Master Syllabus
PSY 3213 Research Methods in Psychology
Department of Psychology
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Course Prerequisites and/or Corequisites (if any)
PSY 1012 General Psychology

Course Lecture-Lab-Credit and/or Contact Hours
Lecture Course, 3 credit hours
Students attend lecture twice a week (M, W) and recitation section once a week (F)

Includes Lab? ___Yes ___No

Lab Fee? ___Yes ___No

Special Facility or Equipment Needs
No specified facility or special equipment required; textbooks and other student materials to be specified by instructor.

Students must provide their own scantron forms for course exams.

Recommendations for Teaching Assistants
There are typically three TAs for the course.

Course Objectives
This course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles of scientific psychology. Students who complete this course should understand the nature of scientific explanations, factors that threaten the validity and reliability of observations, the limitations of measurement scales, the use of experimental and quasi-experimental designs to test hypotheses, and the proper interpretation of correlational and experimental data. In addition, students will learn how to write research papers according to the current guidelines of the American Psychological Association.

Course Outline of Topics (Sequence & specifics may vary by instructor)

Lecture Outline
I. The Nature of Scientific Explanations
II. Searching and Reading the Psychological Literature
III. Ethics in Psychological Research
IV. Observation in Psychological Research
V. Basics of Experimentation
VI. Validity, Reliability & Measurement
VII. Experimental Design
VIII. Multifactor Experiments  
IX. Small-N Experiments  
X. Quasi-Experimental Research  
XI. Interpreting Results  
XII. Writing Research Reports Using APA Style

*Recitation Outline*
I. Conduct an experiment  
II. Library Resources  
III. Ethics: APA Guidelines  
IV. Reading journal articles  
V. APA style: General introduction  
VI. APA style: Introduction section  
VII. APA style: Method section  
VIII. APA style: Results and references sections  
IX. APA style: Discussion section and Abstract

*Course Learning Objectives*
Students will demonstrate an understanding of the following concepts through their performance on course examinations (worth 67% of the final course grade):

1. The nature of scientific explanations  
2. Factors that threaten the validity and reliability of observations  
3. Limitations of measurement scales  
4. Use of experimental and quasi-experimental designs to test hypotheses  
5. Proper interpretation of correlational and experimental data

Students will demonstrate their skills in writing according to the current guidelines of the American Psychological Association through their writing of a research report (worth 33% of the final course grade).

*Rubric for Grading Research Papers*

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