

## PY 205: RESEARCH METHODS

WINTER 2007

T TH 12:00 – 1:45 PM

240 JAMRICH HALL

**INSTRUCTOR:** DR. MAYA G. SEN

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EMAIL: [MSEN@NMU.EDU](mailto:MSEN@NMU.EDU) (BEST WAY TO REACH ME)

OFFICE HOURS: M 12 – 1:50 PM, MW 4 – 5 PM, & BY APPOINTMENT

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** AMANDA ROSENBERG

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OFFICE: 342 GRIES HALL; PHONE: 227-2950

OFFICE HOUR: W 10:00 – 10:50 AM

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of this course is to introduce you to the methods used to obtain knowledge in the field of psychology. We will cover both experimental and non-experimental methods, as well as ethical practices. You will get hands-on experience with psychological research by designing studies, collecting and analyzing data, and presenting your findings. You will also gain critical thinking skills and the ability to evaluate published research findings.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I expect students to keep up to date on the readings. The textbook constitutes a significant portion of the course material. Because of the broad scope of the field of research methods, it is impossible to cover all of the material in the lectures. Lectures are intended as supplements to and elaborations on the material covered by the text.

You are strongly encouraged to attend class. Consistent absences will likely affect your grade in two ways. First, you are responsible for material covered in the lectures. Not all material covered in class will be in your textbook. If you must miss a lecture, it is **your** responsibility to get the lecture notes from another student in the class. Second, there will be group activities and discussions at many of the class meetings, which will constitute a portion of your grade.

### TEXTBOOK

Smith, R.A., & Davis, S. (2007). The Psychologist as Detective: An Introduction to Conducting Research in Psychology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

### EXAMS & ASSIGNMENTS

**EXAMS:** There will be three exams, consisting of multiple-choice and short answer/essay questions. Exams will emphasize material covered in class, but may cover material from any section of the course (i.e., readings, activities, etc.). In order to do well on these exams, you need to understand the concepts, terms, and methods presented in your textbook and class. You also must be able to apply this knowledge. Regular class attendance, good note-taking, keeping up-to-date on your reading, and actively participating in the activities will help you prepare for the exams.

**ACTIVE LEARNING PROJECTS:** There will be many in-class projects, which will be related to the readings and lecture material. These projects will vary in what they entail, but each will allow you to practice or apply an aspect of the research process. Some of these projects will be individual; others will be in groups. You will lose points if the assignment is not done in class.

**RESEARCH PROJECT & POSTER:** You will work in small groups on a research project, which you will design, run, analyze and present. You must run your topic by me – we will do this in class. More details will be posted on WebCT.

**EXTRA CREDIT!:** You can earn up to 10 points by critiquing media reports of research findings. You will need to find the source article and discuss how accurate the media report is. Each critique should be approximately 1 page, and is worth up to 5 points.

## GRADING

### POINT BREAKDOWNS

3 Exams (100 pts each)	300 pts
Active Learning Projects	100 pts
Research Project & Poster	100 pts

### GRADE DISTRIBUTIONS

A	93 – 100%	C	73 – 76%
A-	90 – 92%	C-	70 – 72%
B+	87 – 89%	D+	67 – 69%
B	83 – 86%	D	63 – 66%
B-	80 – 82%	D-	60 – 62%
C+	77 – 79%	F	< 60%

### COURSE POLICIES

\*\*If you have a serious problem that affects your performance in class, please contact me **ASAP**. I can do much more to help you if you let me know what is happening **before** you miss deadlines. \*\*

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** No sort of academic misconduct will be tolerated in this course. So, do not cheat, and do not plagiarize. You are required to be familiar with the University Student Code on Academic Dishonesty: (<http://dso.nmu.edu/handbook/?part=2> – section 2.2.3). I expect that the work you submit will reflect your individual efforts. Students who violate the policy will receive a zero on the assignment or test, and in some cases may receive a failing grade in the course. There will be no provisions for making up or revising the assignment or test. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students. See the Writing Guidelines link under the Course Notes section of WebCT for a more specific description of what constitutes plagiarism. When in doubt, please ask!

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Late work is strongly discouraged. All assignments must be turned in by the beginning of class. Assignments will lose five percentage points for each 24 hours that they are late. If, for any reason, you are unable to attend class, you must turn in your assignment or contact me **before class**. If I am unavailable, leave a message at my office or on e-mail.

**MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS:** Exam attendance is mandatory. Make-up examinations will be given at my discretion, and will only be

allowed in the case of a serious & unavoidable problem, such as confining illness (documentation from a professional person required – e.g., physician, psychologist) or family emergency. You must contact me before the time of the exam to schedule a time for the make-up exam. If I am unavailable, leave a message at my office or on e-mail.

**INCOMPLETES:** Incompletes will be granted only in rare cases, and must be requested **IN WRITING** before the final exam. Otherwise, if the required coursework is not completed, your grade will be calculated based on the work that you have completed. If an incomplete is granted, you have one year to complete the required work, as per University policy.

**SPECIAL NEEDS:** If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Disability Services Office by: coming into the office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock; calling 227-1700; or e-mailing [disserv@nmu.edu](mailto:disserv@nmu.edu). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines.

COURSE SCHEDULE

**NOTE: The following schedule is subject to change.**

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Readings & Due dates
1	T	1/16	Introduction	Syllabus
	Th	1/18	The Science of Psychology	Chapter 1
2	T	1/23	Research Ideas, Critiquing Research, Hypotheses	Chapter 2
	Th	1/25	<i>Ch 2 cont'd</i>	
3	T	1/30	Ethics in Psychological Research	Chapter 3
	Th	2/1	<i>Ch 3 cont'd</i>	APA ethics
4	T	2/6	Non-experimental Methods I	Chapter 4
	Th	2/8	<i>Ch 4 cont'd</i>	
5	T	2/13	<b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)</b>	
	Th	2/15	Non-experimental Methods II	Chapter 5
6	T	2/20	<i>Ch 5 cont'd</i>	Chapter 6
	Th	2/22	The Basics of Experimentation I	
7	T	2/27	<i>Ch 6 cont'd</i>	Chapter 7
	Th	3/1	<i>Ch 6 cont'd</i>	
8	T	3/6	<b>NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK!!!</b>	
	Th	3/8	<b>NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK!!!</b>	
9	T	3/13	The Basics of Experimentation II	
	Th	3/15	<i>Ch 7 cont'd</i>	
10	T	3/20	Internal and External Validity	Chapter 8
	Th	3/22	<b>Exam 2 (Chapters 5-8)</b>	
11	T	3/27	Using Statistics to Answer Questions	Chapter 9
	Th	3/29	<i>Ch 9 cont'd</i>	
12	T	4/3	Experiments with Two Groups	Chapter 10
	Th	4/5	<i>Ch 10 cont'd</i>	
13	T	4/10	<i>Ch 10 cont'd</i>	
	Th	4/12	Writing an APA-Format Research Report	Chapter 14
14	T	4/17	<i>Ch 14 cont'd</i>	
	Th	4/19	<b>Exam 3 (Ch's 9, 10, 14, some cumulative)</b>	
15	T	4/24	Poster Preparation	
	Th	4/26	<i>Cont'd</i>	
Finals	F	5/4	<b>Poster Presentations</b>	