

PSY 234 INTRO TO RESEARCH METHODS

Fall 2007

Credit hours: 3

Section 1: Tu, Th 9.30- 11.00, AB4, Rm 204

Section 2: Tu, Th 12.30 - 2.00, AB4, Rm 313

Instructor: T. C. Sim, Ph.D

Office: AB4, Rm 333

Tel: 294-1507

Office hours: Refer to grade policy

Required text:

*Research Design and Methods (6th Edition)* by Bordens and Abbott. Mayfield Publishing Company

Supplemental text:

*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.)*

*The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White (also available on internet <http://sut1.sut.ac.th/strunk/>).

*Writing with style* by John R. Trimble.

Recommended readings:

Kuhn, Thomas S. (1970) *The structure of scientific revolutions. (2nd ed.)* The University of Chicago Press

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Please take note that this is a proposed schedule. Any changes in the schedule (especially EXAMS) will be announced in class. If a student is absent from class, it will be his/her responsibility to get information on any updated changes from classmates.

TOPICS

1. Explaining behavior
2. Developing ideas for research
3. Choosing a research design
4. Making systematic observations
5. Choosing and using subjects

**FIRST EXAM** Sep 20

6. Experimental designs
9. Between-subjects designs
10. Within-subjects designs (ends pg. 294)

**SECOND EXAM** Oct 18

7. Nonexperimental designs
8. Survey research
10. Combined Designs (begins pg. 294)

**THIRD EXAM** Nov 15

11. Using inferential statistics
12. Reporting your research results
15. Artifacts in research

**FINAL EXAM**

**Refer to Schedule**

## CLASS OBJECTIVES

Welcome to the world of scientific research. This course is designed to teach you the proper methods of scientific investigation. Particularly important to you, as a student of psychology, will be the basic methods of research in psychology. At the end of the semester, you should become acquainted and comfortable with reading a scientific and scholarly article in a critical manner, and be familiar with the ways of experimental research so often encountered in psychology. This course will provide you with the training to take an idea and develop the idea into a testable hypothesis. You will also learn to design and conduct a scientific study to investigate scientific hypotheses. You will be instructed on a variety of research designs that are most appropriate for examining various topics of interest, and the proper procedures of data gathering. The climax of this class will be the final research proposal. You will take a topic of interest to you and design a study to learn more about that subject, using all the skills and tools that are available. **Although this proposal will count as one exam score and is equal to only 20% of the course grade, you must complete this project in order to earn a passing grade.** You must also be enrolled in the laboratory class that accompanies this course. The lab instructor will announce the due date for this project. All topics must be approved before you begin.