

**Psychology 302**  
**Psychological Research Design and Analysis**  
**Fall 2008, 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: 422-7867  
Office Hours: T 1 – 2 PM, W 2 – 3 PM (or by appointment)

*TA:* David McMillan (david\_mcmillan@hotmail.com), 1070 SWKT  
Phone: 801-440-6966  
Office Hours: M 11 AM – 12 PM; TH 3 – 4 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.

The Brigham Young University administration has **discontinued the UW** (unofficial withdrawal) as a grade option. Students will only be able to withdraw officially (W) from a class in accordance with the timeline and procedures published in the Grading and Records section of the BYU Undergraduate Catalog. **If an instructor fails to assign a student a letter grade on the grade roll, the student will automatically receive the grade E.**

*Classes:* 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,<sup>1</sup> 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 and sending or receiving email via laptop computer 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* ([https://learningoutcomes.byu.edu/wiki/index.php/Psychology\\_BS](https://learningoutcomes.byu.edu/wiki/index.php/Psychology_BS)): The objectives of the department's undergraduate curriculum are closely matched to those advocated by the American Psychological Association, the discipline's primary professional body. (Note: The reference to students in the following statement of goals is to students who graduate from the University with a major in psychology.) Graduates will:

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<sup>1</sup>Scholastic 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.**

- (1) Be able to demonstrate that they understand and can apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation of results in light of previous findings.
- (2) Be able to use computers and other research-related technology to competently collect, access, and manage information, communication, and other purposes.
- (3) Be able to express realistic ideas about how to implement their psychological understanding, skills, and values in occupational and family-related pursuits in a variety of settings.
- (4) Be able to critically reflect on the content of psychology as well as on disciplinary values in light of their knowledge of and commitment to the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and to sustain personal values that are true to the gospel while maintaining their serious study of psychology.

COURSE OUTLINE				
Sep	2	T	Introduction to the course; Overview of Psychological Research	Chapter 1 Appendix A
	4	TH	“	“
	9	T	Explanation in Scientific Psychology <i>Research teams assigned</i>	Chapter 2
	11	TH	“	“
	16	T	Exploring the Literature of Psychology <i>Sign up for research proposal consultation</i>	Chapter 3
	18	TH	“	“
	23	T	Conducting Ethical Research	Chapter 12
	25	TH	“	“
	26 - 30	F – T	<b>Exam I in the Testing Center 9/26 – 30 (9/30 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 <a href="http://testing.byu.edu/info/center_hours.php">http://testing.byu.edu/info/center_hours.php</a> for daily Testing Center hours.</b>	Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 12
Oct	30	T	Observation in Psychological Research	Chapter 4
	2	TH	“ <i>Draft IRB proposal due</i>	“
	7	T	Relational Research	Chapter 5
	9	TH	Basics of Experimentation	Chapter 6
	14	T	“ <i>Finished IRB proposal due</i>	“
	16	TH	Validity and Reliability in Psychological Research	Chapter 7
	21	T	“	“
	23	TH	Interpreting the Results of Research	Chapter 13
	28	T	“	“
	30	TH	EXAM – NO CLASS	

<i>Oct/Nov</i>	30 - 3	TH - M	<b>Exam II</b> in the testing center 10/30 – 11/3 (11/3 w/Late Fee).	<i>Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, &amp; 13</i>
<i>Nov</i>	4	T	Experimental Design	Chapter 8 Appendix B: 375 – 386 396 – 403
	6	TH	“	“
	11	T	“	“
	13	TH	Complex Experimentation <b>DATA COLLECTION DEADLINE</b>	Chapter 9 Appendix B: 404-409
	18	T	“	Chapter 9 Appendix B: 404-409
	20	TH	“	“
	25	T	<b>FRIDAY CLASS INSTRUCTION/NO CLASS</b>	
	27	TH	<b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY/NO CLASS</b>	
<i>Dec</i>	2	T	Quasi-Experimentation	Chapter 11
	4	TH	Small- <i>n</i> Experimentation <i>Written research reports due</i>	Chapter 12
	9	T	Oral Reports	Chapter 14, pp. 355 - 357
	11	TH	Oral Reports	
	15	M	<b>Final Exam in class, 11 AM – 2 PM</b>	

### 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://www.byu.edu/honorcode> 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 422-5895 or 422-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (UAC; 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 422-5895, D-282 ASB.