

PSY 3010-01: RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY**CRN: 44693****Fall, 2012****Meeting in 150 North Plaza on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 – 11:15**Contact Information:

PROFESSOR: John T. Jones, Ph.D.
OFFICE: McDonald 220
OFFICE HOURS: 1:00 – 2:00 Monday and Wednesday; 12:00 – 1:00 Tuesday and Thursday
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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 students read the assigned chapters prior 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/Homework:**

On a regular basis, you will be assigned graded exercises. These account for 15% of your final grade in the course. You **MUST** bring the lab manual to each lab session. Be sure you give yourself plenty of time to download anything you might need from the web for assignments to avoid system outages or other problems. For most of the assignments, you will also need to read the assigned chapters in your textbook **BEFORE COMING TO LAB.**

Some of the assignments will be done in lab, either in small groups or individually. I will then either collect them or go over them in lab. To get full credit on these assignments, you need to attend lab and complete the assignment. If you are not in lab, you may turn in the assignment late, but the 10% off per day later penalty will apply. If you need to miss lab one week, you must notify your instructor and make special arrangements. Make-ups for unjustified absences will not be allowed.

Some assignments will be assigned as homework. These will be graded for content and correctness – so you may have to work harder to get full credit. Late submissions will be penalized by 10% for each day they are late. If you cannot be in class the day they are due, you must notify your instructor and make special arrangements.

Total for Assignments **50 pts.**

- C. Research Proposal/Presentation:** The research proposal will include an experimental component and will be completed in groups of 2. More information about this project will be distributed by the third week of class. Presentations will be made during the last week of class. Proposals will adhere to APA style and include 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.**

- D. Final Exam:** Taken in class on Monday December 10th from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Total for Final Exam **100 pts.**

Summary of Points Possible:

Quizzes	200
Assignments	50
Research Proposal Project	150
Final Exam	100
Total	500

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

CLASS SCHEDULE

20-29 August: Introduction, Scientific Method (Text, Chapter 1)

31 Aug-7 Sep: Hypothesis Development (Text, Chapter 2)

(5 September class will be held in the library)

- **Quiz # 1 (Ch. 1-2) in the testing center 8-11 September**
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10-17 Sep: Research Design Overview (Text, Chapter 3)

19-28 Sep: Measurement Issues (Text, Chapter 4)

- **Quiz #2 (Ch. 3-4) in the testing center 28 September-1 October**
 - **No class Wednesday 26 September**
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1-5 Oct: Research Ethics (Text, Chapter 5)

8-15 Oct: Sampling (Text, Chapter 6)

- **Quiz #3 (Ch. 5-6) in the testing center 16-21 October**
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16-19 Oct: Research Project Consultation with Dr. Jones (No Class)

22-26 Oct: Statistics (Text, Chapter 7)

29 Oct-2 Nov: Survey Research (Text, Chapter 9)

- **Quiz #4 (Ch. 7 and 9) in the testing center 3-6 November**
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5-7 Nov: Correlational Research (Text, Chapter 10)

9-19 Nov: Experimental Designs and Quasi-Experimental Designs (Text, Chapter 11-12)

- **Quiz #5 (Ch. 9-11) in the testing center 14 – 17 April**
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26-29 Nov: Research Project Consolation with Dr. Jones (No Class)

30 Nov-7 Dec: Proposal Presentations

Final Exam: Taken in class on Monday December 10th 9:30-11:30 p.m. (comprehensive)

VII: 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.

VIII. 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.

IX. OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

Aug 23	Last Day to Waitlist
Aug 24	Last Day to Add Without Signature
Aug 27	Drop/Audit Fee Begins (\$10 per class)
Sep 3	Labor Day
Sep 4	\$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee
Sep 10	Last Day to drop without receiving a "W" grade
Sep 11	Courses dropped for non-payment
Sep 14	Last Day to Add/Audit
Oct 1	Graduation Application Deadline for Fall 2012
Oct 10	Mid-Term Grades Due
Oct 11-12	Semester Break
Oct 22	Spring and Summer 2013 class schedules available online
Nov 1	Graduation Application Deadline for Spring 2013 baccalaureate degrees
Nov 9	Last Day for Complete Withdrawal
Nov 12	Spring Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits)
Nov 13	Career Day (no classes before 4:00 p.m.)
Nov 13	Spring Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits)
Nov 14	Spring Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits)
Nov 15	Spring Registration Open to All Students
Nov 21-23	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 7	Classwork Ends
Dec 10-14	Final Exams

X. 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.