Office: 410 Russell Hall
Phone: 831-5444
E-mail: tpierce@radford.edu
Website: www.radford.edu/~tpierce

Office hours: W: 10:00 – 11:30; T, Th: 2:00-2:50. Students are welcome to make an appointment for other times during the week if these times are inconvenient.

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Amanda Vanlaeken (avanlaeken@radford.edu)

Goals

The goal of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of the principles of psychological research. The course incorporates material from traditional methods and statistics courses into a system where students learn statistical techniques within the context of addressing research questions in psychology. The course will examine the place of scientific research in psychology, the design of experiments, ethics in human and animal research, and the statistical analysis of data.

Grading

Four exams will be given, three exams during the semester and one final exam. The three mid-term exams will each be worth 16% of the final grade. A final exam will be worth 18% of the final grade. Work in the lab will be worth 34% of the final grade. Lecture and lab attendance is expected and required. The lab grade will be based on brief quizzes given during the lab period, lab and homework assignments, writing assignments, as well as on performance in the lab as assessed by the lab TA and the instructor.

The material covered in this course is by nature cumulative. Students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge of the course material throughout the semester.

Class and lab attendance is expected and required. As many as three points will be added to the final grade for students who maintain superior levels of attendance and participation in both the lecture and lab portions of the class. Failure to participate in an ungraded lab activity will result in a deduction in the lab grade that will be equivalent to the number of points assigned to a typical homework assignment.

Makeup exams

Makeup exams will normally be given only in the event of demonstrated illness or if prior approval has been obtained from the instructor.
Textbooks


Other readings will be available for download from my website or from the WebCT site for the course.

Topics

1. Psychology and science
2. Scientific vs non-scientific approaches to knowledge
3. Scientific theories
4. Ethics in human and animal research
5. Introduction to measurement

First Exam

6. Descriptive statistic
7. Naturalistic observation and case studies
8. Introduction to inferential statistics: Chi-square.
9. Introduction to APA-style manuscripts.

Second Exam

10. Correlational research
11. Introduction to survey research
12. Pearson correlation coefficient

Third Exam

13. Introduction to Experiments: Between-subjects designs
14. Hypothesis testing (Independent-Samples T-Test)
15. Introduction to Experiments: Within-subjects designs
16. Dependent-Samples T-Test

Final Exam.
Laboratory in psychological research  Students will meet in lab for two hours per week. The purpose of the lab is to provide students with hands-on experience in working with the material covered in the lecture. Students will collect data, analyze the results and begin the process of learning to write an APA-style paper. The lab is also intended as a time when students can get individual help in a structured setting. The labs will be conducted by a graduate teaching assistant under the direct supervision of the instructor. She will be available to answer any questions you may have about the lecture and to assist you with exercises designed to illustrate the course material. Attendance in the lab is required.

Honor Code

Students are expected and required to act in accordance with Radford University’s Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code will be handled according to the policies and procedures outlined in Radford University’s Student Handbook.

Disabilities Statement

If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with the Disability Resource Office (DRO). The DRO is located in Room 32, Tyler Hall. The phone number is 831-6350. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper DRO forms and meet with me at the beginning of the semester.

Miscellaneous

- Please turn your cell phone off before you come to class or lab.
- Please refrain from sending or receiving e-mail while in lecture or lab.
Name:

Year in college (sophomore, junior, etc):

What topics in psychology are you most interested in?

Why did you decide to major in psychology?

Do you know what you want to do for your career? If so, what do you want to do?

What is your biggest concern about taking this class?

Have you taken STAT 200? Are you taking it now?