

SYLLABUS

Psychology 611: **Graduate Research Methods** Spring, 2007; Section#: 01 & 02
Call # :4023 & 4024

Instructor: Jeff Aspelmeier, Ph.D. Office: Washington Hall B17
Phone: 5520

e-mail: jaspelme@radford.edu Web Page: www.radford.edu/~jaspelme

Class Meeting Time: Sec 01-Tue Thurs: 9:30-10:45 Sec 02-Tue Thurs: 11:00 - 12:15

Class Meeting Location: Sec 01-Waldron 200 Sec 01-Cook 317

Office Hours: M-Th: 1:30-2:30

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:

Whitely, Bernard E. (2001). *Principles of Research in Behavioral Science* (2nd Ed.). Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company.

Recommended Texts:

American Psychological Association (1994). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author.

Course Objectives:

The student will be engaged in a series of activities designed to develop understanding of concepts, theories and research related to Research Methodology. 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 statistics and methods, how statistics influence the socio-cultural environment, and how to interpret research in more meaningful ways.

This course is designed to help you (1) understand procedures for many basic research and statistical designs, (2) gain a better understanding of methodology and its relation to statistical analyses in reports of psychological research, (3) further develop your quantitative and analytic thinking skills, (4) further develop your research presentation skills, and (5) prepare you for more advanced courses in psychology and conducting research of your own. By learning how research is performed, you will hopefully become a better consumer and producer 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)

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 exams and a 100-point final exam 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 essay questions.

- University policy for Academic Dishonesty will be enforced (so do us both a favor and don't cheat).
- Students should bring their RU ID's with them to exams. You may be asked to present them.
- 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 thurs., April. 19th at 1:00 p.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. **Homework:** In order to reinforce class concepts (especially statistical information) there will be at least five homework assignments worth 10 to 20 pts. each (approximately two full letter grades). Homework due dates will be announced in class, though a tentative schedule of due dates are presented in the lecture outline (these may change). Late homework will be accepted for ½ credit no later than the class period immediately following the class in which the assignment is due.

NOTE For ALL written work:

1) 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 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.

2) 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 |
| Home Work | 80 points |
| ----- | |
| Total | 380 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%. A grade of D or lower, will require that the course be repeated.

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 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>Assignments</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1/09 t | - | Syllabus, | |
| 1/11 th | - | PsycInfo | |
| 1/16 t | - | Stat Review | |
| 1/18 th | 1 | Science Review | PsychInfo homework Due (10pts) |
| 1/23 t | 2 | Research Strategies | |
| 1/25 th | 2 | The Research Question | |
| 1/30 t | 4 | The Research Question | Stat-Review Homework Due(20pts) |
| 2/1 th | 3 | Ethics | |
| 2/6 t | 3 | Ethics Wrap Up & Review | Ethics Certification Due (10 pts) |
| 2/8 th | Exam I | Exam I | |
| 2/13 t | 5 | Reliability and Validity | |
| 2/15 th | 5 | Reliability, Validity, Measurement | |
| 2/20 t | 5 | Measurement | |
| 2/22 th | 11 | Survey Research | |
| 2/27 t | 11 | Survey Research | Reliability/Validity Homework Due (20 pts) |
| 3/1 th | 11 | Survey Research | |
| 3/6 t | 6 | Internal Validity | |
| 3/8 th | 6 | Internal Validity | |
| 3/13 t | NO Class | Spring Break | |
| 3/15 th | NO Class | Spring Break | |
| 3/20 t | ? | Wrap Up & Review | |
| 3/22 th | Exam II | Exam II | |
| 3/27 t | 7 | Experimental Research | |
| 3/29 th | 7 | Experimental Research | |
| 4/3 t | 8 | Correlational Research | |
| 4/5 th | 8 | Correlational Research | |
| 4/10 t | 13 | Effect Size Interpreting Results | |
| 4/12 th | 13 | Power & Effect Size | |
| 4/17 t | 13 | Power & Effect Size | |
| 4/19 th | 14 | External Validity | |
| 4/24 t | 14 | External Validity | Power Home Work Due (20pts) |
| 4/26 th | ? | Wrap Up & Review | |
| 4/30 M | Final exam Sec 01 | 2:00 PM Waldron 200 Final | |
| 5/4 F | Final Exam Sec 02 | 8:00 AM Cook 317 Final | |