

PALOMAR COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

Transfer course A.A. degree applicable course
(check all that apply)

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: Psychology 230
Research Methods in Psychology

UNIT VALUE: 4

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS: 96

BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS: Appropriate language skills

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

PREREQUISITE: Psychology 100

COREQUISITE: None

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: None

SCOPE OF COURSE:

Introduction to psychological research methods with emphasis on the use of the scientific method in psychological research. The lab is designed to complement the lectures and allow each student to design and conduct psychological research.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Successful students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate psychological research;
2. Identify different psychological research designs;
3. Apply appropriate statistics to analyze experiments;
4. Evaluate different sampling strategies;
5. Identify the publication style of the American Psychological Association;
6. Conduct library research;
7. Explain ethical issues pertaining to psychological research with animal and human subjects.

CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:

The content of the course and the lab will include:
Lecture topics

- I. Scientific Method and Experiments
 - A. Scientific method
 - B. Non-experimental research
 - C. Value of non-experimental research

- .D. Limitations of non-experimental research
 - E. Experiments
 - F. Value of experiments
 - G. Limitation of experiments
- II. Descriptive Research Methods
- A. Field observation
 - B. Case studies
 - C. Survey research
 - D. Archival research
 - E. Psychological tests
 - F. Longitudinal research methods
- III. Experimental Design
- A. Between-subjects designs
 - B. Matched-subjects designs
 - C. Within-subjects designs
 - D. Quasi-experimental designs
- IV. Subject Sampling
- A. Questions to ask before you begin sampling
 - B. Random sampling
 - C. Subject assignment
- V. Bias and Control
- A. Consequences of experimental error
 - B. Major sources of bias
 - C. Handling bias
 - D. The problem of balances ecological validity and experimental control
- VI. Review of Statistics
- A. Measures of central tendency
 - B. Measures of variation
 - C. Statistical tests
- VII. Statistical Significance
- A. α
 - B. β
 - C. Type I error
 - D. Type II error
 - E. Power
- VIII. Experimental Ethics
- A. The history of experimental ethics in psychology
 - B. Human subjects and animals care committees
 - C. The Human Subjects Committee at Palomar
- IX. APA Editorial Style
- A. General typing instructions
 - B. Title page
 - C. Abstract

- D. Introduction
 - E. Method
 - F. Results
 - G. Discussion
 - H. References
 - I. Figures, tables and footnotes
- X. Library and Literature Research in Psychology
 - A. Relevant journals
 - B. Reviews and summaries
 - C. Abstracts and on-line electronic databases
 - D. Science Citation Index
 - E. Conferences
 - F. Letters to researchers

Laboratory topics:

- I. Bi-level experiment
- II. Multi-level experiment
- III. Factorial experiment
- IV. Individual meetings for student experimental projects
- V. Pilot studies for student experiments
- VI. Student experiments
- VII. Poster session

REQUIRED READING:

American Psychological Association. Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. 4th ed. Washington, D.C.: APA, 1994.

Cozby, Paul. Methods in Behavioral Research. 7th ed. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield, 2000.

Szuchman, Lenore. Writing with Style: APA Made Easy. Pacific Grove, Ca: Brooks/Cole, 1999.

SUGGESTED READING:

Pertinent journal articles related to the student experiment project (on average each student will read 5 supplementary journal articles.)

REQUIRED WRITING:

Each student will be required to write a 3 to 5 page paper on the bi-level experiment, a 5 to 10 page paper on the multi-level experiment, a 10 to 15 page paper on the student designed experiment, and an 8 page essay final exam.

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short-term classes.

Outside assignments will vary depending on the experiment conducted in the lab and will include text reading, journal reading, library research involving journals, psychological abstracts, and electronic bibliographical databases. (12 to 18 hours per week)

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

Check all that apply:

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

This course may be offered as a distance learning course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes No

If yes, check all that apply.

- Television Course (Video one-way, e.g. ITV, video cassette, etc.)
- Online Course (Text one-way, e.g. newspaper, correspondence, electronic file, etc.)
- Two-Way Video Conferencing (Two-way interactive video and audio)
- One-Way Video Conferencing (One-way interactive video and two-way interactive audio)
- Computer Assisted Instruction (A specialized form of mediated instruction relying primarily on student access to information and prepared lessons or teaching materials through a computer terminal, but not under immediate supervision of a qualified instructor.)

GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

Because the students' progress in meeting the objectives of the course can be accurately determined by evaluating their performance on the papers and the final exam, grades for this class will be based on the four papers and the final exam. The bi-level paper will be worth 10%, the multi-level paper will be worth 15%, the factorial paper will be worth 20%, the student paper will be worth 20%; and the final exam will be worth 35% of the student's grade.

The grading scale is:

- 90% = A;
- 80% = B;
- 70% = C;
- 60% = D;
- 50 or below = F

IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?

Yes No Number of times course may be taken for credit: 1

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s), 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

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SIGNATURES:

SIGNATURES ON FILE