

Psychology 365: Research (Part I)

3 credits

Fall 2009 (MWF 11:00 – 11:50)

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Required Texts and Materials:

1. Orcher, L.T. (2005). *Conducting Research: Social and Behavioral Science Methods*. Los Angeles, CA: Pyrczak Publishing.
2. American Psychological Association (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th Ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
3. A variety of materials will be needed during the semester, including but not necessarily limited to: computer disks, poster board, and double-sided tape. All of these materials will be used in putting together different aspects of your project. You will be informed when materials are needed for class.

Recommended Resources:

1. Rosnow, R., & Rosnow, M. (2009). *Writing Papers in Psychology* (8th edition). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth Publishing.
2. All of your textbooks, handouts, and notes from PSY 211 (Experimental Methods) and PSY 212 (Statistical Methods) courses or equivalent.
3. Several internet sites that provide specific examples of the 5th edition of the APA style:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html
<http://www.uwsp.edu/psych/apa4b.htm>

Description: Provides the student with an opportunity to initiate and complete a research project and to discuss current research relevant to the interest of class members. Students will present their research results at an undergraduate psychology conference at the end of the second semester. Students must successfully complete (i.e., achieve a grade of C or better) this course to receive credit for the psychology major and to continue on to PSY 366.

Pre-requisites: A grade of C or better in PSY 211-212, and junior standing.

Course Objectives: Together, Psychology 365 and 366 are designed to allow the psychology senior to demonstrate and apply their knowledge in one or more content areas of psychology, as well as in research methods and use of statistics. To this end, each student will design and conduct a novel empirical investigation, analyze the data, and present her findings in written and oral formats. In order to successfully complete this course, each student must demonstrate the following course outcomes:

- critical and creative thinking
- advanced literature search technique using paper and electronic sources
- ability to conduct methodologically and ethically appropriate research
- professional-quality writing skills and demonstration of the APA writing style
- enhanced public-speaking/presentation skills

Teaching Format: This course will make use of some lecture, discussion of progress and research issues, and in and out of class assignments that all lead to the completion of a research proposal. Most of the work will need to be completed outside of class with guidance from the instructor.

Attendance: Given the nature of this class, we will not be meeting every scheduled class time. During times designated as “*working time*” you will not be expected to meet in the classroom. Instead, you should use the time wisely by working in the computer lab, library, etc. or meeting with me to discuss your research project. You will be expected to maintain a high level of motivation and productivity, working independently on your project. However, I will be available in my office much of the time, and you should consider me as a resource. For those days not designated as “*working time*”, we will meet together as a class; attendance **will** be taken, and you are responsible for all assignments and material that is covered. Attendance and timeliness, as well as active participation in class will be considered when computing final grades. We will cover a great deal of information over the course of the semester, and adhering to the timeline on the syllabus will ensure completion of your proposal. You will be required to establish a regular meeting time with your instructor for individual consultations. It is expected that you will show up for meetings on time and prepared. Failure to meet (without advanced notice), chronic lateness, and inadequate preparation will result in a grade penalty of a 5-point deduction (from total course points) for each violation.

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism and Cheating: All Cedar Crest College students are expected to be familiar with and fully supportive of the college’s policy regarding the honor code and academic integrity (e.g., cheating on tests, copying other students’ work, plagiarism). These rules apply to the completion of any type of homework, feedback on homework progress, and completion of exams. Any violation will be officially reported to the Provost’s Office for inclusion in the student’s record and will have the appropriate penalties applied.

Classroom Environment: Appropriate classroom behavior is expected and should be free from distraction (e.g., late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversation, cell phone use). Use of computers at times and in manners other than those authorized (e.g., checking e-mail, playing games, web surfing, using printers) is very distracting to others and will NOT be tolerated. Care must be taken to protect the rights of all students and faculty to enjoy a courteous, respectful classroom environment. See CCC’s Student Guide for more information regarding the enforcement of these policies.

Disabilities: Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with me during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center. According to college policy, documentation must be provided to me before accommodations will be made.

The Research Project: During the fall semester, you will be expected to develop, write, and present a full psychology-related research proposal in APA style and format. This project requires you to: select a topic, complete a literature search of that topic, summarize the literature in what will become the Introduction of your research paper, develop a testable hypothesis relating to the topic of interest, design a study to test that hypothesis, write a Method section detailing that study, propose statistical analyses for evaluating the data, complete an IRB form to get approval for the ethical collection of data for your study, compile a reference list, and complete a poster (using Power Point) to present your proposal. As we go through the semester, you will be guided with direct expectations for each assignment.

Grading: The culmination of this semester’s work is the final research proposal. All assignments, including drafts of each section of the proposal, are due during class time on the date specified below. **Assignments or drafts that are not turned in on the due date during class time will result in a deduction of 10 points for each day the assignment is late.** Draft sections of the research proposal will be graded to provide you with ongoing feedback. The final research proposal, due at the end of the semester, will be graded using the “Criteria for Evaluation of Research Proposal” sheet that is attached. The poster presentation given at the end of the semester will be graded using the “Criteria for the Poster Presentation” sheet that is also attached.

Your grade for the course will be assigned on the basis of the percentage of points you earn this semester, across all assignments, with a maximum of 680 points available:

Draft Reference List	50
Draft Method (including Design and Measures)	50
Draft Introduction	50
IRB Submission & Approval	50
Draft Analyses Section	50
Draft Abstract	50
Draft Poster Presentation	50
Final Poster Presentation	100
Final Full Research Proposal	230
<i>Total Available:</i>	<i>680 pts.</i>

(Reminder: Any points lost as a result of missed due dates or attendance violations will be deducted.)

A	93.0-100%	B-	80.0-83.3%	D+	67.0-69.9%
A-	90.0-92.9%	C+	76.7-79.9%	D	60.0-66.9%
B+	86.7-89.9%	C	73.0-76.6%	F	below 60%
B	83.4-86.6%	C-	70.0-72.9%		

Note: You must get a grade of C or better in this course to have the course count for the Psychology major or minor.

The following is a schedule of the topics to be covered on approximate dates.

Date	Material to be Discussed	Chapter(s) in Book	Assignment Due
8/24 M	Introduction & Class Requirements		
8/26 W	Selecting Tentative Topics Locating Literature	1 & 2	
8/28 F	Library field trip for lit searching		
8/31 M	Writing Research Hypotheses APA style references	4	
9/2 W	Evaluating Research Literature & Preparing a Literature Review	3	Topic Paragraph: Type-written paragraph outlining area of research and projected problem statement and hypothesis
9/4 F	<i>working time</i>		
9/7 M	Labor Day—No Class		
9/9 W	Developing a Coherent and Organized Essay APA Style, Mechanics, and Language		Preliminary Library Search: Title and citation for at least 25 relevant, current articles
9/11 F	<i>working time</i>		
9/14 M	<i>working time</i>		
9/16 W	Using an Outline Avoiding Plagiarism		Literature Search Progress: Submit type-written summary of two articles
9/18 F	<i>working time</i>		
9/21 M	<i>working time</i>		
9/23 W	Selecting a Research Approach or Method Participant Selection	5 6, 11 & 12	Outline of Introduction Draft Reference List: Submit completed APA-format reference page(s)
9/25 F	<i>working time</i>		
9/28 M	Instrumentation and Materials (Demographics, Surveys, etc.) Reliability and Validity	7, 13, 14 & 15	
9/30 W	<i>working time</i>		
10/2 F	<i>working time</i>		
10/5 M	Planning for Data Analysis	8 & 9, 16-19	Draft Method section (including Hypotheses, Research Design and Materials)
10/7 W	<i>working time</i>		
10/9 F	<i>working time</i>		
10/12 M	Fall Break—No Class		
10/14 W	Ethical Issues and IRB		Draft Introduction Section (including title page and hypothesis)
10/16 F	<i>working time</i>		

10/19 M	<i>working time</i>		
10/21 W	<i>working time</i>		Draft of IRB Proposal
10/23 F	<i>working time (Inauguration activities)</i>		
10/26 M	Procedures Threats to Validity	20-22	
10/28 W	<i>working time</i>		
10/30 F	Preparing Other Major Components of Proposal and Timeline Research Paper Revisions IRB Revisions	10	
11/2 M	<i>working time</i>		
11/4 W	<i>working time</i>		Final IRB Submission
11/6 F	<i>working time</i>		
11/9 M	Preparing Posters with PowerPoint		Draft of Analyses Section Draft of Abstract Resubmit Title Page, Introduction, Method, and Reference page(s) (optional)
11/11 W	<i>working time</i>		
11/13 F	<i>working time</i>		
11/16 M	<i>working time</i>		
11/18 W	Peer Review of Poster Drafts		Draft of Poster Presentation (and copies)
11/20 F	<i>working time</i>		
11/23 M	<i>working time</i>		
11/25 W, 11/27 F	Thanksgiving Break—No Class		
11/30 M	<i>working time</i>		
12/2 W	Poster Presentations		Poster Presentation
12/4 F	Poster Presentations		Poster Presentation
12/7 M	Poster Presentations		Poster Presentation
12/8 T (Friday)	Wrap-up		Final Full Research Proposal