

## SYLLABUS

Psychology 201: **Psychology Research I** Fall, 2004 Section# (index #): 03 (4368)  
Instructor: Jeff Aspelmeier, Ph.D. Office: Russell Hall 402  
Phone: 5520 Web Page: www.radford.edu/~jaspelme

Class Meeting Time: MW: Lecture 9:00-9:50 pm (lab: 10:00 - 10:50)

Class Meeting Location: RUS 349 (lab = RUS 211)

Office Hours: M-TH: 1:00-2:00

Also by appointment and just about any time you can catch me.

(The hours given above are tentative; they may be changed. All changes will be announced in class.)

### Required Texts:

Zechmeister, J. S., & Zechmeister, E. B., Shaughnessy J. J. (2001). Essentials of Research Methods in Psychology. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Welkowitz, J., Ewen, R. B., & Cohen, J. (2000). Introductory statistics for the behavioral sciences (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers.

(This Book comes with a study guide attached)

### Recommended Texts:

American Psychological Association. (2001). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author.

Kirkpatrick, L. A., & Feeney, B. F., (2001) A simple guide to SPSS for windows (revised edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

### Course Objectives:

The student will be engaged in a series of activities designed to develop understanding of concepts, issues and procedures related to research methods and statistics. Through class lecture, discussions, and other components of evaluation (see below), the student will be acquainted with information about statistical and research methods. This process will encourage the student to develop insight into and think objectively about the use of research in every-day life, how research influences the socio-cultural environment, and how to interpret research in more meaningful ways.

This course is designed to help you (1) understand and perform the procedures for many basic research designs and their associated statistical tests; (2) learn to carry out statistical computations by hand and using computer based statistical packages; (3) gain a better understanding of reports of psychological research and the methods and statistics reported in them, (3) further develop your quantitative and analytic thinking skills, and (4) prepare for more advanced courses in research methods. By learning how research is performed, you will hopefully become a better consumer of information

### Class Mechanics :

Class sessions: Class attendance is not required (though it is a very good idea to come to class). *If you do not come to class, you remain responsible for all material covered in class and for any announcements made in class.* (Note: if you do not come to class you will have a difficult time passing this course)

**You are expected to bring your statistics text book to all classes (lab and lecture).**

**You are expected to bring some kind of calculator to all classes (lab and lecture).**

**You will need to know how to access your University H: drive**

**You will need to print things in lab class, so keep your printing account adequately credited.**

Obviously, lectures cannot cover everything contained in a textbook (unless it is a very bad textbook). Therefore, some of the material in the text will not be dealt with in class. This does not mean that the material is unimportant-only that there is not enough time to cover it in class. Also, there will sometimes be things covered in lecture that are not in the text. *In other words, you should pay attention to both the text material and the lecture material in your studying.*

As a note: the best time to see me, especially if you need to persuade me to do something in some way, is not immediately before class or immediately after in the class room. All grade inquiries, personal requests, excuse giving (ha!) etc. should be done in my office during office hours following class sessions, or during scheduled appointments. This is more for your benefit than mine because I tend to forget things if I don't write them down in my calendar/class book.

**Class Announcements and Course Handouts:** Many class announcements and other course information will be sent via the course e-mail alias. These announcements will also be made in class. However, all students are expected to regularly (every other day or so) check their e-mail for class announcements. Further, all course handouts will be posted on my web page (see above). They will be presented in a PDF format (Adobe Acrobat format). All campus

computers have the ability to open pdf files. If you are working from your home or dorm room you may need to download the free Adobe Acrobat Reader program. This is available from my website as well. If you are unfamiliar with e-mail, e-mail attachments, navigating the web, or opening files on the web, then please schedule an appointment with me and we will go over it.

### **Evaluation:**

The student's progress in meeting course objectives will be inferred from performance on the following numbered components.

1. **Exams:** Two 100-point midterm exam and a 100-point final exam (non-cumulative) will be given, the dates for each are listed in the course outline. Exam questions will be approximately 50% from lecture and 50% from text and will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and computational problems. **All exams will be open book and open notes. Keep in mind that open book open note tests do require studying.** There will not be enough time for you to continually look up material, there will only be enough time for you to find formulas and tables needed to complete the exam.

- University policy for Academic Dishonesty will be enforced (so do us both a favor and don't cheat).
- Students should bring their RU ID with them to exams. You may be asked to present it.
- Students may not retain copies of the exam questions.
- Do not arrive at an exam late: once anyone has finished the exam and left, no one else may start the exam and a make-up will be administered on the scheduled make up day.

**Make-up exams:** If a student misses an exam and has an adequate *written* excuse, s/he may take a make-up exam. The instructor reserves the right to decide on the adequacy of excuses. A special test session will be used for giving all make-up exams. This will probably be Wed., Nov 17th at 11:00 a.m. Details will be announced in class. If an exam is missed and no make-up is taken, a zero will be given for that exam. ***See me at once if you miss an exam for any reason, or when you anticipate missing an exam. You must see me, in person, in my office for this.***

2. **Laboratory :** Approximately 50% of your course grade will be based on points accumulated during lab. Students will meet in lab for two hours per week. The purpose of lab is to provide students with hands-on experience in dealing with the material covered in the lecture. Students will conduct experiments, collect data, analyze the results and practice the process of writing an APA-style paper. The lab is also intended as a time when students can get individual help in a structured setting. The first lab meeting will be Mon., Aug. 23.

**Lab points.: 100 pts. In class Assignments & Homework Exercises.**  
**40 pts. Article Summary & Critiques.**  
**80 pts. Observational Study & Report.**  
**80 pts. Survey Study & Report**

### **Homework:**

Due dates for all homework will be announced in class. All homework will be graded based on its completeness rather than accuracy, this means that as long as you attempt to do the homework you will get points for it, but you must show a clear effort to complete **each** problem. Late homework will be accepted no later than one week after the due date. All late homework will be graded with a 20% pt reduction (e.g. a late 10 pt. assignment would receive 8 pts maximum).

### **Article Summary & Critiques:**

(40 pts:). The student will turn in summaries of 4 empirical journal articles. These articles must be primary references (i.e. journal articles or books other than textbooks). They can be, but do not have to be articles that will be used in our class projects. Each summary should be a minimum of 2 pages and include all of the components listed in the **Article Summary & Critique Guide** (available on Dr. Aspelmeier's web page). The critiques should be typed and double spaced, with 1 inch margins and must conform to the style described in the fifth edition of *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.

**The first 2 are due 9/27**  
**The second 2 are due 11/8**

### **Observational Study & Report: (80 pts)**

As a class the students will design a study that employs observational methodology (See ZZS Ch. 4). Your grade on this project will consist of 3 components: See Observational Study & Report Guide for details.

- I. **Introduction with 4 primary references (15 pts): Due 9/27**
- II. **Data Collection (15 pts) : Due 9/29**
- III. **Final Report (50 pts): Due 10/18**

### **Survey Study & Report (80 pts):**

As a class the students will design a study that employs survey methodology (See ZZS Ch. 5). Your grade

on this project will consist of 3 components: See Survey Observation Study & Report Guide for details.

I. **Introduction with 4 primary references (15 pts): Due 11/8**

II. **Data Collection (15 pts) : Due 11/10**

III. **Final Report (50 pts): Due 12/1**

**NOTE For ALL written work:**

1) Though all students will be writing reports based on the same project, it is expected that each student's report will be unique and solely the product of that student's efforts. Though you may work with other students, be sure that your paper is your own.

2) In the extremely unlikely event that your paper is missing or has been accidentally lost or destroyed, make sure that you have a hard copy of the paper AND a backup disk (the university H: drive is the preferred medium of storage) in addition to the copy that you turn in. This is your record of having completed the assignment and will be used to replace the missing copy. If you do not have a backup, it will be your responsibility to redo the paper.

3) With the exception of statistics homework problems, all written work ***must be typed and double spaced, with 1 inch margins and 12 pt typeface*** and must conform to the style described in the fifth edition of The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Handwritten work and other work found unacceptable due to format, grammar, or lack of proofreading will not be accepted and will be returned for revision. Revisions submitted within one week of return, will be accepted with a 10% grade reduction. Revisions submitted after the one week deadline will be awarded 0 pts.

**Summary of Evaluation:**

Lecture Exams:	300 points
Laboratory Points:	300 points
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Total	600 points

**Grades:** The grading system is an absolute system with the minimum percentages for each letter grade as follows: D=60%, C=70%, B= 80%, A= 90%. Grades will be posted for each exam one to two days after the exam outside of my office (Russell 402) listed by student number. If you do not want your grades posted then please inform me prior to the first exam.

**Special needs Students :**

In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester or when given an assignment for which an accommodation is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Disability Resource Office in the basement of Tyler Hall (831-6350).

### Lecture and Reading Outline:

This outline can only be an approximate guide, since dates for particular lecture topics are only approximations; material may be added or deleted. The dates and material for the exams will be as listed, however, unless changes are absolutely necessary. If changes affecting exams are made, they will be announced in class as soon as possible. Lecture dates in this outline are used to identify lecture topics to be covered on exams. On the class day immediately before an exam, there will be time for questions, etc.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter No.</u>	<u>Lecture Topics</u>	<u>Lab Topics</u>
8/23 m	-	- Syllabus, introduction	- Intro to Lab & H: Drive / Pick a Topic
8/25 w	ZZS 1	- Intro to Methods: The Goals of Science	- Intro to Psych Info
8/30 m	ZZS 2	- The Research Process	- Psych Info Cont./ ILLIAD
9/1 w	WEC 1	- Intro to Statistics	- Develop Study I Topic (HW1 Due)
9/6 m	WEC 1 / WEC 2	- Intro to Stat / Frequency Distributions	- Intro to SPSS : Defin Vars, Enter Data
9/8 w	WEC 2	- Frequency Dist. Cont.	- SPSS: Sums and Frequencies (HW 2 Due)
9/13 m	WEC 2	- Frequency Dist. Dont	- Writing Article Critiques/Writing the Intro
9/15 w	ZZS 4	- Observational Research	- Writing the Intro/Study I Hypoth (HW 3 Due)
9/20 m	ZZS 4	- Observational Research	- Develop Study I Methods
9/22 w	Exam I	- Ch. ZZS 1, 2, & 4 : WEC 1 & 2	- No Lab
9/27 m		- Hypothesis Testing	- Data collection & entry (intro & critiques due)
9/29 w	WEC 17	- Chi Square	- Data Collection & Entry Cont. (Data Due)
10/4 m	WEC 17	- Chi Square	- Data Analysis
10/6 w	WEC 4	- Measures of Central Tendency	- Data Analysis Cont (HW 4 Due)
10/11 m	WEC 4	- Measures of Central Tendency	- Writing the Final Report
10/13 w	WEC 5	- Variability	- Writing the Final Report Cont. (HW 5 Due)
10/18 m	WEC 5	- Variability	- SPSS Exmpls. of Variability (Final Report Due)
10/20 w	ZZS 3	- Ethics	- SPSS Examples of Variability Cont (HW 6 Due)
10/25 m	ZZS 3	- Ethics	- Review for exam : Select Survey Study Focus
10/27 w	Exam II	- Ch. ZZS 3 : WEC 17, 4, & 5	- No Lab
11/1	WEC 12, ZZS 5	- Survey Research	- Develop Hypotheses
11/3 w	WEC 12, ZZS 5	- Survey Research	- Develop Measures & Methods
11/8m	WEC 8, 9	- Survey Research	- Data collection & entry (Intro & Critiques Due)
11/10w	WEC 8, 9	- Correlation & Regression	- Data Collection & entry cont (Data Due)
11/15m	WEC 10, ZZS 6	- Correlation & Regression	- Data Analysis
11/17w	WEC 10, ZZS 6	- Correlation & Regression	- Data Analysis (HW 7 Due)
11/22m	Thanks Giving	Thanks Giving	Thanks Giving
11/24w	Thanks Giving	Thanks Giving	Thanks Giving
11/29 m	WEC 11, ZZS 6	- T-tests	- Data Analysis cont.
12/1 w	WEC 11, ZZS 6	- T-tests	- Final Report Due
12/6 m	WEC 11, ZZS 6	- T-tests	- HW 8 Due
12/8 w	WEC 11, ZZS 6	- Review	- Review
12/15 w	Final Exam	- 2:00 pm RUS:349 Final	