Psychology 302a: Research Methods
Fall 2014

Mondays: 9:00am –11:50am OR 1:00pm – 3:50pm

Instructor: Jason T Siegel
School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences
Claremont Graduate University
123 E. Eighth Street
Claremont, CA 91711
Phone: 909-607-0404
Email: Jason.siegel@cgu.edu
Office: 203 ACB
Office hours: Wednesdays 1 – 3 (My office hours often get booked up in advance. Please make an appointment so I can be sure I will have sufficient time to assist you.).

LAB TIMES:
Lisa Teachanarong (lisa.teachanarong@cgu.edu): Monday at 4pm ACB 214
Natalie Jones (natalie.jones@cgu.edu): Monday at 4pm ACB 108
Irene Brandt (irene.brandt@cgu.edu): Monday at 4pm Burkle 14
Frauke Rost (frauke.rost@cgu.edu): Monday at 4pm Burkle 24

Course Description
The goal of the course is to provide students with a firm basis in research methodology. The course covers topics ranging from the philosophy of science, ethics, research conceptualization, experimental and quasi-experimental design and measurement. In addition, the course covers issues of interpretation – from detecting data patterns to inferring whether a set of findings can be generalized to other people, places, and time periods. We also will discuss a number of specialized research techniques that have wide use in psychological investigation.

Textbooks
Required

Strongly recommended


The Crano, Brewer, & Lac textbook can be purchased at Huntley Bookstore (or from Amazon or Erlbaum on the Internet). In addition to the textbook, there are additional readings that will be available through Sakai.
Course Requirements

Expectations for course completion: Students are expected to attend all class meetings including lecture and discussion sections. The lecture portion of the class will meet on Mondays from 9:00am to 12:00pm OR from 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Students are expected to attend their discussion section meetings. (See professor to verify times of lecture and discussion section.) Readings from the text and other sources will be discussed during the lecture, with further analysis and discussion occurring in the discussion sections. Course requirements include passing grades on a mid-term exam, final exam as well as the discussion section. Students must also pass an online Ethics Certification. Allocation of credit for each component is described below.

Exams (60%): There will be two exams in the class—a mid-term (30%) and a final exam (30%), each consisting of a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. The first exam will include any materials covered during the first half of the class. The midterm exam will be taken in class on October 27, 2014. The final exam will be cumulative and will also be administered in class on December 15, 2014. Only in the event of a documented emergency will students be allowed a make-up opportunity for any missed exams. Notes or other reading materials are prohibited during the exams. Teaching associates will conduct review sessions in the days prior to the exams that will help to focus your preparation. It is strongly recommended that you attend these review sessions. In addition, it is expected that all students enrolled in this course will attend every class meeting. If you have any planned days that you know you must miss, please see your TA to ensure that you receive any handouts or materials distributed in lecture or discussion sections. If you have an emergency that prevents you from attending class, please email any assignments due to your TA prior to the start of class.

Quizzes (10%): Another source of points will be from in-class quizzes that are focused on textbook chapter readings. These quizzes may or may not be announced in advance.

Discussion Section (30%): In addition to the lecture portion of the class, all students are required to attend the discussion section with their assigned TA on Monday. There is a separate syllabus for the discussion section that you will be provided by your TA.

Use of Laptop Computers
As a courtesy to your classmates and instructor, please refrain from using laptop computers, PDA’s, cell phones, etc. during class time, with the exception of taking notes during the lecture. All other uses (e.g., checking email, internet, etc.) are prohibited.

Course Schedule
It is expected that all students will read the assigned material PRIOR TO attending class to maximize class time and allow students to get the most out of lectures and discussions. The reading load for the course is moderately heavy, so please plan enough time to read each article thoroughly. This schedule is considered tentative and subject to change based on student needs and instructor’s purview.
Schedule of Topics and Readings
* Readings marked with an asterisk are optional

**Week 1: September 1st, 2014: No Class, Labor Day**

**Week 2: September 8th, 2014: Introduction to class, assignment of research group sections, Overview/ Basics/ Methods Review**

Complete ethics certification by next week.

**Week 3: September 15th, 2014: Ethics / Basic Concepts: Variables, Variation, Chance**

**Activity Leader: Lisa**

Crano, Brewer, & Lac (2014), Preface, Chapters 1 & 20

*The Science of Psychology*


**Week 4: September 22nd, 2014: Reliability and Validity**

**Activity Leader: Natalie**

Crano, Brewer, & Lac (2014), Chapter 2, 3, 4

*Authorship*


Ethics


*Maner, J. K. (2014) Let's put our money where our mouth is: If authors are to change their ways, reviewers (and editors) must change with them. Perspectives on Psychological Science, 343-351.

**Week 5: September 29th, 2014: Inferring Causal Relations & Peer Review**

**Activity Leader: Irene**

Crano, Brewer, & Lac (2014), Chapters 5 & 6

*The Peer Review System*


**Week 6: October 6th, 2014: External Validity and Field Settings**

**Activity Leader: Frauke**

Crano, Brewer, & Lac (2014), Chapters 7 & 8


Week 7: October 13th, 2014: Construct Validity/ MTMMM  
Activity Leader: Lisa

Construct Validity
Orne, M. T., & Scheibe, K. (1964). The contribution of nondeprivation factors in the production of sensory deprivation effects: The psychology of the "panic button". *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology, 68*, 3-12.


MTMMM


Week 8: October 20th, 2014: Correlational Design & Causal Analysis  
Activity Leader: Natalie

Crano, Brewer, & Lac (2014), Chapter 9

Should We Be Testing Theories?


Week 9: October 27th, 2014: Midterm Examination 9:00am – 11:00pm OR 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Week 10: November 3rd, 2014: Quasi-Experimental Designs/ Mediators and Moderators
Activity Leader: Irene

Crano, Brewer, & Lac (2014), Chapter 10

Mediators and Moderators


Week 11: November 10th, 2014: Significance Testing
Activity Leader: Frauke

The Controversy over Significance Testing


**APA style results section due this week in discussion, turn into TA**

Week 12: November 17th, 2014: Survey Design & Sampling
Activity Leader: Lisa

Crano, Brewer, & Lac (2014), Chapter 11, 15, 16

* Bakeman (in Reis & Judd), Chapter 6

**APA style research papers/ proposals due this week in discussion, turn into TA**

Week 13: November 24th, 2014: Qualitative Methods
Activity Leader: Natalie

Crano, Brewer, & Lac (2014), Chapter 12, 13, 14


Week 14: December 1st, 2014: No class (labs do meet)

Week 15: December 8th, 2014: Scaling & Meta-analysis
Activity Leader: Irene

Crano, Lac, & Brewer (2014), Ch 17, 18, 19


Week 16: December 15th, 2014: Final Examination 9:00am – 11:00pm OR 1:00pm – 3:00pm