

**Syllabus for Psychology 397  
Research Methods in (Personality and) Clinical Psychology  
Fall 2006**

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Wed. 9-10 or by appointment

Class Time and Location: Thursday 2:30-5:20, PAS 4288

Course Objectives:

This course is about the research methods used in the scientific study of personality and abnormal psychology (psychopathology). Beginning with a brief consideration of various perspectives on philosophy of science, we will quickly move to the variety of research methods used to test hypotheses about (or simply to describe) personality and abnormal behaviour.

Course Structure:

Weekly reading assignments will provide background information (usually an overview) that I will use as a starting point for a lecture. Please be sure to read the assigned papers prior to attending class. Class time will be divided roughly in half, with the first part of class time devoted to a lecture, and the second part either to a second lecture or (more commonly) to student presentations.

Evaluation:

Your grade in this course will be based on the following:

1. Review Exam: A review exam based on material presented in Psychology 291 and 292, the prerequisites for this course. This exam will be worth 10% of your final grade.
2. Personality Paper: A review paper that provides a précis of a theory of personality or abnormal psychology. The paper is to be based on a primary source (or in rare exceptions multiple sources). The first part of the paper will provide a brief synopsis of the theory (10 pages). The second part of the paper will be an application of the theory to your life. Point out where the theory fits and doesn't fit (6 pages). This paper will be worth 30% of course grade, and will be due on October 12, 2006. The penalty for late submissions is 5% per day. Please consult with the TA or myself regarding the topic and source material for your paper.
3. Research Proposal: Develop a research proposal to test some aspect of the theory that you discussed in your previous paper. Provide a brief overview of the theory (2 pages), likely condensed from your previous paper. Review relevant background research briefly (2 pages). Explain how your proposed research will test some aspect of the theory. Explain the design of your study and how you will analyze the data. Make clear hypotheses and predictions on the basis of the theory (2 pages). Please hand in 4 copies of your research proposal. Do not include your name, just your super-secret code number (to be assigned later). This paper will be worth 20% of course grade and will be due Nov. 2, 2006. The penalty for late submissions is 5% per day.
4. Peer Review: You will each receive 3 research proposals to review. More specific instructions on writing a review will be presented during the term. Each review will be 2 or 3 pages in length and will be due on Nov. 16, 2006. Late reviews will not be accepted. Submit 2 copies of each of your reviews, each one clearly identifying the proposal reviewed, and each one using your super-secret code number to identify you. Each review will be worth 5% of final course grade for a total of 15%.

5. Final Paper: Revise your proposal on the basis of your peer review. Provide a cover letter identifying each of the reviewer comments and indicating how you dealt with each comment, criticism, or suggestion for modification. If you did not make a suggested change, defend your decision. Include your original draft and copies of the reviews when you submit your final paper. The final paper will be worth 10% of final grade and will be due Dec. 8, 2006.
6. In-class Presentation: Each of you will give a 10-minute talk to the class, providing a synopsis either of the personality theory you read about for your first paper, or a presentation based on your research proposal (your choice). The time limit will be strictly enforced (like at a conference). These presentations will be arranged early in the term and will be “due” throughout the term. The presentation will be graded by peer review as well as by the TA and I. The presentation itself will be worth 5% of final course grade. Your reviews of the presentations of others will be worth a total of 10% of final course grade.

Below is a quick summary of the course. Note that the order of presentations and lectures will sometimes be reversed (e.g. on Sept. 26, the exam will precede the lecture).

Week	Date	Readings	Lecture	Lab / Presentation
1	Sep. 12	none	Introduction to the course.	none
2	Sep. 19	Review 291 and 292 notes and text.	Review of 292, basic stats	
3	Sep. 26	Bunge (1993) Rychlak Ch. 3	Philosophy of Science	<b>Exam – Review of 292</b>
4	Oct. 5	To be announced.	Philosophy of Science for Personality	Multiple Regression
5	Oct. 12	Revelle (1995)	Personality Assessment I	Path Analysis <b>Personality Paper Due</b>
6	Oct. 19	Butcher & Rouse (1996) Garb et al (2005)	Personality Assessment II	1,2,3,4,5
7	Oct. 26	To be announced.	Personality Theory	6,7,8,9,10
8	Nov. 2	Sher & Trull (1996)	Assessment of Psychopathology	Writing a Review <b>Research Proposal Due</b>
9	Nov. 9	Kopta et al. (1999)	Psychotherapy Research	11,12,13,14,15
10	Nov. 16	To be announced.	Pharmaceutical Research	Classical Measurement Theory <b>Peer Reviews Due</b>
11	Nov. 23	To be announced.	Advanced Methods & Stats I	16,17,18,19,20
12	Nov. 30	To be announced.	Advanced Methods & Stats II	21,22,23,24,25

### 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.

### A Few Other Notes

All students should activate their UW computer accounts each term. The accounts give students access to applications such as word processing, statistical and graphics packages, and electronic email as well as access to the Internet. For those who are not planning to use their UW email addresses, please do one of the following things:

- change your email address on QUEST to the one that you want posted on the University Directory, or
- on the UW account, arrange for the email from your UW account to be forwarded to your alternate email address.

Psychology majors should check the Psychology Undergraduate Web Site (<http://www.psychology.uwaterloo.ca/ugradprog/>) regularly for updates (e.g., psychology course offerings for F/W/S, volunteer and/or part-time paid research positions, application deadlines for scholarships, etc.)

Note on avoidance of academic offences: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>). If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA or course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean. Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.

For more information on categories of academic offenses, most notably plagiarism, see “Avoiding Academic Offences” ([http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)).

**Final Note:** This syllabus may be modified slightly as the term progresses. In particular, office hours will need to be selected and may need to change. *If there is a discrepancy between a hard copy syllabus and the outline posted on ACE, the outline on ACE will be deemed the official version.*