

Psychology 302
Psychological Research Design and Analysis
Fall 2009, Section 003
TTH 9:35 – 10:50 AM
3716 HBLL
3 Credit Hours

Professor : Robert (Bob) Ridge, PhD (bob_ridge@byu.edu), 1034 SWKT
Phone: 801-422-7867
Office Hours: T, W 2 – 3 PM (or by appointment)

TA: David McMillan (david_mcmillan@hotmail.com), 1070 SWKT
Phone: 801-440-6966
Office Hours: M 10 – 11 AM; W 1 – 2 PM (or by appointment)

Required: Elmes, D. G., Kantowitz, B. H., & Roediger, H. L. III (2006). *Research Methods in Psychology* (8th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

COURSE SYLLABUS AND INFORMATION
(Subject to change)

Course Description & Objectives: The objective of Psychology 302 is to teach students the basic principles for understanding, designing, conducting, and reporting psychological research. For some of you, this course will be your only opportunity to study the processes by which conclusions emerge from scientific investigations. This course will teach you to be a discerning consumer of research. For the rest of you, this course will be a first step toward learning the necessary skills to conduct your own research at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels. In either case, as we learn about the problem-solving nature of research, we will develop our critical thinking abilities. Thus, at the end of the course you will be expected to demonstrate an ability to formulate, execute and disseminate sound research ideas and critically evaluate the research ideas of others.

Equally important will be our discussions of ethics in research. This course will introduce you to ethical issues related to human and animal participation in research and will discuss the ethics related to data analysis and representation. You will learn how to design an ethically appropriate study and how to conduct yourself and your research in an ethically appropriate manner.

The process of conducting research consists of the following five basic steps: 1) Reviewing the relevant literature/developing the background for the research; 2) designing the study; 3) collecting the data; 4) analyzing the data; and 5) reporting the results. This course will focus primarily on steps 1, 2, 3 and, to a lesser extent, 5, since you should already be familiar with data analysis (step 3) from Psychology 301 or the equivalent and Psychology 303 (Writing Within Psychology) is designed to deal with step 5. There will, however, be some data analysis and writing in this class. **Psychology 301 (Psychological Statistics) or the equivalent is a prerequisite for the course.** You must have successfully completed Psych 301 or the equivalent to register for Psych 302.

Course Requirements: There will be three examinations during this course. Exams I and II will be within-semester exams and the final exam will be given during finals week. There will be no make-up exams. If illness or other uncontrollable circumstances prevent you from taking an examination at the scheduled time, you are responsible to inform me as soon as possible.

There will also be a group research project. You and your group members will review the literature on a topic of interest to you, formulate a testable hypothesis, design a study to test your hypothesis, collect and analyze the data, write a report summarizing your research, and make an oral

presentation of your work. You will also be required to complete occasional homework assignments related to coursework.

Grades will be calculated on a point system. Each work product will be worth a given number of points. Examinations in this course will comprise approximately 40% of your grade. The group research assignment will comprise another 40% of your grade, and the remaining 20% will come from homework assignments and class participation. Grade cutoffs for exams and assignments will be as follows:

93% and above	A	72%	C
89.5%	A-	69.5%	C-
86%	B+	66%	D+
82%	B	62%	D
79.5%	B-	59.5%	D-
76%	C+	Below 59.5%	E

A note regarding incompletes. An incomplete grade is given on a contractual basis between the instructor and the student. An "I" can only be given when extenuating circumstances (serious illness, death in the immediate family, and so forth) occur after the twelfth week of a semester or sixth week of a term. **An incomplete is not given when a student is failing or has failed the class.** Class attendance in a subsequent semester or re-registration is not permitted to make up an incomplete. The instructor can indicate a specific length of time to complete the incomplete, not to exceed one year. An incomplete is computed in the GPA as a failing grade until the work has been completed and the official grade has been submitted by the instructor.

Classes: **Class attendance is an essential function of this course; attendance is required.** Classes will consist of lectures and exercises, and you will be expected to read the assigned material **before** attending class. Although attendance will not be taken, you will find it to your advantage to attend. Some homework assignments will not be announced until the day they are assigned. Students missing class on these days without a prior excuse will not be allowed to complete the assignments.

Course etiquette: We (students and professor) will subscribe to the Honor Code and the Dress and Grooming Standards of Brigham Young University. We will be honest,¹ use clean language, and respect others. Our dress and grooming will be modest, neat, and clean, consistent with the dignity of representing BYU and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Violations of the Honor Code or Dress and Grooming Standards will be referred to the appropriate campus offices.

Cell phones must be turned off during class. Text messaging, tweeting, blogging, video recording, emailing and any other sending or receiving of personal electronic communications during class is prohibited. Persons violating this policy will be dismissed from the lecture. Repeated violations of this policy will result in a reduction in the course grade to be determined by the professor.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Each program at BYU has developed a set of expected student learning outcomes. These will help you understand the objectives of the curriculum in the program, including this class. To learn the expected student outcomes for the programs in this department and college go to **<http://learningoutcomes.byu.edu>** and click on the College of Family, Home and Social Sciences and then this department. We welcome feedback on the expected student learning outcomes. Any comments or suggestions you have can be sent to **FHSS@byu.edu**.

¹Scholastic dishonesty is defined as any act that violates the rights of other students with respect to academic work or that involves misrepresentations of a student's own work. Scholastic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) *cheating on examinations* or assignments, plagiarizing, and so forth. **Please see the last page of this syllabus for a lengthier statement regarding academic honesty, gender issues, and student disabilities.**

COURSE OUTLINE				
Sep	1	T	Introduction to the course; Overview of Psychological Research	Chapter 1 Appendix A
	3	TH	“	“
	8	T	Explanation in Scientific Psychology <i>Research teams assigned</i>	Chapter 2
	10	TH	“	“
	15	T	Exploring the Literature of Psychology <i>Sign up for research proposal consultation</i>	Chapter 3
	17	TH	“	“
	22	T	Conducting Ethical Research	Chapter 12
	24	TH	“	“
25 - F – <i>Exam I in the Testing Center 9/25 – 29 (9/29 after 5 PM w/Late Fee). Note: The Testing Center is closed Tuesdays from 11AM to 12PM for University forums and devotionals. The Testing Center is also closed for all University holidays. See http://testing.byu.edu/info/center_hours.php for daily Testing Center hours.</i>				Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 12
Oct	29	T	Observation in Psychological Research	Chapter 4
	1	TH	“ <i>Draft IRB proposal due</i>	“
	6	T	Relational Research	Chapter 5
	8	TH	Basics of Experimentation	Chapter 6
	13	T	“ <i>Finished IRB proposal due</i>	“
	15	TH	Validity and Reliability in Psychological Research	Chapter 7
	20	T	“	“
	22	TH	Interpreting the Results of Research	Chapter 13
	27	T	“	“
	29	TH	SPSS Workshop (Location TBA)	

<i>Oct/Nov</i>	29 - 2	TH - M	Exam II in the testing center 10/29 – 11/2 (11/2 w/Late Fee).	<i>Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, & 13</i>
<i>Nov</i>	3	T	Experimental Design	Chapter 8 Appendix B: 375 – 386 396 – 403
	5	TH	“	“
	10	T	“	“
	12	TH	Complex Experimentation DATA COLLECTION DEADLINE	Chapter 9 Appendix B: 404-409
	17	T	“	Chapter 9 Appendix B: 404-409
	19	TH	“	“
	24	T	FRIDAY CLASS INSTRUCTION/NO CLASS	
	26	TH	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY/NO CLASS	
<i>Dec</i>	1	T	Quasi-Experimentation	Chapter 11
	3	TH	Small- <i>n</i> Experimentation <i>Written research reports due</i>	Chapter 12
	8	T	Oral Reports	Chapter 14, pp. 355 - 357
	10	TH	Oral Reports	
	14	M	Final Exam in class, 7 – 10 AM	

Academic Honesty

While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. See <http://honorcode.byu.edu> (click the link *Honor Code Statement*) for specific examples of intentional, inadvertent plagiarism, and fabrication, falsification.

Gender Issues

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment

or gender based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 801-422-5895 or 801-422-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 801-422-2847.

Students with Disabilities

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center located in 2170 WSC (UAC; 801-422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the UAC. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office at 801-422-5895, D-282 ASB.

Novel Influenza A H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) Policy

As are all large communities, BYU is preparing for the potential of the H1N1 influenza virus to spread rapidly throughout the campus during the coming winter. Details of BYU's preparation, and advice on what you can do to prepare, can be found at flu.byu.edu. Please read it! In order to contain any possible infection, the administration has advised course instructors to ask any student who is feeling sick with flu-like symptoms (fever with either sore throat or cough) to remain home, away from class and away from all large gatherings. Sick students should remain at home until at least 24 hours after the fever has gone away. Students should also call their doctor or the student health center for advice as soon as possible.

The administration has asked course instructors to provide adequate make-up opportunities for all work missed during a flu-like illness. Accordingly, I will allow all time as needed to miss class during an illness and to make up work for a reasonable time afterward, provided the student provides a doctor's note to document the illness. ALL students who feel sick with fever and sore throat or cough should call the doctor and visit if so advised. If advised to visit the doctor, please obtain a note whether or not you are diagnosed with the flu. When you are ill please call or email your TA or the instructor as soon as possible, and *continue to communicate* with us until you are well. You should also be in contact as much as possible with one or two class members, in order to keep up on what you miss. We will try to facilitate class communication from the beginning of the semester.

For your protection, your instructors will follow the same rules. If your instructor is sick he or she will try to find a replacement to carry the class forward, or else will notify students as soon as possible about a class cancellation.