

Research Methods in Psychology (PSY 5020)

Fall 2007 Syllabus

Course Information

Meeting days and times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Meeting location: 305 Smith Wright

Course website may be accessed through WebCT

Instructor Information

Rose Mary Webb, Ph.D.

Office hours: Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.,
and by appointment

Office/lab location & telephone: 112-D Smith Wright; 262-2489

Email: webbrm@appstate.edu

Website: www.appstate.edu/~webbrm

Texts and Readings

Whitley, B. E. Jr. (2002). *Principles of research in behavioral science* (2nd ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill.
ISBN: 0-7674-2175-2 [Required]

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 1-55798-790-4 [Recommended]

Access to other supplemental readings and materials will be provided by the instructor throughout the semester, as needed.

Course Overview and Objectives

PSY 5020 is designed to examine the procedures and principles involved with experimental, quasi-experimental, correlational, and other research. Problem formulation, literature review, measurement issues, sampling, research design, data analysis, and report writing using APA format will be addressed. Prerequisite: an undergraduate statistics course.

Evaluation

Course grades will be determined on the basis of performance on the criteria listed below; values of each are also listed. There will be a total of 400 points possible.

Assignments	100 points
Research proposal	100 points
Exam 1	100 points
Final Exam (cumulative)	100 points

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the total number of points accumulated during the semester according to the following guidelines:

	B+	348-359	C+	308-319	D+	268-279			
A	372-400	B	332-347	C	292-307	D	252-267	F	0-239
A-	360-371	B-	320-331	C-	280-291	D-	240-251		

Course Requirements

Readings

Reading assignments for a given day should be completed before class meetings because the text will often be used to provide background for lecture topics. Material from the text may not be discussed explicitly in class; therefore, I encourage you to mention in class or in office hours any issues or questions you may encounter in the readings. Access to supplemental readings will be provided by the instructor throughout the semester. You are responsible for all readings, whether discussed in class or not.

Class Attendance

You are responsible for all material presented in class, some of which will not be available through the textbook alone. If you miss a class for any reason, please make arrangements with a classmate for determining what you have missed. Consistent class attendance is essential to your success in this course. Absences alone will not directly lower your grade (i.e., by subtracting points); however, absences will limit your understanding of the material, and the natural consequence of frequent absences will be reflected in your performance in the class.

Assignments

There will be several assignments throughout the semester. These will be of various formats (e.g., writing or computational exercises, class activities), including intermediate steps to the written research proposal described below. Point values for each of these assignments will vary between 10 and 20 points; however, the total will contribute up to 100 points (25%) toward your final grade. Each assignment is due at the beginning of the class session on the due date listed on the attached schedule.

Research proposal

Each student will be required to write a research proposal outlining a research question, supported by a relevant literature review, and a research method designed to examine that question (details forthcoming). Each student will prepare and deliver a short presentation outlining his/her proposal during the final exam period. Written proposals are due on the last day of class. This research proposal, including its presentation, is worth 100 points (25%) of your final grade.

Exams

The first exam will be worth 100 points (25%) of your final grade. The final exam will be cumulative and worth 100 points (25%) of your final grade. Exams may include a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, computational, and essay items. Questions will be taken from all aspects of the course, including readings, supplemental materials, lectures, discussions, and class activities.

Course Policies

Make-up policy

Make-up exams may be given at the discretion of the instructor. Requests must be made to the instructor personally and in advance, and you may be asked to provide written documentation in support of that request. Please note that, under no circumstances, is approval for a make-up exam guaranteed. If the request is approved, the exam must be taken at a time convenient to the instructor. The format of a make-up exam is at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to obtain approval for a make-up exam results in a score of zero for that exam.

Any assignment or research proposal that is turned in late may be assessed a 10% penalty for each day (or partial day) it is late. Each 24-hour period begins at the beginning of class.

Communication

Outside of office hours, the best way to reach me is by email. To insure that your message gets flagged properly as important student correspondence, please enter the course number and a short description of the nature of the request in the message header (e.g., Psy5020-Request for appointment; Psy5020-Assignment question). I will usually respond within 24 hours (except weekends).

On occasion, I may need to correspond with everyone in the class or with an individual student outside of class meetings; I will use your AppalNet email address for this purpose. If class must be cancelled (e.g., due to inclement weather), I will notify the entire class by email.

Classroom policies

Students are expected to arrive to class on time every day and should not leave early.

Please leave all electronic devices (e.g., cell phone, iPod, pager) turned off in the classroom.

All members of the class will treat one another respectfully. Disagreement with the ideas of others is expected, but all discussions will remain professional, not personal.

Academic integrity is essential and is not to be taken lightly. Please familiarize yourself with ASU's Academic Integrity Code and abide by its directives (available in PDF at http://www.academicaffairs.appstate.edu/academic_integrity_code.pdf).

Students who require accommodations for disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services immediately (see <http://www.fpxt.appstate.edu/gstudies/dss/index.htm>). Students must notify the instructor of any necessary accommodations within the first two weeks of class.

Examination policies

During examinations, the following additional procedures will be followed:

- Books, notes, and all personal belongings, including hats, must be stored.
- Please arrive on time. Late arrivals will not be given extra time.
- No one will be permitted to begin the exam after the first person in class completes it.
- Do not leave the room until you are finished with your exam. You will not be permitted to continue to work on an exam after exiting the room.

Research Methods in Psychology (PSY 5020)
Fall 2007 Tentative Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Readings	Topic Description	Assignments
1	Tu	8/21		Course overview	
	Th	8/23	Ch 1- 2	Comparing research strategies	
2	Tu	8/28	Ch 3, 18	Ethics, plagiarism	Plagiarism
	Th	8/30		Writing using APA style	
3	Tu	9/4	Ch 4	Formulating research questions	APA style
	Th	9/6		<i>No class: Convocation</i>	
4	Tu	9/11	Ch 5 (pp. 138-52)	Measurement modalities	
	Th	9/13	Ch 5 (pp. 121-38)	Intro to reliability and validity	
5	Tu	9/18	Cortina (1993)	Reliability	
	Th	9/20	Schmidt & Hunter (1996)	Examining measurement error	Msrn scenarios
6	Tu	9/25	Ch 6	Internal validity	
	Th	9/27	Campbell & Fiske (1959)	Examining validity	
7	Tu	10/2	Cronbach & Meehl (1955)	Construct validity	MTMM
	Th	10/4		Review	
8	Tu	10/9		Exam 1	
	Th	10/11		<i>No class: Fall Break</i>	
9	Tu	10/16	Ch 7	Experimental research	Annot biblio
	Th	10/18	Ch 8; Rodgers & N. (1988)	Correlational research	
10	Tu	10/23	Ch 9	Case study research	
	Th	10/25	Ch 10	Observational research	Article analysis
11	Tu	10/30		Quasi-experimental research	
	Th	11/1	Ch 11	Survey research	Study design
12	Tu	11/6		Individual meetings: Proposal development & research design	
	Th	11/8			
13	Tu	11/13	Ch 12	Sampling, data collection	
	Th	11/15	Ch 13, 17	Interpretation; writing reports	
14	Tu	11/20	Ch 14	External validity of research	
	Th	11/22		<i>No class: Thanksgiving Break</i>	
15	Tu	11/27	Schmidt (1996)	Statistical significance testing	
	Th	11/29		Review	
16	Tu	12/4		Final Exam	Proposal
	Tu	12/11	12:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Presentations	