

Psychology 397 – Section 1 : Research Methods in Personality and Clinical Psychology
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:30:-12:20pm
Fall 2010

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30:-1:30pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistant:

Stephanie Waechter, M.A.

Office: PAS 3214

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:00 pm or by appointment

Course Time & Location:

Tuesdays & Thursday 10:30 – 12:20 pm

PAS 3026

Required Text:

Kazdin, A.E. Research Design in Clinical Psychology, 4th edition. Toronto: Allyn & Bacon.

This required textbook is available for purchase at the campus bookstore.

Course Content:

This course is about the research methods used in the scientific study of personality and abnormal psychology (psychopathology). Within the course we will be covering theory, methods, and applications through a combination of didactic and experiential learning. You will have opportunities to demonstrate your command of the materials through in-class discussions, a research project, a written critique, and two midterm quizzes.

Learning Objectives:

1. To come to a better understanding of strengths and weaknesses of various research designs
2. To develop critical-thinking skills through readings, in-class activities, and written assignments
3. To demonstrate understanding of clinical research methods in a written research proposal

Course Format and Structure:

Weekly reading assignments will review basics in research methods, provide a framework for understanding current directions and controversies in the field, as well as the methodological approaches used to address these questions. Assigned readings come from both the textbook and the research literature. Assigned papers will be available online at the ACE course website. Please be sure to read the assigned papers and textbook chapters prior to attending class. Class time will initially be lecture-based, with small group activities and in-class discussions being introduced after basic concepts are taught.

Please do not e-mail TA directly unless your question is private or personal in nature.

There is a “**Discussion Forum**” on the course website in UW-ACE where your TA will respond publicly to all course-related questions that are posted.

It is your responsibility to check the "Announcements" page and previous posts in the discussion forum before posting a question, as your question may have already been addressed in the forum.

Learning Contract:

1. Everyone has the *right to learn* and the *responsibility* not to deprive others of their right to learn
2. Every student is accountable for his or her own actions
3. In order for you to get the most out of this class, please consider the following:
 - Attend all scheduled classes and arrive on time
 - Late arrivals and early departures are very disruptive
 - Please let the instructor know immediately if you have a problem that is preventing you from performing satisfactorily in this class.

Evaluation:

Your grade for the course will be based on the following:

1. **Two In-class Quizzes** - both non-cumulative and entirely multiple choice – will be administered during class time. Each quiz is worth 15% of your final grade.

Quiz 1 - **Thursday, October 7, 2010 (15%)**
Quiz 2 - **Thursday, November 4, 2010 (15%)**

2. **Research Proposal (40 %)** – The purpose of this paper is to allow you the opportunity to design a clinical/personality research study on a topic of your choosing. The expectation is that you will utilize the material you learned in class to design a study that addresses your research question. You are required to submit a summary of your theory/hypothesis early in the semester, which will count toward 5 % of your final grade. You will receive feedback from the teaching assistant, which you are expected to incorporate into your study design. You are also provided with the opportunity to submit the method section and results/discussion sections by the dates specified below. You will not be graded on these submissions but will receive feedback from the T.A. so that you can improve the paper before you submit your final draft. The final paper should be 8-12 pages long double-spaced (plus references and relevant figures). The Final Research Proposal is worth 35 %. Further instructions on the expected format and content of each section will be provided in future classes.

Theory/hypothesis - **Thursday October 14 (5 %)**
Method section (optional) - Thursday, October 28 (no mark; for feedback only)
Results/discussion (optional) - Thursday, November 11 (no mark; for feedback only)
Final Research Proposal - **Thursday, December 9 (35 %)**

3. **Critique (20 %)** – Drawing upon your knowledge of clinical research methods, you will evaluate the methodological strengths and weaknesses of a published research article. You will be provided with a list of possible articles to critique. You are expected to draw on relevant course material in writing this critique. The critique should be approximately 3-5 pages (double spaced) in length. Further instruction will be provided on the formatting and expected content of the critique in future lectures.
4. **Participation (10 %)** – You are expected to come prepared by doing the readings in advance so that you can participate in class activities and discussions.

Important - please note the following student responsibilities:

1. If you cannot write one of the midterm quizzes because of compelling medical, religious, or compassionate reasons, and you require a makeup test date, you must contact the instructor directly prior to the date of the quiz.
2. Students who are requesting accommodation for course requirements (midterm tests, final exams, etc.) due to illness should do the following:
 - Seek medical treatment as soon as possible and obtain a completed UW Verification of Illness Form: http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html
 - Submit that form to the instructor within 48 hours.
 - Preferably inform the instructor by the due date for the course requirement that you will be unable to meet the deadline and that documentation will be forthcoming.

In the case of a missed final exam, the instructor and student will negotiate an extension for the final exam which will typically be written as soon as possible, but no later than the next offering of the course. In the case of a missed midterm test, the instructor will either a) waive the course component and re-weight remaining term work as he/she deems fit according to circumstances and the goals of the course, or b) provide an extension. In the case of bereavement, the instructor will provide similar accommodations to those for illness. Appropriate documentation to support the request will be required.

5. Make-up tests will not be considered in the absence of a documented medical, religious or compassionate (i.e. family emergency) reason, submitted within one week following the due date, with no exceptions. The instructor maintains full discretion in assessing whether reasons qualify as compassionate or not. Please note that make-up tests may be in essay format rather than multiple choice format.
6. It is the student's responsibility to check the UW-ACE website and email regularly for important or time-sensitive messages. Students should use their UW accounts for all email correspondence to UW personnel for reasons such as identification, reliability and security. If an alternate account is used, change your email address on QUEST to the one that you want posted on the University Directory, or activate your UW account and forward your email from your UW account to your alternate email address.
7. In the event that minor revisions are made to the Course Outline after hard copies have been printed but prior to the first class, the official Course Outline will be the one posted on UW-ACE. If any revisions are made, an announcement will be posted on UW-ACE to this effect.

Students who are experiencing extenuating circumstances should also inform their academic advisors regarding their personal difficulties.

Cross-listed courses

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL./PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Concerns About the Course or Instructor (Informal Stage)

We in the Psychology Department take great pride in the high quality of our program and our instructors. Though infrequent, we know that students occasionally find themselves in situations of conflict with their instructors over course policies or grade assessments. If such a conflict arises, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs (Dr.

Colin Ellard) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor. Dr. Ellard's contact information is as follows:

Email: cellard@uwaterloo.ca
Ph 519-888- 4567 ext 36852

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. See Policy 70 and 71 below for further details.

Academic Integrity, Academic Offenses, Grievance, and Appeals

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/> for more information.]

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>], to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about 'rules' for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm) - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm) - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read [Policy 72](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm) - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Note for students with disabilities:

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Document Storage: Graded final papers as well as unclaimed graded quizzes for this course will be kept in storage in the Psychology Department for a maximum of 16 months after the final grades have been submitted to the Registrar's Office. After that time, these documents will be destroyed in compliance with UW's confidential shredding procedures.

Outline of Dates and Topics:

Date (Week of)	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Sept 16	Welcome! An Introduction to the Course and Review of the Class Syllabus Drawing Valid Inferences I: Internal and External Validity	Chapter 1 - optional Chapter 2	
Sept 23	Drawing Valid Inferences I – cont'd Drawing Valid Inferences II: Construct and Statistical Conclusion Validity	Chapter 2 & 3	
Sept 30	Sources of Artifact and Bias Research Proposal Assignment Explained	Chapter 4	
Oct. 7	Selection of the Research Problem and Design Experimental Research: Group Designs	Chapter 5 Chapter 6	Quiz # 1 (15 %) – lecture content and chapters 1-4
Oct. 14	Control and Comparison Groups	Chapter 7	Theory/hypothesis section of research proposal due (5 %)
Oct. 21	Observational Research: Case-Control and Cohort Designs	Chapter 9	Last date to submit Method section for feedback
Oct. 28	Assessment and Evaluation of Interventions	Chapter 14	
Nov. 4	Writing Clinic Assessment Methods and Strategies	Chapter 13	Quiz # 2 (15 %) – lecture content and chapters 5-7, 9, & 14
Nov. 11	Statistical Methods of Data Evaluation Critique Explained and Article Assigned	Chapter 15 Chapter 16 - optional	Last date to submit Results/Discussion section for feedback
Nov. 18	In-class activity (more details to come) Real-World Research Designs		
Nov. 25	Qualitative Research Case Study Research	Chapter 12 Chapter 10	Critique due (20 %)
Dec. 2	To Be Announced		
Dec. 9	No Class		Final Paper Due (35 %)