

Syllabus for Psychology 397 – Section 1
Research Methods in Personality and Clinical Psychology
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-12:20, PAS 3026
Fall 2009

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Office Hours: Fridays 9:30 – 10:30 am

Course Objectives:

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, quizzes and a midterm test.

Course 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, and 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 be divided roughly in half, with the first part of the course devoted primarily to lectures, and the second part either to lecture-related research demonstrations or sessions in the computer lab.

Textbook:

Kline, Rex B. (2009). *Becoming a behavioral science researcher: A guide to producing research that matters*. New York: Guilford Press.

Evaluation:

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

1. *Midterm:* A midterm test based on material in the course readings and presented in lecture between September 14 and October 22. The midterm will be worth 30% of your final grade.
2. *Research Activities:* During the first weeks of class, we will collect and analyze data across the two sections of this course. You will be required to complete a set of online questionnaire measures (worth 5% of your final mark) and a research paper outline with proposed references (worth 5% of your final mark) in the first half of the course. The data collected will be used as the basis for your *Research Paper* (described below).
3. *Research Paper:* The research paper will be formulated based on the results of the *Research Activities* (described above). The paper will be completed in two parts – a draft of the Introduction (worth 15% of your final grade) and a final paper consisting of Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion sections

(worth 25% of your final grade) that will be due in the second half of the term. You will receive a separate outline with the specific requirements and deadlines for the Research Paper in the second week of class. A general summary of the expectations for this paper is presented below.

You will provide a brief overview of a theory and review relevant background research (4-6 pages). You will explain how your proposed research will test some aspect of the theory; you will be expected to select a set of hypotheses from ones provided to you and make predictions on the basis of associated theories and/or past research (2 pages). This will be followed by an explanation of the design of the study and how the data was collected (4 pages). Once the data is collected, you will use portions of it (depending on your selected theory/topic) to write up the results section. The *Final Research Paper* will be due December 9, 2009. The penalty for late submissions is 5% per day.

Please consult with the TA or myself regarding the exact topic and source material for your paper.

Breakdown of Marks:

Midterm Test	30%
Chapters 2– 6, 9	
Multiple Choice (60% of test)	
Short Answer (40% of test)	
Research Paper	
Completion of questionnaires	5%
Outline and preliminary references	5%
Draft of Introduction	15%
Final Paper	25%
3 Quizzes (7% each)	20%

Below is a quick summary of the course.

Week	Date	Readings	Lecture	Assignments
1	Sep. 15 & 17	Kline (2009) Chapter 2 Feynman, R. (1986). Cargo cult science. <i>Surely you're joking. Mr. Feynman!</i> (pp. 338 – 346). New York: Bantam Books.	Introduction to the course Review of Basic Research Methodology and Critique of Research in Psychology	Completion of Online Measures (Due September 23, 2009)
2	Sep. 22 & 24	Kline (2009) Chapter 3	Research Trinity and Validity (KS)	Completion of Online Measures (Due September 23, 2009)
3	Sep. 29 & Oct. 1	Kline (2009) Chapter 4	September 29 th : Library Instructional Session PAS 1237 (Tim Ireland/KS) October 1 st : Research Design Process (KS)	
4	Oct. 6 & 8	Kline (2009) Chapter 5 October 8 – Jewish Holiday	The Truth About Statistics (KS) & Effect Sizes and Standard Errors I (JO)	Preliminary Outline with References (due Oct. 16/2009)
5	Oct. 13 & 15	Kline (2009) Chapter 6	Effect Sizes and Standard Errors II (JO)	Preliminary Outline with References (due Oct. 16/2009)

		Prentice, D.A. & Miller, D.T. (1992). When small effects are impressive. <i>Psychological Bulletin</i> , 112, 160-164.	In-Class Demonstration (generating data, etc.) (JO)	
6	Oct. 20 & 22	Wilson, E.O. (1998). Back from chaos. <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i> , 281 (3), 41-62. Kline (2009) Chapter 9	Philosophy of Science (JO) Rhetoric, Effective Writing and Marketing of Science (JO)	
7	Oct. 27 & Oct. 29		Tuesday: Midterm Review Thursday: MIDTERM	
8	Nov. 3 & 5	Kline (2009) Chapter 7	Writing Clinic (KS) Classical Test Theory and Measurement (JO)	Draft of Introduction (Due November 9, 2009)
9	Nov. 10 & 12	Quiz on Classical Test Theory	Applications of Measurement Theory, Personality and Psychopathology (KS)	Draft of Introduction (Due November 9, 2009)
10	Nov. 17 & 19	Quiz on Applications	Personality, Operationalization, Nomological Nets and Factor Analysis (JO)	
11	Nov. 24 & 26	Kline (2009) Chapter 8 Quiz on Nomological Nets and Factor Analysis	Data Analysis Workshop (KS)	Research Paper (Due December 9, 2009)
12	Dec. 1 & Dec. 3		Single-Case Designs, Writing Clinic for Results and Discussion, Course Concluding Comments (JO/KS)	Research Paper (Due December 9, 2009)
	Dec. 9	Research Paper is Due		

UW-ACE:

UW-ACE will be used on a regular basis for the course. In addition to the course outline, you will find lecture slides, assignments, and useful resources on the UW-ACE website. You are advised to check the [UW Home Page](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/) (<http://www.uwaterloo.ca/>) as well as UW-ACE for important announcements should an emergency arise.

E-Mail Communication:

The preferred methods of e-mail communication with your instructors and teaching assistants are:
(1) messages to e-mail addresses listed on the front of this course outline, or
(2) messages through the course account in UW-ACE.

It is your responsibility to check e-mail regularly for important and time sensitive messages. You should use your UW account for all e-mail correspondence to UW personnel for reasons such as identification,

reliability, and security. Note that higher priority may be given to e-mail received from UW accounts versus other accounts such as hotmail, yahoo, etc. See "[Official Student Email Address](#)" for further details:
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infocist/emailuse.html>

The Official Version of the Course Outline:

If there is a discrepancy between the hard copy outline (i.e., if students were provided with a hard copy at the first class) and the outline posted on ACE, the outline on ACE will be deemed the official version. Outlines on ACE may change as instructors develop a course, but they become final as of the first class meeting for the term.

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.

Accommodation due to Illness or Bereavement:

Students who are requesting accommodation for course requirements (assignments, 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 assignment deadline or 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.

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

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.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, 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 professor, 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 - 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 - 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 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

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.)