This course is intended to provide an overview of the issues, methods, and designs involved in research in psychology, as it is currently conducted. My philosophy is that learning research methods is a hands-on endeavor which best can be accomplished via classroom exercises, opportunities to develop research protocols, and work on the design of a study to address an experimental question. Thus, this will not be a lecture course, in the strictest sense; class time will be divided between lecture, discussion of readings, and classroom exercises.

As with many facets of Psychology, research can be infused with our own values and biases. As such, we will discuss two topics (research ethics and sensitivity to cultural diversity issues) intermittently throughout the semester. As you will note in the syllabus, half of two separate classes also will be devoted to each of these two important topics.

Your final grade will be based upon:
Mid-term exam - 35%
Final paper - 35%
Homework (reviews) - 15%
Class participation - 15%

Assignments are due as announced. If you have a medical emergency that makes you late on turning in an assignment, I will need to see a note from your doctor. Likewise, if you have a car accident, bring me a copy of the police report. Otherwise, I will penalize for lateness, no matter how creative the reason.

There are 2 required texts and selected articles. The selected articles are marked with a * on this syllabus. You will be given a CD with pdf's of these articles. They also are available on UMDrive at ***** this link requires your user id/password to access.

The texts are:


For students who have not previously taken a research methods course (or who have taken one long enough ago that you have forgotten a lot of the material), an optional text is recommended. This book will provide a good review in order to get you prepared for the material that we will discuss in this class. I will not make assignments from this book, nor do I want to know who is using it as an aide and who is not. If you are struggling with the material in this class, your first step should be to buy this book and do a bit of brushing up.


A paper will be required, in lieu of a final exam. This paper should contain a research proposal, including a background review of the literature, statement of your research question and hypotheses, design, method (subjects, procedure, assessments, etc.) and proposed data analytic approach. Papers will be due on December 2nd in the final class.

Academic Honesty: If you are considering being less than academically honest, let me suggest that you don't even think about it. At the University of Memphis (like most universities), plagiarism is a serious offense. If you quote from someone else's writing, you need to give page numbers for the quoted material and the reference. However, I do not expect you to rely heavily on quotes, as part of what you are learning in graduate school is how to write for our profession. If there is any question about academic integrity, I will not hesitate to report it to the proper authorities (this includes plagiarism, cheating on exams, and other instances of academic dishonesty). You are expected to be familiar with the academic regulations outlined...
in the Graduate Bulletin (see http://memphis.edu/gradcatalog) and to observe the policies regarding student conduct as published in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (http://www.memphis.edu/stuhand2). Remember, you are in graduate school. You are expected to act like a professional and that includes doing your own work.

**Students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities need to meet privately with me at the beginning of the course, so that we can arrive at how best to adapt the course materials or instructions. If you need additional accommodations, please contact Student Disability Services at 678-2880.

**Electronic devices:** I understand how important your cell phone/PDA/beeper/etc is to you. I also understand how distracting it is to you. Students must turn off all electronic devices during class. If I hear one of these devices ring, vibrate, buzz, chirp, or give any indication that is turned on, you will be asked to leave class and will be penalized in your final grade by 10% for each occurrence (yes, that is a heavy consequence).

**Diversity:** Diversity means the fair representation of all groups of individuals, the inclusion of minority perspectives and voices, and the appreciation of different cultural and socioeconomic group practices. We aspire to foster and maintain an atmosphere that is free from discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or intimidation. Academic courses will aim at providing opportunities for students to discuss issues of diversity including, but not limited to, ethnicity, gender, disability and sexual orientation as they can be related to course content. The University of Memphis has adopted policies prohibiting discrimination based upon race, sex, disability, or sexual orientation. In addition, the American Psychological Association has explicit policies regarding the issues of and writing about race, gender, class, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, and religion. You may find information on these standards in the APA Publication Manual or on the APA webpage: http://apastyle.apa.org/.

**Sept 2:** Introduction, housekeeping, etc.

**Sept 9:** Philosophy of Science, statistical inference, principles of experimentation
Reading: S, C & C, chapter 1
* Greenwald et al. (1996). Effect sizes and p values: What should be reported and what should be replicated? *Psychophysiology, 33,* 175-183.

**Sept 16:** Selection of research questions and overview of designs
Reading: K, chapter 5

**Sept 23:** Validity, Cultural sensitivity in assessment
Reading: S, C & C, chapters 2, 3

**Sept 30:** Design I: Between-groups designs
Reading: K, chapter 6
S, C & C, chapters 4, 5

**Oct 7:** Design I: continued
Reading: S, C & C, chapter 6
K, chapter 7

**Oct 14:** Design II: Within-subject and intrasubject replication designs
Reading:

**Oct 21:** Nonspecific effects, artifact; Cultural diversity
Reading: K, chapters 4, 8

** Oct 28 Midterm**

**Nov 4: Issues involved in Intervention studies [fidelity, meta-analysis, normative comparisons, program evaluation]**

Reading:

**Nov 11: Correlational research & longitudinal designs: The study of change**

Reading:

**Nov 18: Work Day**

**Nov 25: Happy Thanksgiving**

**Dec 2: Interpreting results, research ethics, Preparing a manuscript for publication PAPER DUE**

Reading: K, chapters 16, 17, 18
* Revised code of ethics, APA, 2002