

PSY 3010-01: RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY**CRN: 22949****Spring, 2013****Meeting in 138 North Plaza on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:00 – 1:25**Contact Information:

PROFESSOR: John T. Jones, Ph.D.
OFFICE: McDonald 220
OFFICE HOURS: 10:00 – 11:00 Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 12:00 – 1:00 Tuesday and Thursday
CONTACT: The best way to communicate with me is through Canvas messages. Or, email: jones@dixie.edu

TEXT: McBride, D. M. (2013). *The Process of Research in Psychology (2nd Edition.)* Sage Publishing (**required**).
McBride, D. M., & Cutting, J. C. *Laboratory Manual for Psychological Research (2013). (3rd Edition.)* Sage Publishing (**required**).

I. Course Description

This course is an introduction to the research process; reasoning in science, the nature of theory, hypothesis testing and the use of empirical data; scientific knowledge and its applications. Naturalistic, case study, correlation, and experimental research methods will be examined. In this course you will also complete many of the steps associated with basic research in psychology, culminating in a research proposal. The pre-requisite/co-requisite for this course is Psychology 3000 Statistical Methods in Psychology. This is a 4 cr. course.

II. Course Learning Goals and Outcomes

1. Learning to review the primary literature (improving library research skills, increase familiarity with scientific writing and reading scientific journals)
2. Getting a research idea (specification of a testable research idea, develop hypotheses on several topics in psychology)
3. Development and execution of a research plan (choosing the appropriate research method to test specific hypotheses, ethical guidelines, how to collect data)

Roughly we will cover the “nuts and bolts” of putting together and completing a research project in psychology. To this end we will cover most chapters of the textbook. Classes will consist of lectures and discussions and/or exercises related to the assigned readings. Thus, it is critical that you come prepared to class. Homework and/or on-line quizzes will be assigned to facilitate learning and in-class discussions.

III. Class Policies

A. Behave honorably. I expect you to avoid cheating and that you bring to my attention your knowledge of cheating others might do. Remember that cheating involves both getting help and giving help on evaluated tasks that are supposed to be done independently (e.g., tests, quizzes, written projects).

B. Arrive on time and no competitive talking.

C. **Avoid leaving lecture early.** Not only is this distracting to your fellow students, it's distracting to me. I do understand that occasionally people must miss part of a class. **If you intend to do so, please let me know and then sit near the door if possible**, so you can slip out without distracting everyone.

D. **If you have questions, please ask.** You may try to see me after class, but don't get frustrated if there is not time. Best: come by my office during office hours or set up an appointment with me. You are my priority at DSC. We can find a time that works for both of us.

E. **Notes.** You are responsible for taking notes as you see fit.

IV. Quiz Policy

A. YOU MUST DROP ONE of the five quizzes. **You cannot drop the Final Exam.**

B. **On the five quizzes, there will UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES be make-ups or early quizzes.** *If you cannot take the quiz at the time it is offered, you receive a zero.* Presumably you will drop that grade. If you miss a second quiz and have a legitimate excuse (legitimate means that you face dire circumstances like serious documented injury/illness) contact me and we will arrange for a make-up. The make-up will be different from the quiz taken by others in the course.

C. Quizzes will only cover the material since the previous quiz. Each quiz will consist of questions regarding material from the book, lecture/discussion, and any supplemental readings.

D. **The Final Exam.** The final exam is comprehensive and will be worth 100 points.

E. If you have a question about your score on a quiz, come by my office during office hours or set up an appointment with me. We can go over the exam to make sure it was scored correctly. You can also ask for clarification regarding exam questions.

V. Earning Points in the Course

A. **Quizzes:** Five quizzes taken in the testing center on computers. Each quiz will objectively assess your mastery of basic concepts and ideas associated with conducting research in psychology. You will drop your lowest score.

Total for Quizzes

200 pts.

B. **Lab Activities/participation grade:**

Most of the lab work you complete will be associated with helping to develop and complete your group research projects. Because I want everyone to get a complete research process experience, I will have you work in small groups on projects that will be directed by me. In most respects, the practical research experience you gain in this course will be similar to what you would gain if you were to volunteer as a research assistant in a psychology laboratory.

Total for Lab:

50 pts.

C. **Final Paper/Presentation/:**

Title Page, Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Discussion, and Reference sections. Final Proposal = 100 pts., Presentation of Proposal = 50 pts.

Total for Research Proposal Project **150 pts.**

Summary of Points Possible:

Quizzes	200
Lab	50
Final Paper	100
Presentation	50
Total	400

VI. Grading Policy

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A	94% - 100%	C	74% - 76%
A-	90% - 93%	C-	70% - 73%
B+	87% - 89%	D+	67% - 69%
B	84% - 86%	D	64% - 66%
B-	80% - 83%	D-	60% - 63%
C+	77% - 79%	F	59% AND BELOW

VII. Class Schedule**7 – 9 Jan: Introduction****Scientific Method** (Text, Chapter 1)**8 Jan – 25 Jan: Hypothesis Development** (Text, Chapter 2)**Exam I: Testing center January 25th-28th (covers Ch. 1-2)****28 Jan – 8 Feb: Research Design Overview** (Text, Chapter 3)**Measurement Issues** (Text, Chapter 4)**Exam II: Testing center February 8th – 11th (covers Ch. 3-4)****11 Feb – 25 Feb: Research Ethics** (Text, Chapter 5)**Sampling** (Text, Chapter 6)**Exam III: Testing center February 26th – 28th (covers Ch. 5-6)****1 Mar – 6 Mar: Research Project Consultation with Dr. Jones (No Class)****8 Mar – 15 Mar: Spring Break (No Class)****18 Mar - 29 Mar: Survey Research** (Text, Chapter 9)**Correlational Research** (Text, Chapter 10)**Quiz IV: Testing center March 29th – April 1st (covers Ch. 9-10)****1 Apr – 12 Apr: Experimental Designs** (Text, Chapter 11)**Quasi-experimental Design** (Text, Chapter 12)**Quiz V: Testing center April 12th – April 15th (covers Ch. 11-12)****15 Apr – 17 Apr: Research Project Consolation with Dr. Jones (No Class)****19 Apr – 24 Apr: Proposal Presentations****Final Exam: Taken in class on Wednesday May 1st 12:30-2:30 p.m. (comprehensive)****VIII: ADMINASTRIVIA****STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

If you are a student with a medical, psychological or a learning difference and requesting reasonable academic accommodations due to this disability, you must provide an official request of accommodation to your professor(s) from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) **within the first two weeks** of the beginning of classes. Students are to contact the center on the main campus to follow through with, and receive assistance in the documentation process to determine the appropriate accommodations related to their disability. You may call **(435) 652-7516** for an appointment and further information regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 per Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The DRC is located in the North Instructional Building.

OTHER IMPORTANT CAMPUS RESOURCES

- IT Student Help Desk - dixie.edu/helpdesk

- Library - library.dixie.edu
- Tutoring Center - dixie.edu/tutoring
- Writing Center - dixie.edu/english/dsc_writing_center.php

STATEMENT ABOUT DMAIL:

While communication for this class will always be through Blackboard, you are required to frequently check your Dmail account. Important college information will be sent to your Dmail account, including DSC bills, financial aid/scholarship notices, notices of cancelled classes, reminders of important dates and deadlines, and other information critical to your success at DSC and in your courses. To access your Dmail account, visit go.dixie.edu/dmail. If you do not know your Dmail username or you have forgotten your PIN, visit go.dixie.edu/mydixie and follow the respective instructions.

IX. Standards of Academic Conduct

I believe that most students are honest, and I don't want to punish everyone for the few that aren't. However, in order to ensure that the highest standards of academic conduct are promoted and supported at the College, students must adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty, including but not limited to, refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, falsification, misrepresentation, and/or inappropriately colluding or collaborating. The College shall consistently hold students accountable for instances of academic dishonesty and apply appropriate consequences. Definitions for some types of academic misconduct follow:

Cheating: Includes but is not limited to the use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise; failing to observe the expressed procedures or instructions of an academic exercise; substituting for or impersonating someone else during a test or exam or other fraud; or receiving the content of a test or exam before it is administered.

Plagiarism: Includes but is not limited to the use of another's words or ideas as if they were one's own, including, but not limited to, representing, either with the intent to deceive or by the omission of the true source, part of or an entire work produced by someone other than the student, obtained by purchase or otherwise, as the student's original work or representing the identifiable but altered ideas, data, or writing of another person as if those ideas, data, or writing were the student's original work.

Inappropriate collaboration or collusion: Includes but is not limited to unauthorized or inappropriate collaboration between students or between a student and any other person when individual work is required.

Multiple Submissions: Includes but is not limited to the resubmission by a student of any work which has been previously submitted for credit in identical or similar form in one course to fulfill the requirements of a second course, without the informed permission/consent of the instructor of the second course; or the submission by a student of any work submitted for credit in identical or similar form in one course to fulfill the requirements of a concurrent course, without the permission/consent of the instructors of both courses.

Falsification / Fabrication / Misrepresentation: Includes but is not limited to the intentional and unauthorized invention of any data, information, or citation in an academic activity.

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: Includes but is not limited to knowingly helping another student commit an act of academic misconduct or failing to report another student for academic misconduct.

Coercion Regarding Grading or Evaluation of Coursework: Includes but is not limited to issuing threats or offering favors or bribes toward an instructor to coerce the instructor to change a grade or otherwise evaluate the student's work by criteria not directly reflective of coursework.

Copyright Violation: Includes but is not limited to copyright and other violations of the College's policies. Such matters are adjudicated under the Student Behavioral Conduct section of this code.

If you violate these expectations and I don't catch you it doesn't mean that you "beat the system." Rather, it means you violated the student code of conduct and forfeited your integrity, whether or not you are caught. It is better to fail an assignment or even a class than to cheat and lose the chance to continue your education (See DSC Policy 34.1.1-4).

Academic dishonesty as defined in policy may be punishable by one or more of the following: a) Receiving a failing grade on the specific assignment where dishonesty was observed; b) Receiving a failing grade in the course; c) Immediate dismissal from this course; and d) Referral to the Academic Affairs Committee which may take actions such as reprimands, placing on probation, suspension, or removal from Dixie State College of Utah.

X. OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

Jan 9	Classwork Starts
Jan 11	Last Day to Add Without Signature
Jan 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 17	Drop/Audit Fee Begins (\$10 per class)
Jan 24	\$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee
Jan 30	Graduation Application Deadline
Jan 31	Pell Grant Census
Jan 31	Last Day for Refund
Jan 31	Last Day to drop without receiving a "W" grade
Feb 1	Courses dropped for non-payment
Feb 3	Last Day to ADD Classes
Feb 20	President's Day
Mar 2	Last Day to DROP/AUDIT Classes
Mar 12-16	Spring Break
Mar 19	Summer Registration open to Seniors (90+ earned credits)
Mar 20	Summer Registration open to Juniors (60+ earned credits)
Mar 21	Summer Registration open to Sophomores (30+ earned credits)
Mar 22	Summer Registration open to All Students
Apr 6	Last Day for Complete Withdrawal
Apr 16	Fall Registration open to Seniors (90+ earned credits)
Apr 17	Fall Registration open to Juniors (60+ earned credits)
Apr 18	Fall Registration open to Sophomores (30+ earned credits)
Apr 19	Fall Registration open to All Students
Apr 26	Classwork Ends
Apr 27	Final Exams
Apr 30, May 1-3	Final Exams
May 4	Commencement

XI. DISCLAIMER

Course-specific Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading scale and quiz policy may be subject to change with advanced notice, as deemed appropriate to the instructor.