U550-225 Research Methods in Psychology

Course Format: Online

Course Author/s: Melissa Gregg, PhD.

Course credits: 3

Prerequisites: A passing grade in Elementary Statistics U3600-246 or the equivalent college level statistics course.

Course Description: This course covers the major experimental and non-experimental methodologies used in psychological research. It covers the major steps in the research process including literature searches, forming research questions, ethics, and methodology selection. This course incorporates hands-on research experience that provides you with an opportunity to collect data, analyze and interpret data, and report your results.

Required Course Materials
  - This is a free, open resource textbook

Optional/Recommended Course Materials

Course Learning Objectives
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of the major steps in psychological research, including literature searches, forming research questions, research design, data collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination
- Describe the major research methodologies in psychology, including observational, correlational, and experimental methods
- Evaluate the quality of research by others cautiously and analytically
- Compose an APA formatted research report

Course Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE #</th>
<th>MODULE TOPIC</th>
<th>EVALUATED ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Science of Psychology</td>
<td>• Writing assignment</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Module Quiz</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Overview of the Scientific Method</td>
<td>• Writing assignment</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Module Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>APA Crash Course</td>
<td>• Lab 1</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Module quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Research Ethics</td>
<td>• Writing assignment</td>
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<td>• Module quiz</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Psychological Measurement</td>
<td>• Writing assignment</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Module quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Non-Experimental Research:</td>
<td>• Lab 2</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Module quiz</td>
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</tbody>
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Observational Research

7  Non-Experimental Research: Correlational and Survey Research
   • Lab 3
   • Module quiz

8  Non-Experimental Research: Qualitative Research
   • Writing assignment
   • Module quiz

9  Experimental Research
   • Lab 4
   • Module quiz

10 Quasi-Experimental Research
    • Writing assignment
    • Module quiz

11 Factorial Designs
    • Writing assignment
    • Module quiz

12 Single-Subject Research
    • Writing assignment
    • Module quiz

Evaluation Methods
Your final grade will be based on your performance on the following:
1) Module Quizzes (70%)
2) Writing Assignments (10%)
3) Labs (20%)

Module Quizzes (70%)
Quizzes are a combination of multiple-choice, True/False, and short answer questions. You will have one attempt at each quiz.

Writing Assignments (30%)
Multiple short assignments will be given throughout the semester to aid in understanding the course material.

Labs (20%)
The best way to really learn how to do research is to actually do research. Since conducting actual research isn’t always feasible, the course includes labs to simulate a hands-on component. There will be 4 lab assignments in the course (details provided in the course content):
   • Lab 1 – APA Format/Literature Research
   • Lab 2 – Observational Research
   • Lab 3 – Correlational Research
   • Lab 4 – Experimental Research

Exam Method: There are no exams in this course
Grading Scale
The following grading scale is used to evaluate all course requirements and determine your final grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93–100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83–87.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70–77.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60–69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>88–92.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>78–82.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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Pass/Fail Option
Students who enroll in an Independent Learning (IL) course under the pass/fail option will receive a final grade of S in place of a final grade equivalent to an A, AB, B, BC, or C and a final grade of U in place of a final grade equivalent to a D or F.