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PSYX 320.01: Advanced Psychological Research Methods

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PSYX 320 – Research Methods III

Fall, 2021

Course Location and Time

SB 246

Tuesday, Thursday 12:30 – 1:50pm, **Arrive to class punctually, please!**

Instructor Information

Instructor: Yoonhee Jang, Ph.D.

Email: yoonhee.jang@umontana.edu (the best way to contact me)

Office: SB 205 (in person) or refer to [Moodle](#) (for the Zoom link).

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday 2:00 – 3:30pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistant (TA): Hannah Hall

Email: hannah2.hall@umontana.edu

Office: SB 368 (in person) or refer to [Moodle](#) (for the Zoom link).

Office hours: Wednesday 12:00 – 1:30pm; and Friday 10:00 – 11:30am or by appointment

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to offer students an opportunity for conducting research and to better prepare them for graduate work (particularly in psychology) or advanced research. Students are expected to develop research ideas, perform experiments, analyze data, and present research projects. Additionally, this is an advanced college writing course, so students are expected to write journal-style reports using APA style.

Course Guidelines and Policies

Safety messages

- Mask use is required within the classroom.
- Specific seating arrangements will be used to support contact tracing efforts. The classroom seating chart can be found on [Moodle](#).
 - **Where you sit on the first day is your seat for the entire semester. Please write your seat assignment in a note on your cell phone (or anywhere) for reference.**
 - If you do not attend on the first day so you have no seat assignment, then you will be assigned to a seat by the instructor. **Please do not take anyone's seat.**
 - If someone (mistakenly) takes your seat, please politely ask them to move into their seat.
- Class attendance and seating will be recorded every class to support contact tracing efforts.
- Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom.
- Students should be discouraged from congregating outside the classroom before and after class.
 - Students are also encouraged to remain vigilant outside the classroom in mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
 - For COVID-19 related questions or information/guidance, please contact or visit the Curry Health Center and/or Missoula City/County Public Health Department.

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the [Office of Disability Equity](#) (ODE, formerly Disability Services for Students). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with ODE, please contact ODE in Lommasson Center 154 or call (406) 243-2243. I will work with you and ODE to provide an appropriate modification.

Class Materials

Class materials can be found on [Moodle](#). Journal articles will be copied by students.

Technology policy

If you have technical difficulties when using [Moodle](#), then please contact [UM Online](#) at umonline-help@umontana.edu or (406) 243-4999 – I cannot help, unfortunately!

Specifically, there will not be accommodations for assignments/papers/exam that cannot be completed due to technical difficulties. If your computer/internet is unreliable, then it may be best to take the assignment/paper/exam at the on-campus. If issues arise, contact the [UM IT Solutions Center](#) for assistance at (406) 243-4357. **I do not allow technical issues or not having the proper software as reasons for late or incomplete assignments/papers/exam.**

Expectations

1. Be respectful of everybody in the classroom. Do NOT engage in behaviors that will disrupt class, interfere with the learning of other students, or distract me from teaching (e.g., talking, coming late or leaving early **consistently**, having cell phones on, watching video clips, etc.). A failure to meet this expectation will result in you being dismissed from the class.
2. Ask questions whenever needed. Simply raise your hand if you have something to share. You are welcome to stop by my office or Zoom meeting at the office hours bringing any questions. Please speak with me privately if you are being disturbed or encounter unanticipated difficulties in class.
3. Comply with the Academic integrity policy and honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

e.g., V. Academic Conduct

- **Plagiarism:** Representing another person's words, ideas, data, or materials as one's own.
- **Misconduct during an examination or academic exercise:** Copying from another student's paper, consulting unauthorized material, giving information to another student or collaborating with one or more students without authorization, or otherwise failing to abide by the University or instructor's rules governing the examination or academic exercise without the instructor's permission.
- **Unauthorized possession of examination or other course materials:** Acquiring or possessing an examination or other course materials without authorization by the instructor.

- If you miss classes, please be fully responsible for the consequences. It is the student's responsibility to find out any information they missed due to an absence.

Grading

Grades will be rounded to the nearest whole %.

e.g., if raw score=89.4xxx%, then grade=B; if raw score=89.5xxx%, then grade=A.

90%=< A

80-89% B

70-79% C

60-69% D

=<59% F

The grade mode for the course is traditional grade mode only (no CR/NCR).

Make sure that I am not giving you a grade: You are earning YOUR grade.

Final Grades will be based on the following:

Component	%	Note
Short assignments	20	
Exam	18	
Research papers	36	
Research presentation	4	
Research idea(s)	4	by 11am, Tuesday, 10/5/2021
Final paper	18	by 11am, Thursday, 12/9/2021
Subtotal	100%	
Extra credit from course requirements	2	If you complete everything on time, as scheduled, and without an extension, then you will earn 2% of extra credit.
Total	102%	

- Short assignments: 20% (= 5 × 4%)**

There will be 5 short assignments, which will cover library search, research idea development, reporting results, etc.. Specific instruction for each will be given in the classroom.

Each is worth 4% of your course grade, so the total of all of your homework assignments is worth 20% of your course grade.

- Exam: 18%**

There will be one exam, which will cover everything from lectures. The questions will consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions. The exam will be completed online, and more information will be given in the classroom.

- Research papers: 36% (= 2 × 18%)**

Paper 1: summary and review paper of a single experimental research article

Paper 2: empirical study paper, including all statistical results and interpretations

You will write 2 research papers using APA style. Each should consist of a minimum of 5 pages (only main text parts, excluding title page, abstract, references, tables, figures, etc.).

Each is worth 18% of your course grade, so the total of your research papers is worth 36% of your course grade. Specific instruction for each will be given in the classroom.

- **Research presentation: 4%**

The last 2 (or 2.5) weeks of the semester will be devoted to about 10-15 min student presentations based on their research proposal. This will allow others to benefit from your research and you to benefit from everyone's feedback before you complete the final paper. You should provide your presentation through computer projector.

- **Research idea(s): 4%**

You are required to submit your research idea(s) for your final paper very briefly by 11am, Tuesday, 10/5/2021, including the following things:

- (1) Tentative title;
- (2) Independent and dependent variables; and
- (3) Experimental design.

Nobody will be allowed to present and turn in the final paper without accomplishing this task.

The initial step towards your research will benefit you more than worrying and procrastinating.

- **Final paper (research proposal): 18%**

Each student is required to submit a minimum of 5 page (only text parts, excluding title page, abstract, references, tables, figures, etc.) research proposal using APA style, **by 11am, Thursday, 12/9/2021**.

The proposal can address any one (or a combination) of the main topic areas of psychology, using human subjects, to investigate psychological constructs, and it must be an experiment: it should not be a correlational study or survey. You may include a quasi-experimental factor, and if so, you must add at least one independent factor which you should be able to manipulate so that your research can be an experiment.

- **Completing all the requirements on time: 2% extra credit point**

If you complete all assignments, papers, presentation, etc. (basically EVERYTHING regarding the course) on time, as scheduled, and without an extension, then you will earn 2% extra credit point of your course grade.

Keep in mind that it is, as described above, an extra credit opportunity, which means, even without this, you should be able to complete this course successfully if you meet the course requirements to pass, as expected. Do NOT ask for any extra points, particularly toward/at the end of the semester. Nobody will be given any other extra credit opportunities.

Late-assignment (from ALL activities in class, except the exam) Policy

Each will have a deadline (will be announced in class) which must be met. Assignments/papers submitted after the due date will have 10% of the grade deducted for every day you are late (including weekends and holidays). NOTE: there is nothing more important than your learning experience and success. So, even if you encounter a situation that you cannot meet the deadline, I strongly encourage you to complete the assignment even after the deadline; otherwise, you may not be able to do the next assignment.

Make-up Exam Policy

The exam can ONLY be made up with a documented absence for University sanctioned reasons (such as illness and family emergency): you will not be considered for the makeup exam for your family reunion, vacation, etc. If for some emergency you must miss the exam, you should contact the instructor via email BEFORE the test takes place. If you fail to do so, you will not be allowed to take the make-up exam

and will receive a score of 0. The document should fully provide the information about the absence and contact information, and be submitted by the next class meeting of the missing exam.

The Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate knowledge of research processes.
- Identify, explain, and prepare the key elements of a research proposal/report using specific research designs.
- Describe descriptive and inferential statistics, sampling methods, and measurement scales and instruments.
- Identify and pursue empirical questions for academic inquiry and conduct quantitative research.
- Find, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information effectively from diverse sources.
- Manage multiple perspectives as appropriate and explain the rationale for research ethics.
- Recognize the purposes and needs of discipline-specific audiences and adopt the academic voice necessary for the chosen discipline.
- Use multiple drafts, revision, and editing in conducting inquiry and preparing written work.
- Follow the conventions of citation, documentation, and formal presentation appropriate to that discipline.
- Perform literature reviews using print and online databases.

Course Schedule

Subject to changes by instructor!

Date	Topic	Chapters	Deadline
Tu; 8/31	Introduction		
Th; 9/2	Scientific Thinking	Ch.1	
Tu; 9/7	Developing Research Ideas	Ch.3	
Th – Tu; 9/9 – 9/14	Experimental Research	Ch.5	
Th – Th; 9/16 – 9/23	Data Analysis and Control	Ch.4 & 6	
Tu; 9/28	Exam (Ch.1 and 3-6)		
Th – Th; 9/30 – 11/18	Conducting Experiments and Reporting Data		
Tu; 10/5, 11am			Research idea(s)
Th; 10/14, 11am			Paper 1
Tu; 11/9, 11am			Paper 2
Tu – Tu; 11/23 – 12/7	Research Presentation		
Th; 12/9, 11am			Final paper