

Statistics and Research Methods I (SRM I)
Psyc 202
Fall 2008

INSTRUCTOR: Yelena Polyashuk, Ph.D. Candidate
OFFICE: Science Building, Room 303
EMAIL: y-polyashuk@neiu.edu
OFFICE PHONE #: 773-442-5853

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday:
9:50 am – 11:00 am
3:15 pm – 4:00 pm
5:00 pm – 5:35 pm

PEER LEADERS & TUTORS: Office hours and contact information to be posted on Blackboard

This course will use the NEIU Blackboard System. It is your responsibility to visit the Blackboard site and enroll yourself in the course. If you have not previously used Blackboard, you must first create an account. To access Blackboard, go to www.neiu.edu and select the Blackboard option from the Quick links drop down menu. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding creating an account or enrolling in the course.

Important announcements will be posted and emails will be sent using the Blackboard System. It is very important that you regularly check the system for announcements. Please be sure you correctly enter your regular email address into the system when registering so that I may contact you when necessary.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: This is the first course in a sequence intended to prepare students to understand, utilize, and produce research. Students will learn about descriptive statistics, normal distributions and correlation, as well basic research design and APA style writing. The course objectives will be accomplished via lectures, readings, homework assignments, exams, library research, and the writing of part of a research paper in proper APA format.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. *To learn the methodology of psychological research.* Over the course of this class, you will learn how and where to find previous research literature, appreciate different research designs and critically evaluate experiments, and write a research paper for an original experiment.
2. *To acquire a fundamental understanding of statistics.* You will learn the basic principles of statistical reasoning, including acquiring the ability to calculate basic statistics, know which statistic to use when and why, and understand the results of published articles.
3. *To learn and practice APA-style writing.* Published articles in psychology are written according to the American Psychological Association's format. The paper you will write in this class will teach you to present information and conclusions clearly while *strictly* adhering to the boundaries of APA style.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Jackson, S. L. (2008). *Research Methods and Statistics: A Critical Thinking Approach (3rd ed.)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing. ISBN: 0-495-51001-7

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.). (2001). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 1-55798-810-2

Supplemental Readings for class discussion will be posed on Blackboard.

Additional textbook recommendations will become available upon request.

COURSE POLICIES:

- ◆ Cheating and plagiarism will NOT be tolerated! This applies to ALL work completed as part of this course. An assignment that involves plagiarism will receive the grade of zero. If ever there is a second instance of plagiarism, the student will receive a grade of "F" in course and will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs.
- ◆ "Group work" is not allowed in this class. If two or more individuals hand in identical homework assignments, they will each be given a zero for that assignment.
- ◆ Attendance and participation are required. Complicated material will be covered and announcements will be made in class - all of which will be missed if you are absent. I am happy to make myself available to answer specific questions, but will not repeat lectures or provide copies of lecture notes. If you arrive late or miss a class, it is your responsibility to inquire with your fellow students or with myself during office hours as to what announcements you missed. Please get notes/handouts from another student.
- ◆ No excuses will be accepted for missed or late assignments and exams. Homework that is not turned-in due to your own illness must be accompanied by a letter from a medical professional on official letterhead. There will be no make-up exams unless a severe emergency has taken place. Missed exams will receive a grade of zero. These guidelines are strict because this class is simply too intense to permit lateness.
- ◆ Per department policy, homework assignments and papers will not be accepted via email except in the case of extreme emergencies with my *prior* approval. Under no circumstances should assignments and papers be left under my office door, or placed in the envelopes outside my office door. This will result in a grade of zero.

HOMEWORK:

Homework assignments are graded on a pass/fail basis. The passing grade for each assignment is 80%. If you fail an assignment, you will have an opportunity to correct your mistakes for full credit (given that the assignment was turned in on time). Revisions are due in the class after the assignment is returned. Late revisions are not accepted. Passing an assignment in the first attempt will earn you **1 extra credit point**.

Assignments must be completed independently. These are not team projects. Collaborating on assignments will be considered a violation of the University Code of Academic Honesty.

Homework assignments for the entire semester will be posted on Blackboard, under Assignments. Homework will be accepted *only* if it meets the following criteria:

- ◆ Homework is due in class at the beginning of the class period on the date that it is due. If class is canceled, homework assignments due that day should be turned in at the beginning of the next class meeting. If it is known that you will not be able to attend class (e.g. jury duty), it is your responsibility to get approval and make arrangements for turning in the assignment with me in advance. If you are unexpectedly unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to contact me **ASAP** and make appropriate arrangements.
- ◆ If a homework assignment does not require calculations, it must be typed. If it involves some calculations, the homework assignment may be hand-written VERY NEATLY. *If I (or the peer leaders) cannot read your writing, it won't be graded!*
- ◆ Hand-written homework shall be done on 8½ x 11", loose-leaf notebook paper.
- ◆ Statistical homework shall be done neatly so that the order of solving the problem is evident. Make sure to show ALL of your work, including formulas used, and circle your final answer.

UNGRADED ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be two in-class ungraded assignments. Feedback and suggestions for improvement will be provided.

CLASS PAPER:

You will be required to write a portion of an APA style research paper. This semester-long project will consist of proposing an original research study, conducting library research, and ultimately preparing the title page, introduction section and reference page for your paper. Details regarding this project, as well as a list of potential topics, will be posted on Blackboard under Course Documents, and will be discussed further in class. I encourage you to review this information as soon as possible.

EXAMS:

The exam format will vary depending on content. Generally, exams will include multiple choice, true/false, short essay questions as well as calculations, when appropriate. Occasionally, matching or fill-in-the-blank questions may be included. If class is canceled, an exam scheduled for that day will be taken at the beginning of the next class meeting. There will be no make-up exams unless a severe emergency has taken place. Missed exams will receive a grade of zero.

GRADING:

Grades will be determined based on the following:

1 Quiz	(APA Style)	20
4 Exams:		
	Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, & 13)	100
	Exam 2 (Chapters 3 & 4)	100
	Exam 3 (Chapter 5)	100
	Exam 4 (Chapters 6 & 8)	100
10 Homework Assignments		100
2 APA Paper drafts		165
	Breakdown of points:	
	1 st draft = 55	
	2 nd draft = 110	
	<u>Class Participation and Attendance</u>	<u>15</u>
	Total	700

Therefore, grades will be assigned as follows:

A:	630 - 700	(90 - 100%)
B:	560 - 629	(80 - 89%)
C:	490 - 559	(70 - 79%)
D:	420 - 489	(60 - 69%)
F:	419 ↓	(59% ↓)

EXTRA CREDIT:

There will be extra credit opportunities throughout this course. It is strongly encouraged that you take advantage of this. These are good opportunities to review the material, participate in research, as well as to earn extra points!

Extra Credit Assignment #1: Throughout the semester students/faculty will be seeking participants for research studies. These opportunities are posted in the psychology department hallway and will be announced in class as I become aware of them. You may participate in up to 2 studies for extra credit (5 points per study). Simply bring me the original signed slip verifying you have participated in the study. Please retain a copy of the slip for your records.

If you are unable to attend these research studies (or can only attend one during the semester), alternative options for receiving these points may be offered.