**PSY 56:830:580 - Graduate Research Methods in Psychology**

**Fall 2011 - Tuesday - Room Armitage 207  - 6:00 - 8:40 PM**

**Professor: Sean Duffy, Ph.D.**

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Office: Armitage Room 343, Lab: Armitage B22

**Course goals:**

The goal of this course is to develop an understanding and appreciation for the methodological and theoretical aspects of psychological research. You will learn how psychologists gather information about the mind and behavior, interpret findings, and report their research. You will complete a psychological study during the course of the semester in order to gain insight into the process underlying psychological research.

This next part is very important. A lot of what I am covering Dr. Markey is also covering in her class. So before you complain that there is redundancy, what I want you to understand that now that you are in graduate school, what you need to learn is that there are different takes on the same topic. As an undergraduate, you learned how to skin a cat. In graduate school, you learn that there are more ways to skin a cat. There really is no such thing as redundancy in education. What you learn is that you are constantly relearning what you forgot. Just like when someone gives you a phone number, you repeat it over and over in your head to memorize it, so it is the same with graduate school. Both of these classes are teaching you incredibly useful things, and what you will hopefully understand that someone like me thinks about psychology in a completely different way than someone like Dr. Markey. And that diversity in perspectives is useful as you move along in this journey towards understanding that the devil is always in the detail, not the the bigger picture.

**Course requirements:**

There are 7 (and possibly more) requirements in this course.

1. Readings from the text and supplemental readings.

2. Two Exams  = 25%  (12.5% each)

3. 1 research paper ( ~12 pages) = 25%

4. 1 presentation (~ 10 minutes) = 10%

5. Assignments (5 total) = 25% (5% each)

6. Peer review project at end = 15%

7. Attendance is mandatory.

**1. Text:**

Beginning Behavioral Research, 5th or 6th edition, by Rosnow & Rosenthal. Get the older edition for cheaper online.

**2. Exams:**

In class exams will be multiple choice and short answer.

**3. Paper**

There will be one 12 page research paper due in December. This is on a topic that is NOT your thesis and NOT the same topic you are investigating in Professor Markey's class. I'll explain in class, but you need to find a phenomenon that pisses you off, confuses you, or otherwise piques your interest. And you will be doing a research project, collecting data, analyzing it, and reporting it as a journal article. Note that this is what you are going to be doing with your thesis, so think of this as practice.

**4. Presentation**

You will have to give a presentation at the end of the course. Powerpoint, as if you were giving a talk at a conference.

**5.  Assignments**

In the first half of the course, I will be giving 5 assignments that will help you in the course of preparing for your research paper. Dress up time!

**6. Peer review project**

When you hand in your paper at the end of the course, you will be handing in 4 copies. One for me and three to be distributed among your peers, whose task it will be to review your paper just as a peer review process works. You will critique - intelligently, constructively - the papers of your peers and giving me a suggestion for the grade I should give it. And just like a real journal editor, I have the power to override your suggestion. The point is to be thoughtful about criticism. Learn to love it. Your best friends are your critics.

**7. Attendance & Participation**

You are expected to attend every class. You are expected to keep your cell phone off during class. Violation of this policy may result in bad karma, teacher's dirty looks, defenestration, etc.

**Other rules:**

**Academic Honesty:**

You are expected to read and understand rules regarding academic misconduct. Ignorance of these rules will not be accepted as an excuse for academic misconduct. If you are found cheating on exams or plagiarizing your paper, you will receive a failing grade for the course. Rutgers maintains a website with specific guidelines concerning academic honesty. You are expected to read and understand all of these rules, and if you have questions about them, ask me.

http://cat.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html

**Class cancellations:**

In the event of a natural disaster (e.g., snow storm, earthquake, tsunami) class may be cancelled. In the case of bad weather, make sure you check the main website for this course before you leave home – I will post notice of course cancellations on sakai.

**Incompletes / Pass – No-credit:**

Many people think that deadlines fly out the window during graduate school. I am no fan of such deadline defenestrations. I think that we all will be best served if we finish everything on time and avoid extensions that lag into next semester. The workload of this course is not so severe that our goals can not be accomplished this fall. So procrastinate if you will in other classes; in this class everything is due on time.

**Disability accommodations:**

For disability accommodations, please call the Disability Services Coordinator. Students who require special accommodations for the course or its assignments or exams (as indicated by a formal letter/statement from the Disability Services Coordinator) should also contact me as early as possible.

**Missed class:**

Get to know someone in this class. Not only might you make a new friend, you will have someone to borrow notes from in the hopefully rare and unusual circumstance in which you might have to miss lecture. Most importantly, you are responsible for your own education. If you have to miss more than 4 classes for whatever reason, whether it be beyond your control or not, I request that you drop this course and take it another semester.

**SAKAI**

I use sakai. This requires you knowing your Rutgers CnetID. You should know this, and if not, go to the computing center and ask someone. You should use your Rutgers email address or the email address the Register has on file. If you don’t get emails from me because you like using only your imfoolish@yahoo.com address, that’s your problem.

**Course Schedule:**

**The course schedule provided here is tentative.**

**Research methods -**

WEEK 1:  Tues, Sept 6 -**NOTE CHANGE IN CLASS DAY**

Course Intro / Overview

WEEK 2: Tues, Sept 13:

Ch.1: Behavioral Research & Scientific Method

Lind

Break

Film: The Harmony of Worlds (From Cosmos, by Carl Sagan)

WEEK 3: Tues: Sept 20

Assignment 1 due

Ch 2: Creative Ideas / Working Hypotheses

McGuire reading

Trinkaus readings

Gigerenzer on death anxiety

Reid on personal space

Break

Ch 3: Ethical Considerations

WEEK 4:Tues, Sept 27

Ch 4: Strategies of systematic research

Feynman on Cargo Cult Science  
  
Trafimow  
  
Nickerson comment on Trafimow - what if great scientific findings were reviewed by the likes of us?

Break

Ch 10: Summarizing data

Peterson - Minimally sufficient research

WEEK 5: Tues, Oct. 4

Library assignment - meet in Basement of Library.Cialdini - We have to break up - On the stupidity of modern psychological scienceRozin - What kind of science should we publish?

Break

Complete online ethics training assigment 2.  
  
Fiske - IRBs

WEEK 6: Tues, Oct 11

Assignment 2 due (online ethics training)

Ch 5: Methods for looking within ourselves  
  
Baumeister et al. - On the ridiculousness of a psychological science of finger movements and likert scales.

Break

Research project proposal / critique

During this class you will spend about 10 minutes telling the class what your project will be about.

WEEK 7: Tues, Oct 18

Assignment 3 due

Ch.6: Reliability and Validity

Break

Chapter 11: Correlation (quick, because correlation is easy)

WEEK 8: Tues, Oct 25

Ch 7: Randomized Experiments

Break

Chapter 12: Statistical significance, effect size, power

WEEK 9: Tues, Nov 1

EXAM (1 hour)

Break

Project progress reports in which you discuss how your project is going.

WEEK 10: Tues, Nov 8

Assignment 4 due

Ch 8: Non-random experiments

Break

Ch.13: Comparison of 2 conditions (t test)

WEEK 11: Tues, Nov 15

Ch.9: Survey Research

Break

Ch 14: Comparison of more than 2 conditions (ANOVA)

**THANKSGIVING WEEK NO CLASS**

WEEK 12: Tues, Nov 29

Probably continuation of ANOVA, discussion of papers, etc.

Assignment 5 due

Break

Chapter 15: Frequency data (Chi-square)

WEEK 13: Tues, Dec 6

Presentation of research projects / Exchange of papers (oh yeah. papers due!!!)

WEEK 14: Tues, Dec 13

EXAM 2 Peer review due.