

**PERU STATE COLLEGE  
PSYCH 330 – RESEARCH METHODS  
ON-LINE SYLLABUS – Spring 2010**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Kelly Asmussen [kasmussen@oakmail.peru.edu](mailto:kasmussen@oakmail.peru.edu)  
**OFFICE:** TJM 308 (O) 402-872-2426 (H) 402-423-7857  
**COURSE MEETS:** On-line

**REQUIRED TEXT: Research Methods and Statistics: A Critical Thinking Approach. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Sherri L. Jackson. Wadsworth. 2009.**

**A Simple Guide to SPSS for Windows – with version 17.0 student software. Lee Kirkpatrick and Brooke Feeney. 2009.**

This course will utilize specialized software that requires:

Microsoft Windows XP (32 bit version) or Vista (32 bit and 64 bit versions)  
Intel or AMD x86 processor running at 1 gigahertz or higher  
512 megabytes of RAM or more  
450 MB of free hard-disk space (minimum)  
CD-ROM Drive  
Super VGA (800 x 600) or higher resolution

APPLE computers cannot be used for this software. Macintosh computers require additional compatible software to be purchased separately.

You should NOT purchase a used textbook as it WILL NOT contain the required software used in the course.

If you purchase used student version software, know that the license will most likely expire before the end of this course! And, you cannot purchase this student version of SPSS for the price you will receive it in the bundled package with the textbook through the PSC bookstore.

ISBN package bundle: 1111194475

**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.
2. Learn how to 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.

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Be able to assist in a professional research study.
2. Know the protocol involved with conducting professional research studies.
3. Conduct a search for published research articles regarding topics of study using on-line data bases or utilize a collegiate library.
4. Read and understand the findings of a scientific research article that have been published in a professional journal.

### **EXPECTATIONS & INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH:**

This class will involve you reading the course notes to serve as your class lectures. You should contact your classmates to have class discussions to help you more fully understand the course materials. You will have lab exercises utilizing research software to implement the concepts learned. I will provide many educational materials deemed necessary for you to be successful in this course.

### **ASSESSMENT & 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. There are materials for each chapter! These activities are designed to help you be more successful; take advantage of them as they are **FREE**, helpful, and provide you with good learning opportunities!

#### **EXAMS:**                      Approximately 400 POINTS

There will be four exams throughout the semester. Each mini-exam will cover smaller portions of information. Each exam will be stand alone in terms of chapters covered, yet please understand that you will be held responsible for knowledge learned in previous chapters on the exam. **You are NOT to use your textbook when taking the exams.** I have put restrictions on the on-line tests for this reason.

**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.**

The test schedule is:

Test 1	Chapters 1 & 2	Opens Jan. 30 – closes on Feb. 2
Test 2	Chapters 3 & 4	Opens Feb. 15 – closes on Feb. 17
Test 3	Chapters 5 & 6	Opens Apr. 1 – closes Apr. 7
Test 4	Chapter 7	Opens May 2 – closes May 6

### **DAILY EXERCISES:**

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 are current in your readings and daily exercises, so you can build upon previous skills learned.

### **LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE ASSIGNMENTS, unless you are given specific permission by me in advance. If you encounter a major problem, be sure to contact me ASAP to notify me of the nature of the problem so we discuss what the appropriate action might be to deal with that problem.

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:**

Class attendance and participation in this class are vital to your learning experience. Therefore, I expect you to read the textbook and notes in order to be ready to participate in daily assignments and any class discussions. I encourage students to ask questions, seek out my help when you have questions, and help your classmates to understand the materials and assignments. It is essential that keep up in your assignments, as we will learn new skills to utilize with the statistical software to build upon previous knowledge. You will complicate your ability to keep current with new skills and how to apply those skills if you fall behind.

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.

### **FINAL GRADE:**

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

### **COLLEGE'S INCOMPLETE COURSEWORK POLICY:**

To designate a student's work in a course as incomplete at the end of a term, the instructor records the incomplete grade (I). Students may receive this grade ONLY when serious

illness, hardship, death in the immediate family, or military service during the semester in which they are reregistered prevents them from completing the course requirements by finals week. In addition, to receive an incomplete, a student must have completed substantially all of the course's major requirements.

Unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise, students must initiate requests for an incomplete by filling out an Incomplete Grade Completion Contract, which requires the signature of the student, instructor, and Dean. The Incomplete Grade Completion contract cites the reason(s) for the incomplete and details the specific obligations the student must meet to change the incomplete to a letter grade. The date by which the student agrees to complete the required work must appear in the contract. The Dean, the instructor, and the student receive signed copies of the Incomplete Grade Completion Contract.

Even if the student does not attend Peru State College, all incomplete course work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester. Unless the appropriate Dean approves an extension and if the student does not fulfill contract obligations in the allotted time, the incomplete grade automatically becomes an F.

### **COLLEGES ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

The College expects all students to conduct themselves in a manner that supports an honest assessment of student learning outcomes and the assignment of grades that appropriately reflect student performance. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and comply with instructions regarding completion of assignments, exams, and other academic activities. At a minimum, students should assume that at each assessment opportunity they are expected to do their own original academic work and/or clearly acknowledge in an appropriate fashion the intellectual work of others, when such contributions are allowed. Students helping others to circumvent honest assessments of learning outcomes, or who fail to report instances of academic dishonesty, are also subject to the sanctions defined in this policy.

Instances of academic dishonesty may be discovered in a variety of ways. Faculty who assign written work ordinarily check citations for accuracy, run data base and online checks, and/or may simply recognize familiar passages that are not cited properly. They may observe students in the act of cheating or may become aware of instances of cheating from statements of others. All persons who observe or otherwise know about instances of cheating are expected to report such instances to the proper instructor or Dean.

In order to promote academic integrity, the College subscribes to an electronic service to review papers for the appropriate citations and originality. Key elements of submitted papers are stored electronically in a limited access database and thus become a permanent part of the material to which future submissions are compared. Submission of an application and continued enrollment signifies your permission for this use of your written work.

NSCS Board of Trustees Policy 4220 states that each College "... will establish a distance learning assessment policy that will include, at a minimum, a substantial culminating experience that is proctored." Peru State College's policy is that each course that is offered entirely on-line will feature a proctored final exam that substantially measures the extent the course's stated learning objectives are achieved. Online course syllabi will clearly state,

regardless of grades previously earned, the proctored final exam must be passed in order to receive full credit for the course. Courses which feature graded site-based activities (e.g., teaching demonstrations) and/or video-taped presentations that occur near the end of the term, and that are designed to substantially assess the achievement of learning objectives, can be considered in compliance with this policy. Project-based capstone and graduate courses utilizing real-time discussions held by web-cam, phone or in person with the faculty member as part of the assessment process can also be considered in compliance with this policy.

Should an occurrence of academic misconduct occur, the faculty member may assign a failing grade for the assignment of a failing grade for the course. Each incident of academic misconduct should be reported to the Dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The VPAA may suspend students for two semesters if found to be responsible of multiple instances of academic dishonesty. The reason for the suspension will be noted on the student's transcript.

A faculty member need present only basic evidence of academic dishonesty. There is not requirement for proof on intent. Students are responsible for understanding these tenets of academic dishonesty and integrity. Students may appeal penalties for academic dishonesty using the process established for grades appeal.

#### **TITLE IX COMPLIANCE NOTICE**

Peru State College is an equal opportunity institution. PSC does not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in employment and education opportunities, including but not limited to admission decisions. The College has designated an individual to coordinate the College's nondiscrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title VI, VII, IX, and Section 504. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and practices may be directed to Eulanda Cade, Director of Human Resources, Title VI, VII, IX Compliance Coordinator, Peru State College, P.O. Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010, (402) 872-2230.

Students requesting reasonable accommodation and tutoring services should contact the Center for Achievement and Transition Services (CATS).

#### **TENATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

Go to Assignments and you will find each assignment listed by chapter, with due dates and possible points.

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: <b>Research Article 1 rough draft (1 – 5)</b>
M Sept 14	<b>Mini-Exam # 1 (Chapters 1 &amp; 2)</b> 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) <b>Research Article 2 rough draft (1 – 5)</b> Mini-Exam Review
W Sept 30	<b>Mini-Exam # 2 Chapters 3 &amp; 4</b> 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), <b>Research Article 1 &amp; 2 Due (1 – 5)</b>
W Oct 14	Chapter 6 Assignments: Ch. 14 SPSS Book (5), Correlational Statements (10),
M Oct 19	<b>FALL BREAK (19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>)</b>

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	<b>Research Articles 1 &amp; 2 (6 – 8) due</b> Literature Review Discussion Mini-Exam Review
M Nov 2	<b>Mini-Exam # 3 Chapters 5 &amp; 6</b>
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	<b>* Literature Review Due</b> <b>Presentations of Literature Reviews</b>
M Nov 23	Chapter 7 Assignment: Independent Samples “t” test Ch 8 SPSS (5)
W Nov 25	<b>THANKSGIVING VACATION (Nov. 25-29)</b>
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**