

RESEARCH METHODS

"KNOWLEDGE CONSISTS IN UNDERSTANDING THE EVIDENCE THAT ESTABLISHES THE FACT, NOT IN THE BELIEF THAT IT IS A FACT."

CHARLES T. SPRALING

PSY3213L

3 CREDIT HOURS

SPRING/2019

** MWF, 9:35-10:25AM, ROOM 130

INSTRUCTOR: *Marina A. Klimenko, Ph.D., M.P.A.*

Psychology Building, office in room 361

GTA (GRADUATE TA): TBA

Green

(UNDERGRADUATE TAS):

Omar, Syed Muhammad (omarsyed@ufl.edu)

Delaney Bennett (delaneybennett@ufl.edu)

Malorey Hentze (mal0rey@ufl.edu)

Christopher Aguilar (caguilar1@ufl.edu)

COURSE WEBSITE:

<https://ufl.instructure.com/>

IN PERSON OFFICE HOURS:

TBA

STRUCTURE OF COURSE IN E-LEARNING: This course uses E-Learning in Canvas. Students will have to complete weekly readings, quizzes, and a small research project. The research project will be broken down into several interrelated assignments.

The course is divided into 6 modules, roughly corresponding to the four major themes and steps of a typical research process.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS: All communication will be done in class and/or Canvas—*emails, discussions, and announcements.*

REQUIRED TEXT: Research Methods in the Social Sciences. (Klimenko, M.). To purchase access to e-book go to Sentia Publishing, go to <http://www.sentiapublishing.com/psychology/research-methods-in-the-social-sciences-marina-klimenko-website-and-ebook/>

The instructions and the access code will be emailed to you. Please note, that the e-book website is separate from the course website.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: any SPSS manual recommended but not required

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS: *Some knowledge of SPSS will be helpful but not required*

PURPOSE OF COURSE: Psychology is a discipline dedicated to the scientific understanding of behavior and mental processes. This course will provide students an opportunity to learn about the scientific methods psychologists and other social scientists apply to study psychological and other related questions. The learning will be accomplished, in part, through course readings and lectures, and in part through conducting a small research project.

COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES: *By the end of this course, students will:*

- 1) Think critically and reason scientifically.
- 2) Understand a general process of research in psychology
- 3) Be able to evaluate the quality of evidence in published research.
- 4) Gain practical experience in research process by formulating hypotheses, collecting small data, analyzing it and communicating results.
- 5) Clearly and effectively present ideas in writing to contribute to the dissemination of knowledge and to exchange ideas in the field of psychology and social sciences.
- 6) Become better consumers of social sciences.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

QUIZZES (20%)

There will be a quiz for **almost** every chapter covered in this class, 8 quizzes in total. Only 7 highest quizzes will be counted towards your final grade. All quizzes will be opened on Friday morning and to be completed by Saturday, 11:59pm.

Each item is worth 1 point. So each quiz is worth 10 points. Items are drawn at random from a larger pool of items, so no two people will receive the same quiz. Chapter quizzes are cumulative in the sense that the concepts and ideas in this course don't exist in isolation; similar to algebra, for instance, the terms or concepts that may have been mentioned in one chapter are most likely to be reintroduced in the following chapters but either in different contexts or in more details. Thus, it is important that, as you read and learn the material of one chapter, you understand and retain its information as you move on to the next one. The best way to prepare for each module quiz is to carefully review all material posted in that given module, including text chapters, lectures, notes, videos, or any other additional information, but also draw the connection to what you've learned in the previous module.

Weekly quizzes are relatively easy, and most students do well on them—the average grade is around 85 and 90. The practice quizzes are posted at the end of each chapter on the e-book website. I strongly recommend that you take them before taking the graded quizzes in Canvas. You can also post your questions about the practice quizzes on the Discussion board after each chapter of the e-book on the website. This will help you grasp the material and prepare for the graded quizzes.

IMPORTANT: You are responsible for your internet strength and reliability, and for using a reliable computer. If you lose internet connection due to issues with **your** computer or internet, you will not be allowed to retake the quiz. If the interruption in connection is caused by issues in Canvas, contact e-learning help desk and get verification. The decision to allow retaking a quiz will be determined on an individual basis and will be based on the cause of the issue. Since the chances of experiencing technical issues more than once in a semester are very small, no one will be allowed to retake more than one quiz.

NON-CUMULATIVE EXAM (20%)

This exam will be based on the last two weeks of material and class activities. However, the material will be mainly a synthesis of everything we will have discussed in the course.

RESEARCH PROJECT & RELATED ASSIGNMENTS (45%)

There will be 5 interrelated assignments, each building on the preceding one. Instructions and details about the Research Project can be found in Canvas Research Project Overview web link.

Inquiries about the assignments (e.g., questions, ask for help, etc.) should be made at least 24 hours before their due dates to ensure that you will receive our response on time (before assignments are due). Questions can be sent to class instructor or TAs via Canvas mail.

Research Related Activities:

Research Protocol (Assignment 1) (5%)

Data (not graded but feedback provided)

Results (10%)

Introduction (10 %)

Research paper (APA, Abstract, Methods and Discussion) (20%)

CLASS ACTIVITIES (15%)

There will be eight in-class group and individual activities. One will be dropped or missed.

EXTRA CREDITS

There will be two or possibly three ways for you to earn extra credits. I offer them to boost everyone's final grade (without giving any favors); and this works especially well for those who are close to the next letter grade at the end of the semester. Please consider taking these opportunities (don't miss the due dates if given) as this will be the only opportunities to get a "bump" in your final grade.

- **Ebook website activities (discussions and debates) (see details on the ebook website Game Rules) or write a 2-3 page summary of an empirical article (see Article Summary Assignment for more details) (3 points)**
- **Participation in a survey study 3 points (two waves must be completed to receive extra points)**
- **Mid-Semester Survey (0.5 point):** Around the middle of the semester provide feedback on how the course is progressing at the moment. I will send a reminder 😊.

- **Possible end of semester survey (0.5 point):** A simple extra credit question will be released IF I receive a 90% response rate on my end of semester evaluations.

CLASS SCHEDULE

MODULE # 1: WHAT IS SCIENCE?

THIS MODULE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE YOU A FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE THAT IS NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND PRINCIPLES OF A SCIENTIFIC STUDY (RESEARCH) DESIGN.

Week 1: January 7-16 (extended): Evolution of Scientific Thought; Modern Science (Chapter 1 & 2)

- Quiz #1 Jan 15-16 (in Canvas)

Week 2: January 14-19: Generating Testable Hypotheses and Developing a Research Plan (Chapter 3)

- Quiz #2 Jan 18-19 (in Canvas)
- Start thinking about the topic and choosing the design for your study

MODULE #2: NON-EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

Week 3: January 22-26: Content Analysis (Chapter 4)

- Quiz #3 Jan 25-26 (in Canvas)

Week 4: January 28—Feb 2: Observational Design (Chapter 5)

- Quiz #4 Feb 1-2 (in Canvas)
- ***Observational & Content Analysis Studies Assignment 1 (Research Protocol), due Feb 1, 5pm. Feedback is posted on Feb 2, 7am (Check instructor's feedback and proceed with data collection)***

MOUDLE #3: EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

Week 5: Feb 4-9: Experimental Design

- Class lectures and activities
- ***Experimental Study Assignment 1 is due, Feb 8, 5pm. Feedback is posted on Feb 9 (Check instructor's feedback and proceed with data collection)***

Week 6: Feb 11-16: Experimental Design

- Quiz #5 Feb 15-16 (in Canvas)
- Continue working on data collection

MODULE #4: SPSS AND STATISTICAL ANALYSES

Week 7: Feb 18-23: Working with SPSS/Entering Data

- Feb 18 (lecture on how to work with SPSS)
- Feb 20 (lecture on how to work with SPSS; in-class work on entering data on SPSS); ***bring your computer***
- Feb 22 (working on entering data on SPSS); ***bring your computer***
- ***Submit raw data by Feb 22, 5pm.***

Week 8: Feb 25—March 1: Statistical Analyses

- Feb 25, 27, March 1 (lecture on theory of probability and why we need to use statistics)
- Quiz #6 March 1-2 (in Canvas)
- ***Feedback on your data posted by Feb 27, 11:59pm (by UTAs).***

Week 9: March 11--16: Statistical Analyses

- March 11 (lecture on how to compute statistical tests); ***bring your computer***
- March 13 (in-class work on computing statistics); ***bring your computer***
- March 15 (in-class work on computing statistical tests); ***bring your computer***
- ***Submit your statistical Results by March 15, 5pm.***

MODULE 5: WORKING ON RESEARCH PAPER

Week 10: March 18-23: Literature Search and Review

- March 18 (lecture on why we need to review literature and how to do it)
- March 20 (in-class work on finding literature and writing an introduction); ***bring your computer***
- March 22 (in-class work on finding literature and writing an introduction)
- ***Submit Introduction section of the paper by March 22, 5pm***
- ***Grades for the Statistical Results are posted by March 23 UTAs***

Week 11: March 25-30 (Writing in APA style)

- Complete a second research design and take quiz #8 covering the design, recommended to be completed by Nov 7, 11:59pm.
- ***Grades for the Introduction are posted by March 30, 11:59pm.***

Week 12: April 1-6 (Quasi-Experimental)

- Lecturers and class activities
- Quiz #7 April 5-6 (in Canvas)
- ***Submit Research Paper (your paper will be graded on APA style, and only Abstract, Methods, Results and Discussion) by April 5, 5pm.***

Week 13: April 8—13 (Research Ethics)

- Lectures and class activities
- Quiz #8 April 12-13 (in Canvas)

MODULE #6: BECOMING A CRITICAL CONSUMER OF SCIENCE

THIS MODULE IS DEDICATED TO SYNTHESIZING EVERYTHING WE HAVE DISCUSSED IN THIS COURSE AND UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO BE A MORE CRITICAL AND WISER CONSUMER OF SCIENCE.

Weeks 14-15: April 15- 20, 22, 23, 24: Becoming a Wise Consumer of Science

- Lectures and class activities
- ***Exam April 24 in class (cannot be missed or dropped)***
- ***Research Papers Grades posted by April 20 (Graded by GTA)***

POLICY FOR DISPUTING GRADES

You will have ***one week (exception is the last quiz for which your inquiries should be emailed to instructor within two days of its completion)***, including weekends and holidays, after the release of the grade to dispute it (disputes are defined as questions about the material on quiz or assignments), and will NOT be accepted after that date.

If you want to dispute a grade you will need to write a paragraph explaining the dispute (write out the question on the quiz or explain the part of the assignment in detail). Quiz disputes must be sent to my Canvas mail (your instructor). Disputes about your research paper or group work should be sent to your graduate TA via Canvas mail.

COURSE POLICIES & GUIDELINES

1. All communication will be done in Canvas.

If you have any questions/comments pertaining to

- a. Course administration, not time sensitive: post your question in **Technical issues and course materials errors/ FAQ** discussion board.
- b. Course concepts: post your question in **Course Concepts** discussion board.
- c. If you do not receive an answer from either FAQ or Course Concepts discussion boards within 24 hours, contact instructor or TA by Canvas mail.

*Discussion boards will not be monitored on Saturdays and Sundays.

If you have a question about

- a. A quiz, email instructor via Canvas mail.
- b. Research project, email instructor or your TA.
- c. If you have concerns/need help, email me instructor or your TA.

Do not post questions or information about your grade on the discussion boards.

***CANNOT CONTACT INSTRUCTOR OR GTA WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT ASSIGNMENTS 8 HRS BEFORE THE ARE DUE!!!**

- d. In the case of a serious medical condition, a family emergency or other situation that will keep you out of class a week or more, email instructor (mklimenko@ufl.edu).
2. All interactions with instructors and among class members are expected to be professional and appropriate. Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions on the FAQ and Course Content Board.
3. Announcements: Occasionally, announcements will be made. If there are any changes to class schedule or assignments.
4. Extension of deadlines may be requested ONLY for university excused absences with adequate documentation. Requests for an extension must be based on University approved reasons and must include proper documentation as per University guidelines. Requests for extensions must be made before the deadline, if possible, or within 24 hours of the deadline for unexpected emergencies.
5. Computer/internet access to e-learning is required for this course. Students are responsible for maintaining access to e-learning.
 - e. Extensions will not be given for student-based technical difficulties. Do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments and quizzes! Do not take your quizzes on the bus! Use a land connection instead of Wi-Fi.
 - f. If UF e-learning experiences technical difficulties, deadlines will be adjusted to allow for completion of assignments.
6. This course adheres to all University Policies. See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/> for useful information at the Dean of Students Office webpage.
7. Academic Honesty: This course uses the definitions and guidelines for academic honesty as described by the Dean of Students Office. See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php> for details.
8. Students with disabilities: requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. **See** <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/> for details.

9. Religious Observances: Please check your calendars against the course syllabus. Any student having a conflict due to religious observance should contact me as soon as possible so that we can make any necessary arrangements.
10. Copyright Statement: Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. **They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further.** They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act.
11. Syllabus Change Policy: Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. If changes are made to this syllabus they will be announced and/or emailed. It is **your** responsibility to check for announcements and/or email of changes online.
12. Extra Help: Contact me as soon as possible for extra assistance if you discover you are having trouble. I want you to do well!

Assignment Groups	Percentage
Quizzes (7)	20%
Exam (1)	20%
Research Protocol	5%
Results	10 %
Research Introduction	10%
Research Paper	20%
Class Activities	15%
Total	100%

IMPORTANT: “Canvas is always working to calculate two grades, the current grade and the total grade, for students. The current grade is calculated by adding up the graded assignments according to their weight in the course grading scheme. This grade is calculated with the **Calculate based only on graded assignments** checkbox selected in the sidebar. The total grade is calculated by adding up all the assignments according to their weight in the course grading scheme. If a course is using weighted assignment groups, students can also see how each assignment is weighted in the course.

To view the total grade in the course, students can deselect the **Calculate based only on graded assignments** checkbox.”

<https://guides.instructure.com/s/2204/m/67952/l/55015-what-are-what-if-grades>)

The good news is – these grades are firm – there is no curve. Everybody in the class can get an A grade and I hope you do.

The bad news is – these grades are firm – there is no curve. If you score just a quarter of a point below the cutoff then you will receive the lower grade.

GRADING SCALE

Grade	%
A	95% - 100%
A-	90% & up
B+	87% & up
B	83% & up
B-	80% & up
C+	77% & up
C	73% & up
C-	70% & up
D+	67% & up
D	63% & up
D-	60% & up
E	<60%