

**PERU STATE COLLEGE
PSYCH 330 – RESEARCH METHODS
SYLLABUS – FALL 2009**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Kelly Asmussen kasmussen@oakmail.peru.edu
OFFICE: TJM 308 (O) 402-872-2426 (H) 402-423-7857
COURSE MEETS: 9:30 – 10:45 MW TJM 203
OFFICE HOURS: M/W 11 – 12:30 P.M. TH 10:00 – 12:00 p.m. By Appt.
REQUIRED TEXT: Research Methods and Statistics: A Critical Thinking Approach. 3rd Edition. Sherri L. Jackson. Wadsworth. 2009.

A Simple Guide to SPSS for Windows – with version 16.0 student software. Lee Kirkpatrick and Brooke Feeney. 2009.

PREREQUISITES: CJUS 110 or Psych 121, and Math 240 or 340

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an introductory course that concentrates on research methods and designs and statistical analysis procedures used in research projects. This course demonstrates how research methods are utilized in the social and behavioral sciences.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce students to the scientific method, reviewing historical methods.
2. Help students become better consumers of research data.
3. Investigate and learn the principle components of research design, both quantitative and qualitative, and analysis methods.
4. Learn research strategies used to examine relationships between variables under study.
5. To learn the ethical issues involved with research: particularly the review and use of human subjects.
6. Learn how to search for and read professional journals through a review of literature.
7. Learn how to search for and interpret published research results.
8. Teach students how to use data analysis software, using existing databases.
9. Expose students to an in-class research project utilizing skills learned in class.

On the first day of class, I will discuss how these objectives fit into the School of Professional Studies and College mission statements attached to this syllabus.

EXPLANATION OF INSTRUCTION:

Class lectures, discussion groups, lab exercises utilizing research software, overheads, and other educational materials deemed necessary will be utilized in this course.

GRADING:

CHAPTER QUIZZES:

Go to the companion book site at Wadsworth and take the chapter quizzes provided at no cost to you as practice. Listed at the end of each chapter is a Wadsworth web address (<http://psychology.wadsworth.com/workshops>). At the website, on the left side, click on one of the following; Statistics Workshops, Research Methods Workshops, or Videos. Inside you will find the Tutorial Quiz and many more review items to help you. They are useful and helpful to further explain and apply the concepts from the textbook. They are materials for each chapter! These activities are designed to help you be more successful; take advantage of them as they are **FREE!**

EXAMS: Approximately 300 POINTS

There will be several mini-exams (4-5) throughout the semester. Each mini-exam will cover smaller portions of information, and each will be equally weighted, non-cumulative exams.

Taking tests at the designated time is required, not an optional decision on your part. The instructor reserves the right to determine whether or not you will have an opportunity to take a test at another time. This ensures the process of testing is equitable to everyone.

DAILY EXERCISES: Approximately 150 POINTS

There will be daily exercises assigned to help students develop the appropriate skills utilized in course assignments. These assignments will be worth approximately 5 – 25 points each. Computer software will be utilized for many exercises. These exercises are vital to the learning experience as you will be utilizing the statistical software to apply what you have learned in class. Therefore, it is vital that you attend each class session as the exercises build upon previous skills learned.

RESEARCH ARTICLES: 30 POINTS EACH x 2 = 60 POINTS

Students will report the findings of 2 published research-based journal articles of their choice (however, I would suggest you use two articles you used in your literature review). To report your findings, follow the exact format below:

Make sure you number and label each of the following sections for each article.

- 1) Author(s) identified (year published). Title of article, *Journal Identified by Name*, Vol, pages. APA style. 2 points
- 2) Problem being studied is identified in the form of a sentence. 3 points
- 3) N = population under study n = sample size identified 2 points
- 4) Independent and Dependent Variable(s) identified 3 points
- 5) Demographics of sample described 2 points

- 6) Statistical Analysis identified and briefly described (several ?) 2 points
- 7) Level(s) of significance used in study (more than 1?) 1 point
- 8) Major findings: list them in a sentence format and numbered 15 points

LITERATURE REVIEW: 60 POINTS

Students will conduct a review of literature; we will discuss in class what topic will be appropriate. The review must contain a minimum of 5 references from professional journal sources; year 2000 or more recent. Typically, general on-line research articles are NOT GOOD! They do not follow the format of a professional journal article and omit some items, while summarizing other items! The review must contain the following aspects of each article:

article title, author(s), year published

sample size & population identified

demographics – describe what the sample “looked like” – breakdown of age, m/f percent, etc.

type of statistical analysis used

major finding(s) summarized

References Section = Authors, (yr. published), Article title, & *Journal*

You will develop an introductory paragraph to the literature review that provides the reader with “the question” you are investigating with your literature review. Give a visual introduction so the reader will know what they will read in your review. This is NOT done for each article.

At the end of your literature review, you should provide a summary of the articles findings. DO NOT go back and give all the findings; provide an overall synopsis of the findings.

A copy of each article will be turned in with the literature review. The literature review is due November 9, 2009. Each student will do an oral presentation of their literature review in class, wearing clothes appropriate for a conference presentation. More specific information will be given in class.

Evaluation Rubric – 10 points for each article – Bolded are for full literature review only

introductory paragraph	title, author, yr published	n = & population N =	demo graphics	statistical analysis	summary of findings	references section	summary of articles
5	1	1	1	1	5	1	5

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

0 POINTS

Class attendance and participation in this class are vital to your learning experience. Therefore, I expect you to attend class having already read the materials and ready to participate in class discussions. Please come to **class on time** and ready to foster an environment conducive to learning. I encourage students to ask questions, seek out my help when you have questions, and help your classmates to understand the materials and assignments. **I will take attendance and if you miss more than 6 class sessions, you will not pass this course.** 5 points are deducted each class session you miss. It is essential that you attend each class session, as we will learn new skills to utilize with the statistical software to build upon previous knowledge necessary for class assignments. Missing class will complicate your ability to keep current with the skills you need and how to apply those skills.

In this class, you are encouraged to collaborate on most all assignments. However, when directed, students are expected to do their own work on assignments and exams. Academic dishonesty will result in actions according to the college's disciplinary policy. Students with special needs are encouraged to make them known to the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to facilitate student learning. Due to the active learning of many new skills required in this class, there are likely to be changes in the schedule, however, changes in the schedule will be communicated to the students in advance.

NUSS CONFERENCE: The NUSS Conference will be held at UNK November 5 & 6. The conference starts at noon on Thursday, a banquet Thursday night, and concludes at noon on Friday. This is a professional conference offered each fall semester to students attending colleges in Nebraska; sponsored by faculty. You will be offered extra credit points to participate; student paper competition (2 categories) and non-competitive posters of work in progress, class projects, internship panels, and roundtables. Several students have participated in these conference activities in the past with high levels of achievement. Your costs will be covered if you participate.

CELL PHONES – No cell phones will be used during class sessions, unless prior authorization has been given (emergency, fire squad, HHS Tracker, Probation, etc.). This includes text messages. Cell phones will be confiscated and given to the Dean of Professional Studies or VPAA if you are texting or using a cell phone during class. They are extremely disruptive to the learning process.

ON-LINE COURSEWORK - EMAILS – You are not authorized to be working during class on an On-Line course or sending/receiving emails. Your cooperation is expected.

FINAL GRADE:

Your final grade will be based upon daily assignments, literature review, research articles, exams, and daily attendance.

TENATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE – Classroom - 09

M Aug 24	Introduction, Syllabus, Textbook, SPSS, Class exercise Assignment: Cell Phone
W Aug 26	Chapter 1 Assignment: Observe (No SPSS) (5), Compare (5), Correlations (5)
M Aug 31	Chapter 1 – Ch. 1, 2, & 3 in SPSS book, Research Article handouts Assignments: Dr. Phil (5)
W Sept 2	Chapter 2 Assignments: Journals to use (5), Library Search articles and journals (literature review focus) (5), Identify 1 – 5 in 1 research article Consent Forms (5), Ethical Considerations (5)
M Sept 7	Labor Day Holiday

W Sept 9	Chapter 2 Mini-Exam Review Assignment: Research Article 1 rough draft (1 – 5)
M Sept 14	Mini-Exam # 1 (Chapters 1 & 2) Chapter 3
W Sept 16	Chapter 3 Assignments: Operational Definition (5), Inter-rater reliability (5)
M Sept 21	Chapter 4 Assignments: Re-Observe (SPSS) (5)
W Sept 23	Chapter 4 Assignments: Asmussen & Creswell Case Study (10)
M Sept 28	Chapter 4 Assignments: Developing question examples by question types (5) Research Article 2 rough draft (1 – 5) Mini-Exam Review
W Sept 30	Mini-Exam # 2 Chapters 3 & 4 Chapter 5
M Oct 5	Chapter 5 Assignments: Practice Frequency Distributions (5), Frequency Distributions (Ch. 6 SPSS Book) (10), Bar Chart, Histogram, Line Graph & Pie Chart (5)
W Oct 7	Chapter 5 Assignments: Mean, S.D. Variance (5), Plotting Mean & S.D. Scores (5)
M Oct 12	Chapter 5 Assignments: Normal Curve (5), “z” scores (5), “z” scores normal curve (5), Research Article 1 & 2 Due (1 – 5)
W Oct 14	Chapter 6 Assignments: Ch. 14 SPSS Book (5), Correlational Statements (10),
M Oct 19	FALL BREAK (19th - 20th)
W Oct 21	Chapter 6 Assignment: Student Success (10), Simple Regression Analysis Ch 15 SPSS Book (5)
M Oct 26	Chapter 6

Assignment: Simple R3 (5), Multiple Regression Ch. 16 SPSS Book (5)

- W Oct 28 **Research Articles 1 & 2 (6 – 8) due**
Literature Review Discussion
Mini-Exam Review
- M Nov 2 **Mini-Exam # 3 Chapters 5 & 6**
- W Nov 4 Chapter 7
- T/F Nov 5/6 NUSS Conference – U. of Nebraska-Kearney
Extra Credit – attend & present
- M Nov 9 Chapter 7
Assignment: Null Hypothesis (5), GPA Means (10)
- W Nov 11 Chapter 7
Assignment: Region of Rejection (5)
- M Nov 16 Chapter 7
Assignment: One-Sample “t” test Ch.7 SPSS (5)
- W Nov 18 * **Literature Review Due**
Presentations of Literature Reviews
- M Nov 23 Chapter 7
Assignment: Independent Samples “t” test Ch 8 SPSS (5)
- W Nov 25 **THANKSGIVING VACATION (Nov. 25-29)**
- M Nov 30 Chapter 7
Assignment: Ch 7 “t” Distribution Chart (5)
- W Dec 2 Chapter 7
Assignment: Chi-Square Ch 17 SPSS Book (5)
- M Dec 7 Chapter 7
- W Dec 9 Chapter 7
Extra Credit: Ch 10 & Ch 11 SPSS Book (5 each)
- M Dec 14 **ACADEMIC DAY** Mini-Exam Review – not required
- W Dec 16 **Mini-Exam # 4 Chapter 7 10:30 –12:30**
REQUIRED