

## Psychology 410, FALL 2009

Professor: Barbara A. McDonald, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: **By Appointment.**

Office: LS 24K

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**Blackboard will be used for all assignments, data sets, lecture information and announcements**

**Texts:** Myers, A. & Hansen, C. Experimental Psychology, Sixth Edition  
APA, Publication Manual, Sixth Edition

### Areas in which you may expect to gain competence:

A general overview of the field of experimental psychology  
Searching the literature, reading research reports critically  
Writing a clear, concise report in APA style  
Using basic Analysis of Variance models correctly  
Presenting research orally in a clear, precise manner  
Presenting a Poster in a professional manner

### Summary of Work Required:

APA style written presentations of in class experiments  
Almost daily quizzes and tests  
Analyses of data  
Final exam  
Final project done with a small group  
Final Paper written individually

### Point Distribution:

Tests		Papers		Final Project	
Quizzes 10@20	200	Abstract	20	Proposal	20
Mini-Exam	40	Exp I	50	Execution	50
Final Exam	200	Exp II	100	Oral/Poster	40
		Exp III	100	Individual Paper	150

### Grading:

Your grades will be based on your percentage of 970 total points. The description of precisely how many points will be assigned to each aspect of your performance is listed above. The A range is usually 90 to 100 with 90 or 91 receiving an A-. The B range is usually 80-89 with 88 and 89 receiving a B+ and 80 and 81 a B-. Other grades can be extrapolated from the above.

### Warning:

You must have had Psychology 211 and 270, 271. You must have received at least a "B" in these courses.

## **Communicating with me**

**Office Hours: by appointment.** But you will see me a lot during class and probably won't need (or want) special meetings. My email is [bamcdonald.psych@gmail.com](mailto:bamcdonald.psych@gmail.com). Please note the day(s) I will miss class due to the faculty furlough.

## **Important Information about the Impact of the State-Mandated Faculty and Staff Furlough at SDSU**

The devastating California state budget cuts prohibit faculty and staff at SDSU from working on two days per month during the 2009/10 academic year.

The faculty furlough prohibits faculty members from teaching, being on campus, doing research, and consulting with students on two days per month. Faculty furlough days vary from faculty to faculty. The furlough days I will take on instructional days are the following: September 28, November 24 and 25. On those days, classes and office hours are cancelled and telephone and e-mail messages will not be answered. **The class days that affect you are Monday, September 28 and Wednesday, November 25.**

The **staff furlough** causes most University, College, and Department Offices to close on the following days : Sept 11, 18; Oct 2, 16; Nov 13, 25; Dec 21, 22, 23, 24.

## **Swine Flu**

If you have the flu, please stay home and take care of yourself. Symptoms of the flu include bad cold, elevated temperature, body aches and chills and general fatigue. We will have at least one swine flu make-up exercise. Contact me to let me know you are ill.

## **Course Requirements:**

This class has the reputation of being very time-consuming and difficult. This is true. It is also very important in helping you develop professional skills. If you spend the time and master the concepts (and it is certainly possible to do this) you will not only be proud of yourself but you will feel confident you can succeed in graduate school and the professional world.

**Tests:** You will have daily quizzes based on the reading that is indicated on the class schedule and the material that has been covered in class. There are 10 quizzes scheduled and you may drop the lowest score. In general, you cannot make up a quiz (except one to cover Swine Flu)! The mini-exam will cover everything that you should know at that point in the semester. It will give us a chance to make sure that every one is caught up to that point. The final will be comprehensive. It will give you a chance to show that you have learned how to take experimental data, interpret it and present it in APA style.

## **Papers:**

### SOME RULES ABOUT PAPERS.

1. Follow APA format and the guidelines given in class for writing these papers.

2. **Papers are due at the time class begins on the day they are due.** You must stay up with the class schedule, because it is almost impossible to catch up if you get behind. Late papers will lose 5 points and an additional 5 points for each class they are late. *Please don't miss class just because your paper isn't done, it will put you even further behind.*

3. Your analyses must be absolutely correct. If you turn in a paper and your analyses are not perfectly correct you will receive an F on the results portion of the report. You will have a week to redo the results and turn it back in for re-grading. The grade on that section of the paper will be one grade lower if you have to resubmit it.

4. When you include material from another source in one of your papers you must use quotation marks and/or citations to make the original source clear. Including material from another source without proper attribution is considered plagiarism. *Plagiarism is a major offense.*

### ASSIGNED PAPERS.

Abstract: An abstract is the last part of the paper to be written. You will be given an article without the abstract. Your task is to write one. Assume that you wrote the paper but do not just lift sentences from other parts of the paper.

Experiment I: We will do the experiment in class. A title page, an abstract, a method section, a results section, and a reference list are required.

Experiments II and III: We will plan and carry out these experiments as a class. A full report including title page, abstract, introduction, method, results, discussion, references, Figures and Tables is required.

Final Project: This experiment is designed by a small group of lab partners, usually 2-4. Each group, working in consultation with Dr. McDonald will conduct their own research project. Each student will be responsible for his/her own data analysis and written report. Together you will prepare a poster and a short oral report.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

8/31	Introduction, Scientific Method, IV's and DV's, Abstracts	M&H 1-2, Abstract assignment
9/2	Quiz 1 (M&H 1,2), Experiment 1, Descriptive statistics, Discuss writing	M&H 16, finish Abstract assignment, draft Method section, read the <i>Ethical Principles of psychologists and Code of Conduct</i> article, Literature Review exercise
9/7	<b>Labor Day – no class</b>	
9/9	Quiz 2 (M&H 16), Discuss significance testing Review Method section, Abstract due	M&H 5&6, analyze data, revise Method
9/14	Quiz 3 (M&H 5,6), Computer Lab, Discuss significance testing and results of analyses, Discuss Experiment II	M&H 7, Review Appendix F as needed; draft Results and Abstract
9/16	Quiz 4 (M&H 7), Visit library (3-4pm Room 76, Basement of Library), <b>Experiment I due</b>	M&H 8, Review Appendix F as needed; Conduct literature review for experiment II
9/21	Quiz 5 (M&H 8), Draft introduction for Experiment II	M&H 9, Exp II revise introduction
9/23	Conduct Experiment II Discuss types of experiments and experimental designs	Review APA Manual, draft Introduction and Method, calculate descriptive statistics
9/28	<b>Furlough Day, No Class</b> <b>Work on your own</b> <b>Quiz will be next class</b>	M&H 14, review M&H 16, rewrite Introduction and Method, analyze data, draft results
9/30	Quiz 6 (M&H 14), Discuss types of ANOVAS, Discuss Exp II, Extra Credit Worksheet (ECW) 1	M&H 15, draft discussion, ECW 1
10/5	<b>Mini-Exam</b> (M&H 15, review everything), Review Discussion, Discuss quasi-experiments, Discuss Exp III,	M&H 10, rewrite Experiment II
10/6	Quiz 7 (M&H 10), Discuss specific comparisons, <b>Experiment II due</b> , Plan Experiment III, ECW 2	M&H 4, Lit search, draft Intro Exp III, prepare for Exp III

10/12	Quiz 8 (M&H 4), Run Experiment III, <u>ECW 1 due</u>	M&H 11, Experiment III, ECW 2
10/14	Quiz 9 (M&H 11), Discuss Exp III,	M&J 13, analyze data, draft Method,
10/19	Quiz 10 (M&H 13), Discuss Exp III, Discuss Interpretation and graphs <u>ECW 2 due</u> ,	Appendix A draft Results & Discussion Study for final
10/21	<b>FINAL</b>	Rewrite Exp III
10/26	<b>Experiment III due</b> , Discuss final projects	Find a group and generate ideas
10.28	Form groups for final projects, Discuss final	Meet in groups, find references
11/2	Meet with group members and review references and decide on topic	Work on project design and literature review.
11/4	Meet with Dr. McDonald for final approval of topic	
11/9 – 11/11	Groups continue to meet with Dr. McDonald, run subjects	Write final paper, prepare final presentations
11/16	<b>Proposal due</b>	
11/23	Work on poster presentation	Design poster presentation
11/25	<b>Furlough Day – No Class</b> <b>Happy Thanksgiving on Thursday!</b>	
11/30 – 12/2	Groups continue to meet with Dr. McDonald, run subjects	Continue writing final paper, prepare final presentations
12/7	<b>Poster and Oral Presentations</b>	
12/9	<b>Final Paper due at 12:30 PM</b>	