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Fall 2015

PSYC 3300

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University of New Orleans

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Recommended Citation

Costa, Natalie M., "PSYC 3300" (2015). *University of New Orleans Syllabi*. Paper 898.
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Experimental Design and Methodology (PSYC 3300-02)

University of New Orleans

Fall 2015

T, Th 9:30-10:45

Instructor

Dr. Natalie M. Costa

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Email: ncosta@uno.edu

Office Hours: M 10-12, TH 11-3

Teaching Assistant

Kelli Thompson, M.S.

Office: GP2030E (It can be tricky to locate, email if you are lost)

Email: krthomp1@uno.edu

Office Hours: M 12-2

Required Materials

McBride, D. (2012). *The Process of Research in Psychology*. Second Edition. Sage. ISBN-10: 1412999553; ISBN 13: 9781412999557

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.

ISBN-10 1433805626

Prerequisites

Psychology 1000 and 2310. **No exceptions.**

Course Description

This class provides a general introduction to scientific method, experimental and statistical design, scientific writing, and psychological research methodology. Everyone is required to participate in a simple, but unique research project. The results of this project are to be written up in an APA-style paper and presentations of research findings will be presented to the class. This class is comprised of 1 day of lecture and one day of lab.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- 1) Describe the characteristics of science
- 2) Describe observational, correlational and experimental research techniques
- 3) Choose the appropriate statistical technique to analyze data from each of the above techniques
- 4) Properly format and prepare an APA-style paper
- 5) Produce a PowerPoint presentation of simple research findings

Course Requirements

1) **Attendance:** The University of New Orleans requires class attendance to be recorded. Attendance will be taken each class. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet at the beginning of class. If you leave during class, I will mark you as absent, even if you signed the attendance sheet or were present for roll call. I will allow students 5 absences without penalty. For each absence beyond 5, the consequence is the loss of 1 point for each absence beyond 5. At the end of the semester, if you have perfect attendance, you will receive a bonus of 5 points added to your total points; if you miss 1-2 classes, a bonus of 2 points will be added to your total points; if you miss 3 or more classes, you will not receive any bonus points.

2) **Quizzes:** There will be one quiz for each chapter (**14** quizzes total). Each quiz will be given on the day that we begin that chapter. It is your responsibility to be present in class. I will NOT let you take the quiz if you are late to class or miss class, unless you can provide a documentable reason as to why you missed (i.e., doctor's note). Each take quiz is worth 10 points (total of 140 points).

3) **Homework assignments:** There will be **10** Homework assignments. They will be due at the beginning of class. Homework assignments are directly tied to various components of the term paper. These assignments break down the term paper into manageable steps and ensure that the term paper is completed in a timely manner. Each homework assignment is a first draft of a specific section of the term paper. Each homework assignment is worth 10 points (total of 100 points).

Late homework assignments will be reviewed but will **receive no grade**. These homework assignments ensure that you are on the right track with your term paper, for that reason, late homework assignments will still be reviewed even though they will not be graded. Homework assignments are worth more points than the final paper. Do not skip the homework assignments!

4) **In-Class Assignments/Labs:** There will be **10** in-class assignments or labs. These will be completed on Thursday during lab time. Students must be in class and contribute to the completion of the assignment to receive a grade. Students who are absent on the day that an in-class project is assigned will receive a 0. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UPS FOR IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS.** Each in-class assignment is worth 10 points (total of 100 points).

5) **Exams:** Exams will cover both lecture and reading material. There will be **3** exams, worth 100 points each. The exams will consist of short answer, essay questions, and multiple choice. Each of the tests will include questions taken from both lectures and reading assignments. There are **NO** dropped exams!

MAKE-UPS: If there are extenuating circumstances regarding why you missed an exam, please come see me.

6) **Research Project/Paper:** During the first week of class, you will be asked to begin thinking about ideas for a research project. As a class, we will discuss everyone's interests. As a class we will develop one standard questionnaire that encompasses all of the research topics, to be administered to various classes at UNO. All students are required to write an 8 to 10 page research paper describing their research project. This assignment will be described in more detail in class and a separate hand out will be given describing the requirements. The 8-10 page requirement does not include the title page, or references. With the exception that all margins must be 1 inch, the format of the paper must comply with APA guidelines. The research project/paper is worth 100 points.

Most students have little experience writing research papers. The writing center on campus can provide valuable assistance with organizing, developing, and writing term papers. Students are strongly encouraged to contact the Writing Center at 280-7159 (rm. 334 Liberal Arts Bldg) for assistance writing their research paper and completing homework assignments.

7) **In-class Presentation:** This course contains a core component in oral communication. Satisfactory performance in this core will satisfy the requirement of demonstrating competence in oral communication. All students are required to participate in a formal power point presentation of their projects in class. Each student will describe his/her own specific hypothesis and results associated with it. Power point presentations will last approximately 5 minutes. Failure to complete the presentation requirement results in an automatic F in the class, no exceptions. The format of the presentation will be discussed in class. The presentation is worth 50 points.

| Assignment | Points worth | Total | Grade | Points | |
|--------------|--------------|-------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| Exams | 100 | 300 | A | 90-100% | 790-711 |
| Quizzes | 10 | 140 | B | 80-89% | 710-632 |
| Homework | 10 | 100 | C | 70-79% | 631-553 |
| In class Asg | 10 | 100 | D | 60-69% | 552-474 |
| Term paper | 100 | 100 | F | Below 60% | 473 or less |
| Presentation | 50 | 50 | | | |
| Total points | | 790 | | | |

IN ORDER TO SATISFY DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS, STUDENTS MUST EARN A GRADE OF C OR HIGHER.

UNO Email and Moodle

You will need to have your log-in and password for Moodle and UNO email. Please check your email each day before class to see if there are any updates. For example, if I should have to cancel class due to illness or emergency. For Moodle, the chapters/lectures and your grades will be posted.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>.

Disability Accommodations

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.

Final Note

The instructor reserves the right to change the schedule as necessary. You are responsible for all changes to the schedule and for all information presented during class, **regardless of whether or not you attended class.**

| Date | Ch. | Topic | Assignment handed out | Assignment due |
|--------------|--------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| 8/20 | | Overview of Class | HW1 | |
| 8/25 | L | Steps in Planning/Doing Research | IC1 | HW1 |
| 8/27 | 1, 5 | Scientific Methods/Ethics | HW2 | |
| 9/1 | 2 | Hypothesis Development | IC2 | HW2 |
| 9/3 | 8, L | APA Paper Parts/How to Review an Article | | |
| 9/8 | L | Literature Searches | IC3/HW3-5 | |
| 9/10 | L | Literature Searches | | |
| 9/15 | 3 | Observation Techniques and Research Designs | | HW3-5 |
| 9/17 | 4 | Variables | | |
| 9/22 | | Exam 1 (Chs 1-5, 8) | | |
| 9/24 | L | Writing the Introduction | IC4/HW6 | |
| 9/29 | 6/9 | Sampling/Survey Research | | |
| 10/1 | 10/11/ 12 | Correlational/Experimental/Quasi Studies | | HW6 |
| 10/6 | L | How to Measure your Variables | IC5 | |
| 10/8 | L | How to Measure your Variables | | |
| 10/13 | L | Revise Measures | IC6 | |
| 10/15 | | <i>NO CLASS: MID-SEMESTER BREAK</i> | | |
| 10/20 | | Exam 2 (Chs 6, 9-12) | | |
| 10/22 | L | In Class Data Collection | IC7 | |
| 10/27 | L | Writing the Methods Section | HW7 | |
| 10/29 | | Data Entry: SC 2062 | IC8 | |
| 11/3 | 7/14 | Statistics | | |
| 11/5 | | Statistic Appointments | | |
| 11/10 | | How to Write the Results, Discussion, References, and Abstract | HW8/HW9 | |
| 11/12 | | <i>NO CLASS</i> | | |
| 11/17 | 13 | Specialized Research Designs | | |
| 11/19 | | Creating the PowerPoint Presentation | HW10 | HW8-9 |
| 11/24 | | In-Class Presentations | IC10 | |
| 11/26 | | <i>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING</i> | | |
| 12/1 | | In-Class Presentations | | |
| 12/3 | | In-Class Presentations | | |

12/10

Final Exam (Chs. 7, 13, 14) 10:00-12:00

Homework and InClass Assignments

HW1: Write out all research ideas.

IC1: Narrow research topic to 1-2 ideas/Complete Research Question Handout

HW 2: NIMH Human Participant Ethics Training Certificate

IC2: Review article handed out on 9/1 together

IC3: Search Terms

HW 3-5: Library/Google Scholar assignment: find at least 8 empirical journal articles and bring hard copies to class on 9/15

IC4: Write out specific hypotheses

IC5: Pick survey questions

IC6: Revise measures

HW 6: First draft of the Introduction

HW 7: First draft of the Methods section

IC7: In Class Data Collection

IC8: In Class Data Entry

IC9: Make appointment with professor to run statistical tests on your data

HW 8: First draft of Results including any Tables or Figures

HW 9: First draft of the Discussion, References, and Abstract section

HW 10: First draft of Powerpoint presentation

IC 10: Being in class for the 3 presentation days