San José State University
Department of Psychology
PSYC 120, Advanced Research Methods and Design,
Sections 10, 20
Spring, 2012

Instructor: Dr. Mike Dillinger
Office Location: Dudley Moorhead Hall, DMH 230
Telephone: (408) 924-5615 [only during office hours]
Email: Mike.Dillinger@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 3:30 - 4:30
Class Days/Time: Section 10 (Tuesdays); Section 20 (Thursdays)
Lecture: 4:30 - 7:15 PM in DMH 347
Lab: 7:30 - 9:20 PM in DMH 339
Classroom: Lecture: DMH 347; Lab: DMH 339
Prerequisites: Psyc 1, Stat 95, and especially Psyc 100W.
These courses are pre-requisites, not co-requisites.

Course Description

[From the Course Catalog] Traditional laboratory experimental designs and methodology; experiments illustrating this approach.

How do the “hard” sciences work? Why should we (or shouldn’t we) do experimental research in psychology? What are the parts of an experiment? What are the best ways to plan, execute, and report experimental research?
This course is an intensive, hands-on introduction to the basic experimental tools used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will develop an understanding of the principles and procedures involved in scientific research in psychology, in particular, a firm grasp of the logic and application of experimental methods.
Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, …

- Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.
- Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.
- Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Required Texts/Readings
Textbook
You are not required to buy a textbook for this course. However, you are required to read the course materials! The materials for each topic are on the course web site: http://www.mikedillinger.com/joomla
I also suggest that you own a book on research methods, especially if you intend to go on to graduate school. I particularly like this one:


Other equipment / material requirements
> You may want to purchase a lab coat to look like a scientist, although it’s not required :-)
> You will also need easy access to a computer with word-processing (MS Word), email, spreadsheet, and internet browsing applications. You will also need Adobe Acrobat Reader for reading class materials.
> I strongly recommend that you bring your laptop and/or a USB drive to class with all of your research materials.
> Make a wiki to collaborate more effectively with your partner. Ask about this in class!
Library Liaison

- Bernd Becker, Psychology Librarian -
  Bernd.Becker@sjsu.edu
- Bernd can answer your questions about how best to use the library’s resources.
  Note: He’s VERY helpful! Make an appointment with him soon!

Classroom Protocol

1. This is a hands-on, advanced course, which means that you must take charge of your work and your schedule. In this course, you will plan, execute, and report your own experiment with a partner and your experiment will be the focus of the whole semester. You will also study other experiments and the principles that underlie their design and execution (in lecture).

2. Lectures will focus on giving you the information you need to make methodological decisions for your experiment. Labs will be hands-on sessions developing the details of your experiment with my supervision.

3. Effective time management is essential: if you do not follow the schedule and get your assignments in on time, you will feel overwhelmed with the things that you have to do to catch up. Something important will be due each week, so PLAN AHEAD and budget plenty of extra time: the first time you do something, it always takes much longer than expected. Do not miss lectures or labs: it will be doubly difficult for you to catch up.

4. This is a very intensive course for most students, so I recommend that you take it only when you have a lighter-than-usual course/work/family load.

5. The course has been organized into several Tasks, each of which focuses on a different part of the research process. For each Task, I’ll post a package of materials (on the web site) about what has to be done, for when, how to do it, and background information about that part of research.

6. For each Task, you’ll have one or more assignments to hand in as part of your grade. You have to hand in each assignment TWICE: first in a draft version, then in a “working” version. The important thing about a draft version is that it has to be COMPLETE: you need to have at least tried to do all of the parts of the assignment. This is so that you will be prepared to ask and understand any questions that come up for discussion. The working version is what you get graded on for each Task, and it is the version that you will continue to revise as your research progresses and before it gets integrated into your final paper.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page located at
The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Your grade in this course depends on two factors: your assignments during the semester (they should be complete and on time) and your final research paper (we will discuss evaluation criteria in detail).

See more about grading here: Heads-up about your Final Grade.

NOTE that time management has consistently been students’ biggest problems in this course. Stick to the schedule as closely as possible. Work ahead whenever possible.

Your assignments have to be both complete and approved or submitted by the beginning of the lab class when they are due. You will not receive credit for late or incomplete assignments. I will provide details about each assignment in class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Problem &amp; bibliography approved on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Lit Review approved on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Methods Section approved on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Data collection materials approved on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Data collection completed on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Results section completed on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Discussion section completed on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>PowerPoint Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Full Research Paper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Final Exam is required but does not contribute to your grade. It will cover the basic principles of experimental design and execution.

>> Extra Credit

- You can get up to 10 additional points of extra credit if:
- you request it, and
- the writing in the literature review of your final Research Paper is not only complete but also visibly better than the draft versions.
University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University’s Academic Integrity policy, located at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/ to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.
Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. The Center's tutors are trained and nationally certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). They provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring are available. Please visit the LARC website for more information at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/.

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop-in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/

Student Success and Wellness

Attending to your wellness is critical to your success at SJSU. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the workshops and programs offered through various Student Affairs Departments on campus such as Counseling Services, the SJSU Student Health Center/Wellness & Health Promotion Dept., and Career Center. See http://www.sjsu.edu/wellness or http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling/Workshops/ for workshop/events schedule and links to many other services on campus that support your wellness! You may go to http://events.sjsu.edu to register for any one of the workshops.
Psyc 120 / Advanced Research Methods and Design, Spring, 2012, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change. It is your responsibility to monitor changes to the version of this schedule on the class website.

Table 1 Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Week starting Jan 23</td>
<td>First Day of Class (Tuesday section)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>30-Jan</td>
<td>First Day of Class (Thursday section)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6-Feb</td>
<td>Detailed Lit Review Outline due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>13-Feb</td>
<td>Draft Lit Review due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>Draft Methods due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>21-Feb</td>
<td>Final Methods due: Be ready to collect data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5-Mar</td>
<td>Final Lit Review due / Collect your data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>12-Mar</td>
<td>Draft Data due / Collect your data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>19-Mar</td>
<td>Final Data due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>26-Mar</td>
<td>Draft Results due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2-Apr</td>
<td>Final Results due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>9-Apr</td>
<td>I'll be away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>16-Apr</td>
<td>… but you have lots to do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>23-Apr</td>
<td>Draft Discussion due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>30-Apr</td>
<td>Full Drafts &amp; Slides due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>7-May</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>17-May</td>
<td>5:15 - 7:30 PM; Final Exam; Final Paper due; Thursday Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>22-May</td>
<td>5:15 - 7:30 PM; Final Exam; Final Paper due; Tuesday Section</td>
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