



Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus

Research Methods in Psychology - PSY 212

Basic Course Information

Semester	Spring 2015	Instructor Name	Mark A. Duva, Ph.D.
Course Title/ Catalog #/units	Research Methods in Psychology/PSY 212/3 units	Instructor Email	mark.duva@imperial.edu mark.a.duva@live.com
CRN #	20809	Webpage	https://imperial.blackboard.com/
Room	200 - 201	Office	1700 - 1714
Class Dates	Feb 17 - Jun 12, 2015	Office Hours	MW 4:15-5:15 pm T 5:15-6:15 pm R 9:00-10:00 am
Class Days/Times	MW 10:15 am – 11:40 am	Office Phone #	(760) 355-6335
Alternate office contact for test or exam day absence or other emergencies Elvia M. Camillo, Staff Secretary II Behavioral & Social Science Department (760) 355-6144			

Course Description

This course surveys various psychological research methods with an emphasis on research design, experimental procedures, descriptive methods, instrumentation, and the collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of research data. Research design and methodology will be examined through a review of research in a variety of the sub disciplines of psychology. (CSU, UC)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Identify and evaluate the various types of research methods used in psychology.
2. Write a research proposal and literature review in correct APA format.
3. Perform a literature search using electronic databases that provide psychological journal articles

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the basic research approaches and design methods required in behavioral sciences.
2. Summarize behavioral science abstracts
3. Analyze behavioral science studies to identify methodological flaws and/or unfounded conclusions.
4. Identify appropriate elementary statistical techniques for use in quantitative studies.
5. Conduct a review of relevant research literature.
6. Explain ethical issues pertaining to research with animal and human participants.
7. Construct a pilot study.
8. Write a research report, using acceptable APA formatting.



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Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Cozby, P.C., Bates, S (2012). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (11th/e). McGraw-Hill: New York ISBN: 9780078035159

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

There will be several quizzes/other assignments, one (1) midterm exam and one (1) final exam. Quizzes will be announced one week prior to the quiz date and may be completed during class or as a take-home quiz. They may include multiple choice, true-false, matching, fill-in-the-blank and/or short answer questions. The midterm and final exams will be multiple choice and perhaps short answer. Exam and quiz questions will come from material covered in class, the internet and the textbook. No makeups for exams or quizzes will be given without prior notification and/or documentation of an emergency. If you find that you are having difficulty with the course, you can seek additional assistance (see below). In addition, if you need special accommodations while taking exams or quizzes please inform me in advance.

A primary focus of the course is to learn how to develop research questions that can be tested (i.e. hypotheses), develop the methods for testing a hypothesis (i.e. experimental design) understand results obtained from research studies, interpret those findings in the context of past research and disseminate information in science and contribute to the existing knowledge bases. All of this is to be considered with respect to the ethical and procedural guidelines set forth by the American Psychological Association. To accomplish this, you will have a choice between one of two types of final projects both of which will be written in APA style. The two options for the final project are (1) write an original research proposal for a potential experiment or conduct and actual research study and present the findings to the class in the form of a poster presentation. The final project will be a group effort. The specifics of the final project will be discussed in more detail as the class moves forward.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

An approximate grade/point breakdown for the various methods of evaluation in the course is shown below.

<u>Graded Coursework</u>	<u>Grade Breakdown</u>
Quizzes/other 75 Points	A = 90%
Midterm 50 Points	B = 80%
Final Exam 100 Points	C = 70%
<u>Final Project 100 Points</u>	D = 60%
Total 325 Points	F = 59% or less

(Example: $325 \times 90\% = 293$ points for the "A")

(Example: $325 \times 80\% = 260$ points for the "B" and so on)

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Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status would be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Consider: specifics for your class/program
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

Academic Honesty

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting the writings or ideas of others as one's own, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to 'cite a source' correctly, you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

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Additional Help (if applicable)

- **Blackboard** support center: <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8543>
- **Learning Labs:** There are several 'labs' on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab and Study Skills Center (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program.
- **Library Services:** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the Study Skills Center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313, if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

Anticipated Class Schedule / Calendar

	<u>TOPICS</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
2/17 Week 1	Scientific Understanding of Behavior	Ch. 1
2/23 Week 2	Scientific Understanding of Behavior	Ch. 1
3/02 Week 3	Where to Start	Ch. 2
3/09 Week 4	Where to Start	Ch. 2

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3/16	Week 5	Ethical Research	Ch. 3
3/23	Week 6	Ethical Research	Ch. 3
3/30	Week 7	Fundamental Research Issues	Ch. 4
4/06	Week 8	<u>Spring Break</u>	
4/13	Week 9	MIDTERM EXAM (Project Topics)	
4/20	Week 10	Measurement Concepts, Observational Research	Ch. 5, 6
4/27	Week 11	Survey Research	Ch. 7
5/04	Week 12	Experimental Design	Ch. 8
5/11	Week 13	Conducting Experiments	Ch. 9
5/18	Week 14	Understanding Results: Description and Correlation	Ch. 12
5/25	Week 15	Understanding Results: Statistical Inference	Ch. 13
6/01	Week 16	Generalizing Results	Ch. 14
6/08	Week 17	Writing Research Reports	Appendix A
		FINAL EXAM	Comprehensive