

# Experimental Psychology

Fall, 2005

T Th 9:30 - 10:45

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

**Office:** Owens 301

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

**Office phone:** 878-2214

## **Textbooks**

None (You're welcome)

## **Course Goal**

Completing the requirements of this course will improve students' appreciation of psychological research and will improve their research skills.

## **Course Objectives**

By conducting an independent research project and group research projects, students will improve their understanding of the practical aspects of conducting research. Students also will improve their ability to analyze and interpret data, and their understanding of the various types of research including naturalistic observation, survey research, and field studies.

By writing and critiquing written research reports, students will improve their ability to communicate their research findings in APA publication form.

By presenting and critiquing oral research reports, student will improve their ability to communicate their research findings in conference settings.

By reading and critiquing published research, students will improve their understanding of validity issues in the design and methodology of research.

## **Course Requirements**

Students will be required to:

- Complete an independent research project including design, data collection, analysis and interpretation.
- Write a report of that research suitable for publication in an undergraduate research journal.
- Give an oral report of that research suitable for presentation at a regional conference.
- Conduct group research projects and submit a write-up of various portions of those projects.
- Critique the written and oral reports of fellow students in a professional, respectful, constructive manner.
- Read, critique, and discuss published research articles.

## **Course Format**

This course is an experiential learning course. No textbook is required, but there will be several readings. No tests are given, but there will be several evaluations. Lectures will be rare; working on research projects will be common. Reading assignments are given not to test one's memory, but to test one's ability to think. Some learning will occur by listening (to lectures) and reading, but most learning will occur by doing and discussing. It is the student's responsibility to manage time in a way that allows for the completion of all assignments of this course.

## **Grading System**

The grading scale for the course is as follows:

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

The relative contribution of each assignment to the overall grade is as follows:

30% Independent Research Project (IRP) written report

20% IRP oral report

15% IRP design

15% Other research writing assignments

10% Article evaluations

05% Writing critiques

05% Oral critiques

## **Absences and Late Work**

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. Late work will be penalized one letter grade per calendar day late.

## **Disability**

Oklahoma Baptist University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests and submit documentation to the Director of Student Services, Canaan Crane, at (405) 878-2416. The Student Services office is located in the Geiger Center, Room 101.

## **Schedule**

The nature of psychological research requires some flexibility in scheduling assignments. At this time, schedules will be given out in class every two weeks summarizing the required assignments for the next two weeks. The IRPs will constitute an ongoing assignment, with the expectation that data will be collected and analyzed by midterm grades, and improvements to the written and oral presentation of the IRP will occur during the last half of the semester.