July 18</b>   |
| <b>Final Exams</b> | --   | -----                      | <b>FINAL EXAM -- TBA</b>   |