

ROUGH DRAFT / INCOMPLETE

Method and Theory in Psychology

Spring 2019

Sec. 2 TU TH 2:00 – 3:20

Sec. 3 TU TH 3:35 - 4:55

Professor: Sean Duffy, Ph.D.

Email: seduffy@scarletmail.rutgers.edu

Office hours: Before class / After class, usually in Armitage Basement room 22

Course goals / Learning objectives:

The goal of this course is for you to learn about methodology in the field of psychology. We will learn about basic issues regarding the science of psychology and some general issues regarding how psychologists figure out how to study mind and behavior. We will examine some of the procedural, ethical, practical, statistical, and philosophical aspects of conducting research studies in psychological science broadly construed. We will learn about diverse methodologies and approaches, from ethnography to survey research. We will also focus a lot on writing, as this is a writing intensive course. Much emphasis will be placed on academic writing, how to write in the APA style used by psychologists, and we will emphasize the importance of writing as a 'hub skill' that taps into multiple facets of an individual's life course. Each student will conduct their own empirical study in which they will develop a research project, collect data, analyze findings, and report results. Also, we will do a peer review in which students will critique each other's work. At the end of this course, students will have the skills required to be both a consumer and producer of research. Practically, this course will prepare students for the capstone course in the psychology department, Experimental Psychology, which uses many of the skills developed in this course.

Course Text:

The text is a FREE online textbook, whose authors made this book available as a creative commons license (like Wikipedia). The link to the pdf of this book can be found on sakai, and it is also posted in the resource folder of sakai. Note it is a large document and may take some time to download on slow connections.

Link: <https://opentext.wsu.edu/carriecuttler/>

Research Methods in Psychology (3rd American Edition) Paul C. Price, Rajiv S. Jhangiani, I-Chant A. Chiang, Dana C. Leighton, and Carrie Cuttler

(Note: Most texts in Methods cost more than \$150 so this is a great deal, consider writing the author a thank you note...) carrie.cuttler@wsu.edu

Course requirements: (subject to change before course starts)

There are 5 requirements in this course.

1. Readings from the text.
2. Two Exams = 30% (15% each)
3. Ten quizzes = 20% (2.5% each)
4. Assignments (6 total) = 30% (5% each)
5. 1 research paper (~7 pages) = 20% [5% of this is class presentation at end of course]
6. Participation in 2 Experiments (See end of syllabus) MANDATORY PASS FAIL
7. Attendance is mandatory. If you miss more than 4 classes I reserve the right to give

you an F for your final grade.

1. Readings from the FREE book and other articles – DUE DAY OF CLASS FOR QUIZ

2. Exams:

Two exams: a midterm and final. The final is not cumulative. You will be given a study guide consisting of all the multiple choice **answers** without the **questions** provided (i.e., “1. XXX a. theory b. experiment c. survey d. observational study.” I do this so you will know beforehand EVERYTHING that could possibly be on the exam. On exam day, you get the questions WITH the multiple choice options)

3. Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given once a week. Anything addressed in class or in the readings is fair game. Usually multiple choice but I reserve the right to change that up.

4. Assignments:

You will have 6 assignments in this class. These assignments all lead up to the final paper in this class are an important way you receive feedback for your final paper so they must be handed in on time and in class on paper because I will be writing notes on them (and I do not have a printer at home). Assignments are in the assignments folder.

5. Research Paper:

At the end of the class you will need to combine the assignments into a cohesive research report. This paper will be due toward the end of the semester. You will have to bring in 4 copies of your paper because 3 will go to your peers for peer review, one goes to me.

6. Experiments:

Some time ago the Psychology Department decided it would be useful for students to participate in research studies as part of this course. You will have to do two experiments, one of which must NOT be an online study (one must be done in a laboratory). See the end of the syllabus.

7. Participation:

One of the ways I increase participation is by having a common shared course document on google documents where you can all edit and add to so that in case you miss class you will have information discussed in class available to you. The page can be found here.

Section 2: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hSlz9oi7l6U6d-IGrW-5X0QFu2gc0EdG-jdoKeBeGhQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Section 3: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NFnxK1Nofq8gel31CRSWiuiGz-UxZ2V419dszncRrNE/edit?usp=sharing>

Class Rules

Grades: The typical...

90+ A, 85-89.99 B+, 80-84.99 B, 75-79.99 C+, 70-74.99 C, 60-69.99 D, Below 60 F.

General Rules

If you email me, please write in standard normal English. No emojis, or internet abbreviations. Any email with ridiculous abbreviations will be deleted with no response. Write like it is your job, and you work some place respectable. Not a snap with your high

school buddy.

Before emailing about a class absence, I want to note that I do not need to know about the minor details of your lives that prevent you from showing up. Don't get me wrong – I wish you the best in everything, in health and success, etc, it is impossible for me to keep track of who comes to class and why they miss class. I just don't need to read the reasons from every student why you could not show up. It's fine, bad things happen to good people, I certainly missed classes in college, but I don't need to hear about how bad the traffic is on route 30 or your sprained ankle.

But do not miss class. There is no good reason to miss class – this class is in late afternoon, you have all day to figure out how to get to campus. But there is a lot that goes on in class that you need to know, so your absence is unfortunate and a loss for your education.

And if you do miss class, and there was a quiz, you will not be able to make it up after the fact. My quizzes are like my notes – they happen spontaneously and once the moment is over it is over forever. No make ups. I will drop your lowest 2 quiz/homework grades, so if you miss one, realize I am a nice guy who is giving you a break by dropping your 2 (!) lowest scores. But you cannot come to my office and ask to take a quiz you missed.

Do not call my work phone number. Please email me at seduffy@scarletmail.rutgers.edu instead. I do not check my office phone often at all.

Of course, certain major events might warrant a discussion with me. A major illness, or a major accident, or an adverse life event that will impact your attendance for weeks of time might be worth telling me about. But for the sort of thing that will force you to miss a single class, it probably will not do much to let me know about it. But something chronic, please see the disability office/coordinator who can arrange accommodations. I'm kind of legally bound that I cannot offer accommodations without a letter from that office.

Classroom behavior:

I am not going to tell you that you cannot take notes on your laptop but realize if you are snapchatting through class you will learn very little from being in class. Just stay in the campus center and send your friends pictures of yourself with with a puppy filter over your face.

What I will not tolerate are a variety of behaviors that disrupt the classroom. These include talking, listening to music on your headphones, public displays of affection, putting on make-up, working on material from another class, eating a three course meal, social media, playing a game of dice, sewing, dribbling a ball, obvious attempts at cheating including asking excessive questions at quiz time, and so on. These are all things I have experienced, and I really would prefer if you simply refrain from doing any of these things, or expect me to call you out and send you away.

Sakai

I use Sakai for distributing materials, grading, and general announcements. Please use Sakai, or learn how to use it.

Use your Rutgers Email

When I email the class, I use the list that the Registrar gives me. I **cannot** change this list, and it is your responsibility to either use your Rutgers email account or set up your Rutgers account so that you receive emails in your personal account. If you use some other account, such as giycivdvkh@yahoo.com, you may not receive my emails, and you will definitely not

receive pity from me. There is a legal reason for this. I **do not** know if your account “angel96@strangeremail.com” is you or someone pretending to be you, or a relative, or a hacker. So use your official Rutgers email or contact me through sakai. I delete messages that are not from a secure Rutgers source.

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 on your paper, you will receive a failing grade for the paper and I will report you to the Office of Academic Affairs.** Period. I offer no exceptions to this rule, ESPECIALLY ignorance of what plagiarism is. Rutgers maintains a website with specific guidelines concerning academic honesty. You are expected to read and understand all of these rules:

<http://fas.camden.rutgers.edu/faculty/faculty-resources/academic-integrity-policy/>

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, check your email to be sure that I have not cancelled class. (See above section on using your Rutgers email)

Incompletes / Pass – No-credit:

Granted ONLY under unusual situations.

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 the instructor as early as possible.

Director of Disability Services, [Kelly Deasy](#)
(856) 225-2717
Fax: (856) 225-6443
Rutgers-Camden Learning Center
Armitage Hall, Room 235

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Intro to the course / Basics on psychology

TU JAN 22: Intro and background

TH JAN 24:

Readings: CH 1: Psychological Science / Searching for articles

Week 2: More on the scientific endeavor

TU JAN 29 : Scientific Method

Readings: CH 2

TH JAN 31: Cosmos, The Harmony of the Worlds (film), discussion

Reading: Cargo Cult Science (Feynman)

***Assignment 1 due ***

Week 3: Writing in Psychology

TU FEB 5: Intro to scientific writing /APA style/ YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT

Readings: CH 11

TH FEB 7: Continued

Readings:

Week 4: Ethical issues with research on humans and animals

TU FEB 12: Ethics in Psychology

Readings: CH 3

TH FEB 14: Continued / Some time for discussion of projects

***Assignment 2 due ***

Week 5: Theoretical and Empirical Constructs

TU FEB 19: Reliability and Validity

Readings: CH 4

TH FEB 21: Group discussion about your research projects / critique

Week 6: Methods that rely on randomization

TU FEB 26: Experimental Research

Readings: CH 5

TH FEB 28: continued

ASSIGNMENT 2 due – Intro to your Paper

Week 7: Methods that do not rely on randomization

TU MAR 5: Non-Experimental Research

Readings: CH 6

TH MAR 7: Continues

Week 8: EXAM

TU MAR 12: Exam Review / Wrap up of unfinished business

***Assignment 3 due ***

TH MAR 14: Exam 1

SPRING BREAK

Week 9: Statistics week – a general intro to BASIC stats

TU MAR 26: Descriptive Statistics

Readings: Ch. 12

TH MAR 28: Inferential Statistics

Readings: Ch. 13

Week 10: Surveys and related procedures

TU APR 2: Survey research

Readings: Ch. 7

***Assignment 4 due ***

TH APR 4: Continued

Week 11: More complicated procedures

TU APR 9: Quasi-experimental

Readings: CH 8

***Assignment 5 due ***

TH APR 11: Factorial Research

Readings: CH 9

Week 12: The future: Replication crisis and the future of psychology

TU APR 16:

Readings: Ch 14

TH APR 18

***Assignment 6 due ***

Week 13: Research Presentations: 7-10 minutes each, powerpoint

TU APR 23: There will be sign up

TH APR 25: There will be sign up

Week 14: Exam II

TU APR 3: Exam Review

FINAL PAPER DUE (Combine Assignments 3,4,6)

TH MAY 2: Exam 2

Research Participation

The final requirement for the course is specified by the Psychology Department. This requirement is described below.

The Psychology Department of the Camden Faculty of Arts & Sciences has established a policy that students enrolled in Introduction to Psychology (830:101) must either participate as subjects in psychological research activities or complete a designated alternative activity. This policy is designed to enhance students' understanding of the nature of psychological research and to support the research activities of the faculty. At the present time, the research participation option requires completion of a total of 4 hours worth of credits for participating in research studies (but only 3 if you complete them without missing appointments).

The designated *alternative activity* consists of reading and answering 10 questions about three scientific articles chosen by Dr. Latu. See "Research Participation Alternative" folder on Sakai for articles and assignments.

Failure by a student to satisfy the requirement before the end of the semester, either by completion of 4 hours worth of experiments or by writing an acceptable paper, will result in the student receiving no credit for 10% of the course OR in the student receiving a grade of "Incomplete" ("IN") for the course. This "Incomplete" will only be bestowed based on prior arrangement, and can only be removed by the student's fulfillment of the requirement.* Unless prior arrangements are made, all the work needed to remove an "Incomplete" grade should be finished before the start of the following semester.

The **deadline** for completing the research participation requirement or the alternative paper requirement is the last of classes, **Thursday, December 10.**

Benefits of Participating. By participating as a subject in research, you will contribute in a small way to increasing our understanding of psychological processes. You will have an opportunity to gain some direct experience of what psychological research involves, and you may acquire a better understanding of some of the issues and topics you are studying in your course. You will be able to give your own insights and comments to the experimenter and perhaps suggest ways to improve the methods or alternative ways to think about the task. Finally, most of the research projects are interesting to do (some are down-right fun) and you will learn a little bit more about yourself in the process.

Where to sign up. Sign up for participation is handled online at the website <https://experimetrix2.com/rutcmdn/>. The first time you go to this site, register as a new user (select "New User Registration" and follow the instructions. Please register for the correct section of your course –50:830:101:01. Once registered, you can see what experiments are available and sign up to participate in any of them. Each posted experiment includes a brief description of the study, its location, how much time credit you will receive, and available appointment times. To participate in a study simply sign up for an available time. You must register using your assigned Rutgers email account. Once you register you will be sent a password and login ID

which you can use to sign up for experiments. If you do not use the account within 30 days, you will need to re-register.

Sign-up responsibility. Students who sign up for a particular time are responsible for fulfilling their commitment. If you must cancel your appointment, notify the experimenter at least 24 hours before the scheduled session; the telephone number will be provided with the description of the study. You may be subject to a penalty of additional required time for completing this requirement if you fail to notify the experimenter in a timely manner.

Experimenters also have a responsibility. Should an experimenter fail to show up within 15 minutes of the scheduled session, the student will receive full credit for that session. To receive credit, make a note of the study, the date, the time, and the name of the experimenter and give this information to the secretary in Room 301 on the same day that the experimenter did not show up. At times, students may be called by experimenters requesting participation in a particular experiment. In such cases, several available times will be discussed and such calls will be at least 48 hours prior to any agreed upon session.

Credit for participation. When a student arrives at an experimental session, he or she will be provided further information on the nature of the experiment and the procedures to be used and may be asked to sign a consent form. When the experiment is over, the experimenter will ask you to write your name and id # on the master list that will be turned in to the research pool coordinator. You may check at any time on the Experimentrix website to see that you have received credit for your participation. If you find you did not receive credit for an experiment, please contact the department secretary in Room 301 within 48 hours. After investigation, if due, your credit will be reflected on the website. NOTE: If you do not inquire about the discrepancy within the 48-hour period, we do not guarantee that you will receive the credit.

Participant safeguards. Please be assured that you will not be asked to participate unknowingly in research that is detrimental to your physical or psychological health. All research projects must be approved by an institutional review board (IRB) before it can be done. The IRB screens proposed research carefully to be sure it is safe and justified. In addition, you are entitled to refuse to participate in a study if you find it personally objectionable or feel it is harmful to you. Obviously, we do not expect you to sign up for studies if you object to them, based on their descriptions. Conversely, you would normally be expected to complete a study if you sign up for it. However, you may only find out while you are participating that you have serious objections to further participation. In such a case, you are free to terminate your participation without prejudice or penalty, and you will receive credit for participation. If you have further questions or concerns, please refer them to your instructor or to Dr. van der Wel, who is serving as the coordinator of the psychology research subject pool this semester.