**Research Methods**

**Fall, 2020**

**What:** Psychology 45 (online)

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Why:         Course description: This course surveys psychological research methods. An emphasis is placed on research design, descriptive techniques, experimental procedures, and the characteristics of valid assessment tools. The course also focuses on the collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of research data. Cultural considerations and the ethics of research with human and animal participants will be included. Designed for psychology majors and others who require familiarity with such research techniques. You will be encouraged and expected to be a participant in the teaching process by being involved in class activities and exercises.

 Course outcomes are as follows: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

 1. identify basic principles of the scientific method and distinguish between scientific psychology and pseudoscience.

2. compare and contrast general research designs, including their strengths and limitations.

3. evaluate the quality of sources that report research findings, identify the research methods used, and recognize potential sources of bias.

4. recognize ethical vs. unethical examples in the conduct of human and animal research.

5. identify correct examples of APA style.

**Text:** Cozby, P. (2020). *Methods in Behavioral Research. (*14th Ed.; loose-leaf) New York: McGraw-Hill.

 ISBN: 9781265108397

McGraw-Hill Online Learning System: *Connect*

  *McGraw-Hill’s Connect is a web-based assignment and assessment solution required for this course. Connect is designed to assist you with your coursework based on your needs. As outlined in this syllabus, assignments on Connect will make up a significant portion of your overall course grade.*

ConnectRegistration web address:

 https://connect.mheducation.com/class/j-terrell-f’20

Here’s a video about the registration process:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgcI4Rg5Uq8>

**What, again:**

                             Course Requirements: There will be two midterms and a final.  All exams will be worth 100 points, and will be a combination of multiple choice and fill-in questions.  Additionally, 200 points will be available in the form of online quizzes and assignments.

**Connect Learnsmart Assignments**

  Students will complete the practice exams at the end of the chapters.  They fulfill two functions: they give you an estimate of your level of understanding of the material and send you back to the topic in the text if you're not sure about it, and also prepare you for the quizzes and exams. You'll receive 10 points for successfully completing the assignment, for a total of 160 points through the semester. You can take them at any time, but they all need to be **completed by 11:59 PM on Sunday, 12/6.**

VERY IMPORTANT: If you haven’t completed at least **ONE OF THE CHAPTER ASSIGNMENTS BY 8/31/20, YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE COURSE!**

 **Quizzes**

There will be two quizzes administered during the semester. They will include multiple choice and short answer questions, and will be worth 20 points. There will be no time limit on the quizzes, though they will have to be completed by 11:59 PM on the day they are due.

 **Exams**

There will be two midterms and a final.  All exams will be worth 100 points, and will be a combination of 50 multiple choice and fill-in questions.

All exams will be administered at 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM on the dates below, and students will have 1 hour to complete the tests. **You can only take EITHER the Exam or the Test, NOT BOTH (**they’re labeled differently only for grading purposes.) **IF YOU LOG ONTO BOTH, YOU WILL RECEIVE NO CREDIT FOR EITHER.**

Also,you'll have to be **flexible** if the scheduled times are inconvenient for you. **Because of the nature of an online course, no make-up exams will be allowed.**

Class Etiquette:

**IMPORTANT WARNING!** Online learning is not for everyone.  You need to be a very self-directed and personally responsible student to be successful in online courses.  Online you do not see your instructor twice a week, reminding you of what’s due next class,   Therefore, you need to seriously consider your motivation and skills before you embark on this course.

Computer problems, electrical shortages, and other malfunctions do occur and it is your responsibility to complete work by the deadline *regardless of* any of these problems.  Please do not write to me to ask for extensions or for a make-up exam because your computer crashed or you were unable to ‘get online’ to complete the work. Except for the exams, you are given several days (or months) to complete an assignment, therefore, if your technology fails on the last day the assignment is due, you will not be excused from the deadline.

***To clarify:  Under no circumstance will late work be accepted at any time in the term!***

 **The “P” Word**

Please note that plagiarism is a violation of Reedley College policy.  Anyone deemed to have submitted plagiarized work will automatically receive a failing grade.  Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different classes without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Again, all assignments, tests, and quizzes are to be completed on an individual basis; collaboration with other classmates or anyone else is **not allowed** unless instructed otherwise.

**Grades**: The following scale will decide final grades. There will be a total of 500 points possible from the two 100-point midterms, the 100-point final, and 200 points available from the other activities:

 500-465 A (93%) 384-365 C (73%)

 464-450 A- (90%) 364-350 C- (70%)

 449-435 B+ (87%) 349-335 D+ (67%)

 434-415 B (83%) 334-315 D (63%)

 414-400 B- (80%) 314-300 D- (60%)

 399-385 C+ (77%) Below 300 Don’t go here!

**When:**

 **Topic Readings**

**Week 1-** Scientific Understanding Chapter 1

**Week 2-** Where To Start Chapter 2

**Week 3-** Ethics Chapter 3

**Week 4-** Fundamental Issues Chapter 4

**Week 5-** Measurement Concepts Chapter 5

**9/19-** **Exam 1/Test 1 (only take one!) (Chaps. 1-5)**

**Week 7-** Observational Methods Chapter 6

**Week 8-** Survey Research Chapter 7

**Week 9-** Experimental Design Chapter 8

**Week 10-** Conducting Experiments Chapter 9

**Week 11-** Complex Designs Chapter 10

**10/24-** **Exam 2/Test 2 (Chaps. 6-10)**

**Week 12-**  Single-Case and Others Chapter 11

**Week 13-**  Description and Correlation Chapter 12

**Week 14-**  Statistical Inference Chapter 13

**Week 15-** Generalization Chapter 14

**Week 16-**  Review (quiz)

**12/09**- **Final Exam (Chaps. 11-14)**

 ***This syllabus is subject to (very probable) change and/or revision during the academic term.***

**Have a GREAT SEMESTER-If you have any questions, just ask!**