**RI Honors Research Methods in Psychology**

Psychology 3213 (3 credits) Dr. Julie Earles

TR 9:30 - 10:50 in WB 105 SR 203

799-8612

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Fall Term, 2017

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday 10:50 - 11:30; Thursday 10:50 - 11:30, 1:00 - 2:00

**Texts:**

Leary, M. R. (2012). *Introduction to behavioral research methods* (6th ed.). Boston: Pearson.

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D. C.: American Psychological Association.

American Psychological Association. (2010). Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct. Available online at http://www.apa.org/ethics/.

**Course Description:**

In this course, we will examine the different ways in which psychologists design and conduct research. We will begin with a discussion of how to formulate good, testable hypotheses. You will then learn how to design effective, ethical experiments to test these hypotheses, and you will also learn techniques for collecting, interpreting, and presenting data. You will then write a research paper in the format suggested by the American Psychological Association, will give an oral presentation, and will prepare a poster presentation.

This course contains an assignment or multiple assignments designed to help students conduct research and inquiry at an intensive level.  If this class is selected to participate in the university-wide assessment program, students will be asked to complete a consent form and submit electronically some of their research assignments for review.  Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (OURI) for additional opportunities and information at <http://www.fau.edu/ouri>.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Students will learn the ethical guidelines of psychologists.
2. Students will gain an understanding of the scientific methods used for gaining knowledge about human behavior and cognition. Students will read research studies, present research findings to the class, and write a paper on a research topic.
3. Students will learn how to design effective experiments and will learn how to evaluate published research.
4. Students will gain an understanding of the statistical techniques used by psychologists to analyze data. They will become proficient in the use of SPSS.

**Course Prerequisites:**

PSY 1012 General Psychology

**Course Requirements:**

**Tests (350 Possible Points):** There will be two tests and a final exam. Each of the two tests is worth 100 points and will cover only the material since the previous test. The final exam will be cumulative and is worth 150 points. **You are responsible for both the material covered in class and the material covered in the readings.** (Note: You must take the tests at the scheduled times unless you have prior approval from me or have a documented university excused absence.)

**Chapter Summaries (80 Possible Points):** There are 16 Chapters in our text book. You are responsible for writing a summary of each chapter by hand. Each chapter summary is worth 5 points.Handwritten notetaking decreases mind wandering and increases memory, so writing good summaries of the chapters will help you focus on the material and improve your retention. Be sure to write the summaries in your own words. The process of translating the text into your own words will increase your deep processing of the information.

**Home Work Assignments (100 Possible Points):** There will be 10 homework assignments worth 10 points each. The due dates will be provided with the assignments.

HW 1: CITI Training for IRB

HW 2: CITI Training for IACUC

HW 3: Annotated Bibliography Part 1

HW 4: Method Sections for Project

HW 5: Annotated Bibliography Part 2

HW 6: Descriptive Statistics and Annotated Bibliography Part 3

HW 7: Correlations and Regression Analyses and Introduction Section

HW 8: T Test

HW 9: ANOVA

HW 10: Review

**Research Paper (100 Possible Points):** A research paper is required for this course. APA format should be used. The paper is worth 100 points. Papers should be turned in by 9:30 am on December 1. (Note: Ten points will be deducted for each day that a paper is late.)

**Oral Presentation (10 Possible Points):** An oral presentation on your research proposal is worth 10 points.

**Poster Presentation (10 Possible Points):** You will create a research poster. You have probably noticed all of the research posters that line the hallways of the Honors College Building. In this course, you will learn how to transform your research paper into an effective research poster. This poster is worth 10 points. Posters should be turned in by email by 9:30 am on November 29th. (Note: Late posters will not be accepted because we will discuss them in lab.)

**Class Participation (Up to 10 Extra Credit Points):** You will learn a lot more from this class if you are an active participant. As an additional incentive to attend class, 10 extra credit points will be awarded to students with perfect class attendance, and 5 extra credit points will be awarded to students who miss only one class. (Note: You need to be in class when a class begins in order to receive credit for that class. You will not be penalized for excused absences.) Lab sessions are mandatory and cannot be missed without a documented university excused absence. (Note: A missed lab will result in the deduction of 15 points. Being late to lab will result in the deduction of 1 point for each minute.)

**Extra Credit (Up to 5 Extra Credit Points)**: There will be extra credit opportunities throughout the term. You may not simultaneously count an opportunity for this class and for another class. You may earn a total of 5 extra credit points.

**Course Evaluation:**

Grades will be based on total points. There are 650 possible points. The following point scale will be used to determine final grades:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | 605 - 650 | C+ | 494 - 519 |
| A- | 585 - 604 | C | 474 - 493 |
| B+ | 565 - 584 | C- | 455 - 473 |
| B | 539 - 564 | D+ | 435 - 454 |
| B- | 520 - 538 | D | 409 - 434 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  | D- | 390 - 408 |
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**Tentative Course Outline:**

Dates Topic Readings

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Psychology as Science Leary 1

Ethics Leary 15

APA (2010) Ethical Principles of Psychologists

APA (2009) p. 11-20 & p. 70-77 in APA Manual

Variability Leary 2

Reliability and Validity Leary 3

Writing a Research Paper Leary 16; APA (2009) p. 21-40 in APA Manual

Measurement Leary 4 and 5

9/29 Test 1

Descriptive Research Leary 6

Correlational Research Leary 7 and 8

Experimental Research Leary 9

Experimental Design Leary 10

11/3 Test 2

Analysis of Experimental Data Leary 11 and 12

Quasi-Experimental Designs Leary 13

Single-Case Research Leary 14

11/28 Poster Presentation due

12/1 Research Paper due

12/8 Final Exam (7:45 – 10:15)

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**Notes:**

* I take the Honor Code very seriously, and I expect you to take it seriously too.
* Please do not conduct work for other classes, send text messages, or surf the web during class. These activities inhibit your ability to learn in class and are distracting to others, including me. Unfortunately, I have found that the temptation to use phones and computers for purposes other than taking notes is just too high, so please do not bring computers to class. Also, please turn off your cell phone and put it away during class. You may bring your computer and phone to lab as long as your phone is set to a silent setting.
* If you are having difficulties, please come see me. The earlier in the term that you come to see me, the better I will be able to help you.
* All dates and times listed on this syllabus are subject to change.
* If you will be missing class for religious or other reasons, please let me know ahead of time, and I will find someone to take notes for you during your absence.

**Disability Policy Statement**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS)—in Boca Raton, SU 133[*(561-297-3880*](tel:%28561-297-3880)); in Davie, LA 203[*(954-236-1222*](tel:%28954-236-1222)); or in Jupiter, SR 110[*(561-799-8585*](tel:%28561-799-8585)) —and follow all SAS procedures.

* Students who require special accommodations due to a disability, please register with the Office for Students with Disabilities in SR 110.

**FAU Code of Academic Integrity Policy Statement**

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

Honors College Mission Statement

We, the students of the Honors College of Florida Atlantic University, from a passion for acquiring knowledge, pledge to foster intellectual and personal growth and to take responsibility for our own education. We hope to develop a deep understanding of ourselves and our world and not focus only on grades as a criterion for success. In order to reach the pinnacle of our own intellectual and personal development, we pledge to work with the faculty to establish an environment of academic integrity and mutual respect. To create and maintain an Honors College community, we support the freedom of expression and discovery. By choosing to become a part of this community, we each promise to uphold the principles recognized in this statement.

Honors College Academic Honor Code

As part of our pledge to foster intellectual and personal growth, we shall uphold the highest standards of honesty and integrity as they pertain to our academic life. We expect that every Honors College student will support the goal of creating an environment of academic integrity, academic freedom, and mutual respect.

To promote this goal, students hereby agree not to cheat on exams, tests, quizzes; plagiarize; receive or provide unpermitted aid on any exam or any class work used by an instructor as a basis for grading; interfere with the educational mission of the College; or conspire to commit any of the above actions.

In support of the mission statement and honor code, we acknowledge an expectation to report violations of this code, and that doing so, while not obligatory, is not to be looked down on as betraying trust, but rather is to be regarded as maintaining the academic integrity of the Honors College and supporting a community of mutual trust.

We encourage and acknowledge an expectation of active participation inside and outside of the classroom in contributing to the academic life of the College community. Forms of active participation include attendance, discussion within the classroom, discussion on academic topics outside of the classroom, participation in study groups, turning in assignments, seeking help when needed, and performing assigned work in group projects.

By signing the honor code, we the students acknowledge that we have entered into an agreement with the faculty in which we uphold the above principles and will not weaken the foundation of trust upon which the Honors College is built by violating them. In return, we expect the faculty to show trust in us. Faculty are encouraged not to proctor exams or to take unreasonable precautions to prevent dishonesty.

**Research Project**

1. You will be divided into lab teams of 3 to 4 students. Each team will find an interesting topic for research, develop a testable hypothesis, create a research design, implement the experiment, collect and analyze data, and present your findings to the class. Thus, the scope of the project is limited by the 15 week duration of the course. Due to ethical concerns with the use of special populations in research, your participants must be healthy adult volunteers. Your research needs to pose minimum risk to the participants.

2. Each person will independently select and read 15 research articles on the chosen research topic. Your reference list of 20 potential sources is due at 1:00 pm on September 6th. Use APA format for the references.

3. Each person will independently write a two-page double-spaced summary and evaluation of each of their chosen 15 articles. These summaries will be due as part of homework assignments during the term. Each summary should be in the following format:

Introduction:

Describe the purpose of the study.

List the hypotheses the authors tested.

Method:

Briefly describe the participants.

Describe what the participants did. Focus only on the main points.

Results:

List the three most important findings in order of importance.

Discussion:

Describe why the results are important for your project.

List two weaknesses in the study in order of importance.

4. After you have become an expert in your area of interest, you will work with your lab team to design an experiment to test a new hypothesis in this area. Each person will independently write a method section for the project in APA format. This method section is due at 1:00 pm on September 27th.

5. Each Lab Team will be asked to make a presentation to your classmates on your research project. Each team will prepare a 20 min oral presentation. Visual aids should be used, especially for presenting data. You will sign up for a presentation date later in the term.

6. Each person will independently write a results section for your project in APA format. The due date for the results section will be determined by the complexity of the data to be collected.

7. Each Lab Team will prepare a poster presentation of your research project. Guidelines for creating posters are on our Blackboard site. The poster is due by email on November 28th at 9:30 am. I will print them for our poster session.

8. Each person will independently write a research paper in APA format. Please do not cite information from studies that you have not read. **Please do not use sources that you have used for another paper unless you have approval from me.** The paper is due on December 1st at 9:30am. The word count should be between 5500 and 6500 words. Please include the word count on the front page.