

# **PSY 214**

## **Research Methods Lab**

**Spring 2008**

**Tuesday 3:00 - 4:50 PM (section 2)**

**Thursday 3:00 - 4:50 PM (section 4)**

**AB4 205**

**Angela Rickelm**

**Office:** LDB 332C

**Phone:** (936) 294-3388

(Do not leave a message on voicemail)

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### **Office Hours:**

**Tuesday- 5:00-5:30**

**Wednesday- 3:00-3:30**

**Thursday- 5:00-5:30**

**Friday- 12:30-2:00**

**Required: A highlighter will be needed for class activities.**

### **Recommended Text**

American Psychological Association (2005). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5<sup>th</sup> ed). Washington, DC: Author.

### **Objective of the course**

The lab meeting is designed to walk you step by step through the process of completing a research proposal. Each week you will learn another step in producing a sound research design. At the end of the project, you will have the knowledge and skills to conduct scientific research.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is compulsory, and 5 points will be deducted from your grade for every day absent (except with a doctor's note). It is possible to make-up an absence by attending the other lab meeting (within the same week).

**For attendance points**, you need to be: Awake, participating in the class activity, and NOT TALKING OR TEXTING ON A CELL PHONE. You are required to be present for the entire class (3:00-4:50 pm) and will lose attendance points by leaving early or coming in late.

**Unless you have a doctors note for missing class, you are still responsible for turning in your homework assignment on time. For students with a doctors note, the assignment will be due during the next lab meeting.**

## **Assignments**

There will be an assignment due almost every week. A **hardcopy** of the assignment will be due at the **beginning** of class. All assignments must be typed and double spaced. For every day that an assignment is late, 5 points will be deducted. Assignments being dropped off outside of class time can be turned into the Psychology office in AB IV Monday-Friday during office hours.

**Give the assignment to Rhonda, Leon, Jackie, or Debbie to put in my box.**

**KEEP A COPY OF ALL OF YOUR ASSIGNMENTS.** This way if there is any discrepancy about what you turned in at the end of the semester, you will have evidence.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student found guilty will receive a failing grade for the course. Although it is perfectly fine to work together, the assignments need to be put into **your own** words and turned in **separately**. Your final proposal papers will be processed through Turnitin.com.

## **Classroom Conduct**

Students are expected to participate in the class, use appropriate language (e.g. no cursing), and to respect their classmates and instructor. Failure to do so may result in the student being asked to leave the class for the day in which case they will also loose the attendance points.

## **Visitors in Class**

Any student wanting to bring a visitor must first ask permission. Visitors will only be allowed in extreme circumstances and under the condition that they do not disrupt the class.

## **Religious Holidays**

Consistent with section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code, there will be no penalty for missing classes due to observation of a religious holiday or holiday travel. It is your responsibility to make prior arrangements to meet with me to discuss the time frame for making up course work.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities will need to register with the counseling center to receive accommodations.

## **Extra Credit**

You have three ways to earn extra credit for the course. You may only receive a maximum of 10 points of extra credit.

- 1.) Participate as a participant in research experiments conducted in the Psychology department. You may receive two extra credit points for every hour of participation. This means you would need to participate for 5 hours to receive the 10 extra credit points. However, if you sign up for a research project and do not show up for the appointment, you will receive **minus points**.
- 2.) Present a research topic for the class. The presentation needs to be approved and arranged with me. The presentation point value will depend on the depth of the presentation and will be discussed upon approval of the topic.
- 3.) Finally, you can earn extra credit by writing a 1pg. synopsis about a research article. The article needs to be preapproved. The paper may not be an assignment used for another class. One paper, will earn you 4 points of extra credit.

PSYCHOLOGY 214  
RESEARCH METHODS LAB Grading Scale  
2008 Spring

TOPIC

Describing behavior objectively	
Presentation of results from previous week	60
Organization of a manuscript	60
Library Resources presentation	
Library Resources data collection	60
Experimental Design	30
The Independent Variable	30
Using the computer to analyze data	60
Stop-sign Behavior data collection	60
Independent Research Projects approval	
Lab Assignment 8	30
Draft	30
Independent Research Project	100
Attendance	50
Total possible	<u>570</u>

A:	513 - 570
B:	456 - 512
C:	399 - 454
D:	342 - 398
F:	0 - 341

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Class Activities/Assignments Due</b>	<b>Point Value</b>
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Jan. 29/31	Operation Definition <b>Assignment 1(in class)</b>	<b>30</b>
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Feb. 5/7	Organization of a Manuscript <b>Assignment 2 Due</b>	<b>30</b>
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Feb. 12/14	Library Resource Presentation (Class in the Library) <b>Assignment 3 Due</b>	<b>60</b>
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Feb. 19/21	Experimental Design <b>Assignment 4 Due</b>	<b>60</b>
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Feb. 26/28	Experimental Design <b>Lab 5 Due</b> <b>Lab 6 Due</b>	<b>30</b> <b>30</b>
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Mar. 4/6	SPSS (I give you the location at a later date)	
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Mar. 11/13	<b>Spring Break</b>	
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Mar. 18/20	Stop Sign Behavior Activity <b>Proposal Topic Due</b> <b>SPSS Assignment Due</b>	<b>30</b> <b>30</b>
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Mar. 25/27	<b>Proposal Topic Approval Due</b> <b>Assignment 8 Due</b>	<b>30</b>
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April 1/3	APA Style <b>Proposal Draft Due</b>	
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April 8/10	APA Style/ Research Project	
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April 15/17	APA Style/ Research Project	
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April 22/24	<b>Proposal Due</b>	
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