

# Research Methods

Spring, 2006

M,W,F 1:00-1:50

**Instructor:** Bret Roark, Ph.D.

**Office:** Owens 301

**Office hours:** MWF 3:00-4:30,Th 2-4

**Office phone:** 878-2214

## Textbooks

*(Required)*

McBurney, D. (2004). Research Methods 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole Publishing Company.

## Course Objectives

This course is designed to provide the student with knowledge about research methodology issues in psychology and to give the student experience in evaluating and conducting research. The specific objectives of the course are for the student to:

- have the skills necessary for interpreting and evaluating published research
- be able to design and conduct valid experimental research
- be able to write and present scientific papers in a professional manner
- develop an appreciation for scientific thinking

## Course Format

This course will be taught in a seminar format. Specifically, that means that students are responsible for reading the material before class. Students will come to class with questions over any material they did not understand, and will be prepared to explain material they did understand. The professor will provide guiding questions and activities to support the material.

## Absences

The nature and structure of the course requires regular attendance. Following University policy, if a student misses more than 25% of the scheduled classes, he or she will receive a failing grade for this course. Absences on the days of exams will result in a grade of zero being given for that exam unless the absence was due to extremely unusual circumstances. Only under such circumstances may a student take a make-up exam.

## Course Requirements and Grading System

There are five requirements in this course: Exams, Article Evaluations, Class Activities, Oral Presentations, and a Research Proposal.

- A. Exams - 60%:** There will be five exams in this course, each covering three or four chapters of your textbook. The exams are not comprehensive, but each exam assumes a working knowledge of the information covered in the previous exams.
- B. Research Proposal - 15%:** Students are required to select a research topic, review the literature on that topic, generate a research question and hypothesis, and design a study to test that hypothesis. A research proposal, in APA format, will be submitted at the end of the semester. It will include a title page, an abstract, an introduction and methods section, a planned analyses section, and a references section.
- C. Class Activities 5%:** Because the class is taught in a seminar format, class participation from each student is critical. Various class activities will be assigned throughout the semester. Some will be done in a single class period while others will be done over several class periods.
- D. Article Evaluations 10%:** Throughout the semester, article evaluations will be required. Each article evaluation will ideally be related to your research proposal. Guidelines for article evaluations and their due dates will be distributed in a separate document.
- E. Oral Presentations 10%:** Two oral presentations are required. The first is a 5 minute presentation of the research that leads to your proposal. This will occur prior to spring break. The second is a 10 minute presentation of your full research proposal and will occur at the end of the semester. Guidelines for oral presentations will be given in a separate document.

The grading scale for the course is as follows:

90%-100% = **A**      80%-89% = **B**      70%-79% = **C**      60%-69% = **D**      0%-59% = **F**

### COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

<b>January</b>	06 Chapter 12	12 Chapter 13
30 Chapter 1	<b>08 Presentations</b>	13 <b>SWPA</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>10 Presentations</b>	17 Appendix A
01 Chapter 1	<b>13 Spring Break</b>	19 Appendix A
03 Chapter 2	<b>15 Spring Break</b>	<b>21 Exam 4 (9, 13, App. A)</b>
06 Chapter 2	<b>17 Spring Break</b>	24 Chapter 4
08 Chapter 5	20 Chapter 14	26 Chapter 4
10 Chapter 5	22 Chapter 14	<b>28 Chapter 6</b>
<b>13 Exam 1 (1, 2, 5)</b>	<b>24 Chapter 14</b>	<b>May</b>
15 Chapter 7	27 Chapter 10	01 Chapter 6
17 Chapter 7	29 Chapter 10	03 Chapter 3
20 Chapter 8	31 Chapter 10	05 Chapter 3 ( <b>Proposal Due</b> )
22 Chapter 8	<b>April</b>	08 Chapter 15
24 Chapter 11	<b>03 Exam 3 (12, 14, 10)</b>	<b>10 Exam 5 (4, 6, 3, 15)</b>
27 Chapter 11	05 Chapter 9	<b>12 Presentations</b>
<b>March</b>	07 Chapter 9	<b>16 Presentations</b>
<b>01 Exam 2 (7, 8, 11)</b>	10 Chapter 13	<b>1:00 - 3:00</b>
03 Chapter 12		

## Course Legalities

A. Disabilities: Any student in this class who has a disability should contact Canaan Crane and the Student Services Center, G.C. 101, as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations.

B. Absences: Following University policy, if a student misses more than 25% of the scheduled classes, he or she will receive a failing grade for this course. Absences on the days of exams will result in a grade of zero being given for that exam unless the absence was due to extremely unusual circumstances. Only under such circumstances may a student take a make-up exam.

C. Make-up Exams: If a student has a legitimate reason for missing an exam, he or she may take a make-up exam within 7 calendar days of the regularly scheduled exam. The student must contact the professor to schedule the make-up exam. The student will be required to provide proof of the circumstances which necessitated missing the exam.

D. Grade Posting: Exam grades will be posted, with permission, on the bulletin board outside my office, Owens 301. Included with the exam grades will be the student's current assignment average. In this way, students may stay up-to-date concerning their grade in the course. Students may, at any time in the semester, request a printed grade report which reflects their grade for each assignment and exam.

**If you wish to have your grades posted, complete and turn in the form below.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give Dr. Bret Roark and Oklahoma Baptist University permission to publicly post my grades for any assignments and/or exams given in PSY 262 Research Methods. This permission applies to the final grade in this course as well. I understand that these grades will be posted in the hallway of Owens Hall, outside room 301 and may remain posted indefinitely. I give this consent with the understanding that I will be identified only by my OBU ID number (or alternate number) shown here \_\_\_\_\_.