

FALL TERM

Dividing into groups

The class will be divided, beginning in week 6, into 3 groups of equal size. Each will be led by either the Course Director (CD) or one of the two Teaching Assistants . Group leaders will be in charge of supervision and grading of their students' individual research projects. Students will be given the opportunity in the first 5 weeks to talk, individually, to the group leaders and join the group of their choice.

Text material

There will be required reading of approximately 80 pages from a text titled, Making Sense of Psychology, by Margot Northey and Brian Timmins (Oxford Press, 2012). This is a "how to" book, taking the student, step by step, through the process of conceiving, proposing, conducting, and writing a research report in psychology.

Lectures

There will be a series of lectures on method and theory by the CD in weeks 2-5. In general, the content of the lectures will not overlap with the assigned material of the text, but lectures will include discussions of how specific text material can best be applied to the research report requirement. Additionally, a brief demonstration study will be conducted by the class, which will provide the data for the statistics labs to be held in the 2nd semester. A one hour multiple choice exam, with items taken about equally from lectures and text, will be held on week 6.

Research proposals

Students will meet with their groups in separate seminar rooms during the last 6 weeks of the term, and present outlines of their proposed studies. Individual presentations will be followed by feedback by the group leader and discussions among course members. Studies may deal with any area of psychology, and may employ any scientifically acceptable method (e.g. laboratory, naturalistic observation, archival, online), but must represent a test of an original, theoretically based hypothesis. .

The completed proposals should be posted to the group leaders by email attachment, on or before the last day of the 1st term. Further comments and suggestions and proposal grades will be posted back to students by the group leaders, prior to the beginning of the 2nd term.

WINTER TERM

Statistics labs will be held during the first two sessions of the winter term.

There will be no formal classes for the balance of the semester. Students will carry out their projects with individual consultations with their group leaders, as needed, during class hours or mutually convenient alternative times.

Final paper.

This should be written in the form of a scientific journal article, in terms of organization, writing style, and data presentation, using APA format as described in the text. Any and all material from the proposal may be incorporated, verbatim or otherwise, in the final paper. Final papers should be submitted by email attachment to group leaders, on or before the last day of the term, and comments and grades will be posted back.

Grades - The course grade will consist of the exam score, weighted 25%, the proposal, weighted 25%, and the research report, weighted 50%.

