

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2016	Instructor Name:	Nicole Rodiles
Course Title & #:	Research Methods	Email:	nicole.rodiles@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10631	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	412	Office #:	807E
Class Dates:	8/15/2016 - 12/9/2016	Office Hours:	Monday/Wednesday: 12:45-1:45pm Tue/Thur: 8:30-9:30am
Class Days:	Monday/Tuesday	Office Phone #:	760/355-6142
Class Times:	9:40-11:05am	Emergency Contact:	cell: 760/791 4915
Units:	3		

Course Description

This course introduces research methodologies used in the behavioral sciences. It emphasizes an appreciation of the scientific method, the development of research skills, knowledge of research ethics, and the evaluation of scientific research. Students conduct library research, design and implement research projects using appropriate methodologies and controls, analyze and interpret data using a statistical computer program, and write research reports using the APA format.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Evaluate and summarize relevant peer reviewed scientific articles.
2. Develop a research design to evaluate a hypothesis.
3. Communicate background, results and implications of research using APA style.

Course Objectives

1. Compare and contrast different research methods and sampling techniques
2. Explain how controls are used to reduce threats of internal validity, external validity, and measurement validity

3. Discuss the characteristics and benefits of the scientific method, and explain the logic behind hypothesis testing
4. Design and conduct empirical research project(s)
5. Utilize library research and evaluate the reliability of sources
6. Critically read, extract information, evaluate, and summarize research in behavioral sciences
7. Analyze research data using a statistical package, demonstrating knowledge of statistics by selecting the appropriate descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, graphs, and tables to evaluate, explore, and communicate findings
8. Write college-level scientific research papers using American Psychology Association writing style (e.g., abstract, introduction, methods, participants, materials, procedure, results, discussion, reference section)
9. Explain ethical issues pertaining to behavioral science research with animal and human subjects.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

- Cozby, P.C. & Bates, S.C. (2015). *Methods in Behavioral Research, (12th Ed.)*. McGraw Hill.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

This course will consist of a combination of lectures, assigned readings, classroom/group work, individual projects and performance on quizzes and exams.

- **Participation.** You will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the assigned reading by actively participating in class discussions.
- **Research Assignments.** You will be provided with and/or asked to conduct a literature search for various research articles that align with the various types of research designs discussed in your textbook. You will be provided with critical thinking questions in which to analyze and evaluate the article. Questions are to be answered in the following format: double-spaced, size 12 font, and 1 inch margins. Each research assignment will be worth 25 points. **Late research assignments will be accepted up to one class period of the due date.**
- **APA Research Paper Structure.** You will produce a draft(s) of each component in an APA style research paper for practice purposes. We will discuss the structure for each section in class and use research articles and/or data to prepare for your final paper. The draft for each section will be worth 10 points. **No drafts will be accepted after the Research Paper due date.**
- **Research Paper.** There will be a research paper due at the end of the semester in which you will work individually or with a partner to demonstrate your ability to design a research project, collect data, and write up the results of the research in the correct APA format. The paper will include a Title Page, an Abstract, an Introduction (literature review) of the research topic, a Method section, a Results section, a Discussion

section, and a Reference page. Graphs, charts and figures can also be included. The paper will be worth 100 points. **Late research papers will result in a loss of 10 points each day after the due date.**

- **Research Presentation.** We will have a poster session at the end of the semester. You will present your research study and results on a poster in the classroom. Students and guests will have a chance to read your research and ask questions or make comments. We will go over the procedures for making a poster in class. The poster and presentation will be worth 50 points.
- **Chapter Outlines/Quizzes.** For each chapter of your text, unless otherwise noted, you will be asked to produce a typed outline. This outline should include the main points of each chapter. Each class period that we start a new chapter, I will be giving a quiz on that chapter in class. You will be allowed to use your chapter outline while taking the quiz. Thus, it is up to you to produce a detailed outline of the chapter that will assist you in taking the quiz. After you take the quiz, we will grade the quiz in class and I will give you points for both the outline and the quiz. Since I will be throwing out the one lowest score for quizzes, **no make-up quizzes will be given.** Each outline will be worth 20 points. Each quiz will be worth 20 points.
- **Exams.** Four (4) exams will be given. Exams could consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer and essay questions from the class material. No make-up exams will be given unless you have called me **PRIOR** to the exam and let me know you will not be able to take the exam. If you contact me prior to the exam, you will have one week to make-up the exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

90-100% = A	Exams	4@ 100 pts.	400 pts.
80-89% = B	Research Assignments	4@ 25 pts.	100 pts.
70-79% = C	APA Research Structure	10@ 10 pts.	100 pts.
60-69% = D	Research Paper	1@ 100 pts.	100 pts.
0-59% = F	Research Presentation	1@ 50 pts.	50 pts.
	Outline/Quizzes	12@ 20 pts.	240 pts.
	Participation		25 pts.
	TOTAL:		1,015 pts.

Attendance

[Required Information: The below information is the IVC attendance policy. Use this information in addition to any specific attendance policies you have for your course.]

- 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

[Required Information: Describe your policies regarding classroom conduct. The below is suggested language and may be modified for your course.]

- 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

[Required Information for web-enhanced, hybrid and online courses: Describe your policies regarding netiquette. The below is suggested language and may be modified for your course.]

- 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

[Required language.]

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

[Suggested Language.]

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)

[Required language.]

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

[Required language.]

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 provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6128 in Room 1536 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

[Required language.]

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

[Required language.]

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

[Required Information – Discretionary Language and Formatting: The instructor will provide a tentative, provisional overview of the readings, assignments, tests, and/or other activities for the duration of the course. A table format may be useful for this purpose.]



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 8/15-17	Introduction to class	

Week 2 8/22-24	Scientific Understanding of Behavior	Chapter 1
Week 3 8/29-31	Visit Library Information Literacy & APA Style	APA Formatting Checklist Appendix A
Week 4 9/7	Where to Start	Chapter 2
Week 5 9/12-14	Ethics In Behavioral Research Fundamental Research Issues	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
Week 6 9/19-21	Exam #1	Chapters 1- 4
Week 7 9/26-28	No Class: SPRING BREAK!	
Week 8 10/3-5	Measurement Concepts	Chapters 5
Week 9 10/10-12	Observational Methods	Chapter 6
Week 10 10/17-19	Asking People About Themselves: Survey Research	Chapter 7
Week 11 10/24-26	EXAM #2	Chapter 5-7
Week 12 10/31-11/2	Experimental Design	Chapter 8
Week 13 11/7-9	Conducting Experiments Complex Experiments	Chapter 9 Chapter 10
Week 14 11/14-16	Single Case, Quasi-Experimental and Developmental Research	Chapter 11
Week 15 11/21-23	Exam #3	Chapters 8-11

Week 16 11/28	Understanding Research Results: Description and Correlation and Statistical Inference	Chapter 12 and 13
Week 17 11/30	Generalization	Chapters 14
Week 17 12/5	Final Exam	Chapters 12 -14
12/7	Collect Data - Write Research Paper	
TBA	POSTER SESSION	

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