

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2015	Instructor Name:	Tina A. Williams
Course Title & #:	Research Methods in Psychology/PSY 212	Email:	tina.williams@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20912	Webpage (optional):	n/a
Classroom:	212	Office #:	Part-Timers: Room 809
Class Dates:	02/17/15-06/12/15	Office Hours:	n/a for part-time faculty
Class Days:	Tuesday	Office Phone #:	(760) 352-8320
Class Times:	06:30-09:40 pm	Emergency Contact:	(760) 562-5404 (cell)
Units:	3		

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. *Apply research methods and design experiments to answer questions about psychology.*
3. *Compare and contrast the four types of reliability and the four types of validity.*

Course Objectives

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

- *Describe the scientific approach to learning about behavior and contrast it with pseudoscientific research.*
- *Define and give examples of the four goals of scientific research: description, prediction, determination of cause, and explanation of behavior.*
- *Discuss how a hypothesis differs from a prediction.*
- *Describe the different sources of ideas for research, including common sense, observation, theories, past research, and practical problems.*
- *Summarize the ethical principles in the APA ethics code concerning research with human participants.*
- *Define variable and describe the four categories of variables: situational, response, participant, and mediating variables.*

- Describe the properties of the four scales of measurement: nominal, ordinal, interval, and ratio.
- Compare quantitative and qualitative methods of describing behavior.
- Discuss reasons for conducting survey research.
- Describe a matched pairs design, including reasons to use this design.
- Describe ways to control participant expectations and experimenter expectations.
- Define factorial design and discuss reasons a researcher would use this design.
- Define cohort effect.
- Discuss how a partial correlation addresses the third-variable problem.
- Define power of a statistical test.
- Distinguish between narrative literature reviews and meta-analyses.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

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

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Groups: You will be assigned to groups of five people. Together, you will complete a group project assignment, worth 100 points. More information about this assignment will be given at a later date. I would also like you to sit together during class. During many classes you will work together as a group to answer discussion questions.

Quizzes: 15 quizzes will be given before each chapter lecture. No late quizzes will be accepted. Each quiz will be worth 5 points.

Exams: Two exams will be given. Exams will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. The short-answer questions will usually be patterned after problems that we will work in class through discussions and group work.

Class participation and attendance: At the beginning of each class, attendance will be taken (roll call). If a student must arrive late or leave early, the instructor should be notified so that the student is not penalized unfairly. It is the student's responsibility to let the instructor know when they are in class, particularly if they miss the roll call. Class participation will be measured by presence, active interest and involvement in discussions, exercises and presentations.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Grading System:

90-100% = A	Quizzes	75 points
80-89% = B	Mid-term	100 points
70-79% = C	Project	100 points
60-60% = D	Final Exam	100 points
00-60% = F	Participation	25 points
	Total:	400 points

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 will 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.
- 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 by the instructor.
- 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.

Online Netiquette

- What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.
- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!!)].

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- **Plagiarism** is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, 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 plagiarizing 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 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.

Additional Student Services

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services which may be available.

- **Blackboard Support Site.** The Blackboard Support Site provides a variety of support channels available to students 24 hours per day.
- **Learning Services.** There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your [Campus Map](#) for the [Math Lab](#); [Reading, Writing & Language Labs](#); and the [Study Skills Center](#).
- **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. Please contact them 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.

- **Student Health Center.** A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District and El Centro Regional Center provide basic health services for

students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6310 in Room 2109 for more information.

- [Mental Health Counseling Services](#). Short-term individual, couples, family, and group therapy are provided to currently enrolled students. Contact the IVC [Mental Health Counseling Services](#) at 760-355-6196 in Room 2109 for more information.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC [General Catalog](#).

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC [Library Department](#) provides numerous [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) to assist students in this endeavor.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
02/17/15	Syllabus & Introduction	
02/24/15	Chapter 1: Scientific Understanding of Behavior Chapter 2: Where to Start Quiz Chapter 1 & 2	
03/03/15	Chapter 3: Ethical Research Quiz: Chapter 3	
03/10/15	Chapter 4: Fundamental Research Issues Quiz: Chapter 4	
03/17/15	Chapter 5: Measurement Concepts Quiz: Chapter 5	
03/24/15	Chapter 6: Observational Methods Quiz: Chapter 6	
03/31/15	Chapter 7: Asking People About Themselves: Survey Research Quiz: Chapter 7	
04/14 /15	Mid-Term	
04/21/15	Chapter 8: Experimental Design Quiz: Chapter 8	
04/28 /15	Chapter 9: Conducting Experiments Quiz: Chapter 9	

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
05/05/15	Chapter 10: Complex Experimental Designs Quiz: Chapter 10	
05/12/15	Chapter 11: Single-Case, Quasi-Experimental, and Developmental Research Quiz: Chapter 11	
05/19/15	Chapter 12: Understanding Research Results: Description and Correlation Quiz: Chapter 12	
05/26/15	Chapter 13: Understanding Research Results: Statistical Inference Quiz: Chapter 13	
06/02/15	Chapter 14: Generalizing Results Quiz: Chapter 14 Group Project Assignments Due	
06/09/15	Final	

*****Tentative, subject to change without prior notice*****