

PSYCH 209: FUNDAMENTALS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH
Class Schedule & Assignments
(Subject to Change)

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
Thursday	9/28	Introduction	Syllabus, Chapter 1
Friday	9/29	Characteristics of Science	
Monday	10/2	The Research Process	Chapter 2 (pp. 26-50 only)
Tuesday	10/3		
Wednesday	10/4	Statistics	Chapter 10 (270-276 only), Stats Handout
Thursday	10/5	Research Ethics	Chapter 2 (pp. 50-57 only)
Friday	10/6		
Monday	10/9	Measurement	Chapter 3
Tuesday	10/10	STATISTICS QUIZ	
Wednesday	10/11		
Thursday	10/12	Observational Research	Chapter 6 (170-174 only)
Friday	10/13		
Monday	10/16	Surveys & Tests	Chapter 6 (153-161 only)
Tuesday	10/17		
Wednesday	10/18	Correlation & Causation	Chapter 6 (161-166)
Thursday	10/19		
Friday	10/20		HW #1 (Excel Assignment) DUE
Monday	10/23	Exam Review	
Tuesday	10/24	EXAM 1	
Wednesday	10/25	In-Class Cooperative Extra Credit	
Thursday	10/26	Between-Subjects Designs	Chapter 7, Chapter 9 (242-245 only)
Friday	10/27		
Monday	10/30		
Tuesday	10/31	Hypothesis Testing	Chapter 10 (276-292 only)
Wednesday	11/1		
Thursday	11/2		
Friday	11/3	BSD QUIZ	
Monday	11/6		HW #2 (Jealousy Assignment) DUE
Tuesday	11/7	Within-Subjects Designs	Chapter 9 (258-265)
Wednesday	11/8		
Thursday	11/9		
Friday	11/10	NO CLASS – VETERAN’S DAY	
Monday	11/13		HW #3 (Library Assignment) Due
Tuesday	11/14	Exam Review	
Wednesday	11/15	EXAM 2	
Thursday	11/16	In-Class Cooperative Extra Credit	
Friday	11/17	Complex Designs	Chapter 9 (245-258)
Monday	11/20		HW #4 (Article Selection) DUE
Tuesday	11/21		
Wednesday	11/22	Quasi-Experimental Designs	Chapter 8, Chapter 5
Thursday	11/23	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING	
Friday	11/24	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING	

Class Schedule & Assignments (Continued)

Day	Date	Topic	Assignments
Monday	11/27	Complex Designs QUIZ	
Tuesday	11/28		
Wednesday	11/29		
Thursday	11/30		
Friday	12/1	Single Subject Research	Chapter 5 (145-153 only)
Monday	12/4		HW #3 (Article Analysis) DUE
Tuesday	12/5	Unobtrusive Measurement	Chapter 6 (review 170-172)
Wednesday	12/6		
Thursday	12/7		
Friday	12/8		
Wednesday	12/13	EXAM 3 (11:00 – 1:00)	

Basic Information

Instructor:	Dr. Don S. Christensen
Office:	5300 (FOSS)
Phone:	(206) 546-5885
E-mail:	dchrise@shoreline.edu
Office Hours:	Monday through Thursday: 10:30 – 11:20 Monday & Thursday: 12:30 – 1:20 And by appointment
Class Location:	Room 2904
Meeting Time:	Daily: 11:30 – 12:20

Course Materials

Pelham, B. W., & Blanton, C. J. (2007). *Conducting research in psychology: Measuring the weight of smoke* (3rd Ed.). Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth. (Required)

Several psychology journal articles are required for general course reading and as part of the various homework assignments. Further information will be provided in class.

Web Site

Course Web Site: <http://shoreline.edu/dchris/psych209/>

Course Objectives

My specific goals for this course are to provide you with an understanding of: 1) fundamental research concepts and terminology, 2) major methods of research and their associated strengths and weaknesses, and 3) basic descriptive statistics and the rationale for inferential statistics. On a more general and personal level the course also is designed to increase your ability to critically evaluate research and scientific claims reported in journals, textbooks, and the popular media. I also hope the course will deepen your appreciation of why the "scientific method" is a valuable approach for learning about behavior and other aspects of the world around us.

By the end of the quarter, you will be able to:

- describe the major classes of psychological research methods and comment on their relative strengths and weaknesses.
- differentiate between the different types of variables typically found in psychological research (i.e., independent variables, dependent variables, selected variables, confounding variables, nuisance variables, etc...).
- calculate basic descriptive statistics and understand what they indicate about a particular data set.
- use an electronic library database to search for psychology articles of interest.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the design and findings of a research article and summarize it in a few paragraphs.

Grading

Exams: There will be three examinations. Each exam will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions, worth one point each. Each exam is required, cannot be dropped, and is weighted equally. Questions will be based upon material from the textbook, study guide, and class lectures. The exams are non-cumulative. However, please realize that the material covered in each section of the course will build upon material covered in previous sections.

In-Class Cooperative Extra Credit: Shortly after each of the exams, students will be allowed to go over and correct the 40 multiple-choice questions from the exam they just took. Students may use their notes and/or textbooks and are encouraged to collaborate and check answers with fellow classmates. Each individual student will submit a brand new Scan-Tron form. If a student submits a perfect (40/40) new answer sheet, the student will have three extra credit points added to his or her exam total. Any incorrect answers on the resubmission will be subtracted from the three possible bonus points but students will not have points taken away from their total exam score if they miss more than three answers.

Written Assignments: This course will involve three written assignments plus a short library assignment. Assignment 1 involves using Microsoft Excel to calculate a few basic descriptive statistics. Assignment 2 asks you to read, answer short questions about, and summarize several journal articles discussing different theoretical explanations for gender differences in jealousy. Assignment 3 involves locating one psychology journal article that presents an original experiment on a topic of your choice and analyzing the research design of that study. More details will be provided in lecture. The library assignment involves using computerized databases to search for the summaries (i.e., abstracts) of two psychology articles on a topic of your choice. To receive full credit, assignments are due on the due date, at the beginning of class lecture. Late assignments will lose 2 points for each day they are late.

Quizzes: Three quizzes (ranging from 10 to 20 minutes) will be given during the quarter. Quiz 1 is a short statistics quiz in which you will be asked to make some common statistical calculations. Quiz 2 will present you with a brief description of a hypothetical experiment and ask you to identify certain characteristics of that experiment. Quiz 3 will present some very basic data (i.e., results) from a hypothetical experiment and ask you to analyze certain aspects of those results. More details will be given in class.

Course Grade and Grading Scale: All exams, quizzes, and assignments are required. The final grade you receive for the course will be based on the number of points you earn. In other words, there is no automatic curve grading. Listed below is the grading scale that I will use to assign final course grades. If you achieve a given point total, then your course grade cannot be any lower than the grade on the scale. If the grade distribution using this scale comes out such that less than 50% of the class receives a final grade of 2.5 or above, then I will adjust the scale until 50% of the class has a grade of at least 2.5. I am including the grading scale in this syllabus so that you will know exactly how well you have to do in order to receive a particular final grade.

GRADING SCALE

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
93%	4.0 (A)	81%	2.8	69%	1.6
92%	3.9	80%	2.7	68%	1.5
91%	3.8	79%	2.6	67%	1.4
90%	3.7	78%	2.5	66%	1.3
89%	3.6	77%	2.4	65%	1.2
88%	3.5	76%	2.3	64%	1.1
87%	3.4	75%	2.2	63%	1.0 (D)
86%	3.3	74%	2.1	62%	0.9
85%	3.2	73%	2.0 (C)	61%	0.8
84%	3.1	72%	1.9	60%	0.7
83%	3.0 (B)	71%	1.8	Below 60%	0.0 (F)
82%	2.9	70%	1.7		

Appeal Procedure: If your answer to an exam question is marked as being incorrect but you feel that it is correct, then you should write a justification as to why you feel it is correct based upon the material presented in the textbook or in class. In other words, don't merely state your personal opinion; rather, specifically justify your answer based on course material. Any appeals should be handed in to me within 1 week after the official exam grades are posted. We will review your appeal and if I think it justifies your answer, you will receive credit.

Incompletes and Make-ups: If you feel that you are unable to complete all the coursework this quarter you must see me in advance so that I can decide whether to assign a grade of incomplete. As a rule, incompletes must be made up by the end of the following quarter. Please be aware that I probably will not be teaching this course again during the following quarter. Thus, depending on your circumstances, you may have to complete the course with another professor. Similarly, if justifiable and uncontrollable circumstances will prevent you from taking a quiz or exam at the scheduled time, see me in advance so that we can discuss the possibility of a make-up exam.

Exam/Homework Ethics: These remarks aren't meant to offend anyone's sense of honesty, but I believe it's best to discuss ethics up front. It is the official policy of Shoreline Community College that cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and other forms of academic misconduct are grounds for disciplinary action. Cheating is an act of deception by which a student misrepresents that he or she has mastered information on an academic exercise which in fact has not been mastered. Examples of cheating include such things as looking at other students' exams, using notes during an exam, submitting the exact same or very similar work as another student, or receiving unauthorized outside assistance. Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own work. Examples of plagiarism include such things as copying sentences from texts or the Internet. Ways to avoid plagiarism are to use quotation marks when including other people's actual words in your papers and to properly acknowledge the source(s) of your information. It is also extremely helpful to use your own words when writing a paper. If cheating or plagiarism occurs, a grade of zero will be given for that piece of work. I will also notify the appropriate administrative official and disciplinary action may follow. Cheating and plagiarism are both serious offenses that can have substantial consequences, including being expelled from school so I strongly encourage you to be aware of and avoid these potential student conduct problems.

(The following paragraph is from the SCC Student Guide, page 29) College Policy 5030, the Student Code of Conduct and Discipline, outlines general expectations for student behavior and procedures for resolving issues of student conduct and discipline. College Policy 5033, Dishonesty in Academics, describes behavior that is unacceptable in the classroom and procedures for resolving situations involving academic dishonesty. College Policy 5035, Student Grievance Procedures—Academic Evaluation, provides procedures for resolving disputes that arise between students and faculty members regarding grades. A complete list of student standards of conduct, as well as campus rules and procedures, is printed in the College Policy Manual, which is available in the Ray W. Howard Library/Media Center, the Student Programs Office, the Student Government Office and other administrative offices.

Final Thoughts on Grading: Grades in this course will be based solely on the system and scale discussed above. There will be no possibility of doing "extra" reports, papers, etc., to raise your grade. So please, don't ask. If you are having trouble with the course material or aren't doing as well on the exams as you think you should be, please come talk to me. Don't wait until the end of the quarter. I am here to help you learn. Also, incompletes will not be given out simply as a way of "taking the course" or part of the course over.

Additional Campus Resources

Some campus resources you may wish to utilize are the Academic Skills Center (206 546-4308, Room 1501) and Services for Students with Disabilities Program (206 546-5832, TDD 206 546-4520, FOSS Building, Room 5241). If you are a student with a disability and believe you are entitled to accommodations on exams and homework assignments or to particular services such as note taking, I need a formal letter from the Services for Students with Disabilities office in order to honor your request(s). Students are responsible for contacting this office themselves.