Program Learning Objectives:

The general goals of this course include:
1. Increasing students’ understanding of research methods in Psychology
2. Enhancing students critical thinking skills in Psychology

Assessment of Outcomes of the General Goals:

1. Classroom discussions, classroom exercises and class research projects will assess students’ understanding of research methods and critical thinking skills
2. A final independent experimental project will assess students’ research skills

Course Specific Learning Objectives include:

1. An understanding of the nature of experimental design, controls and appropriate experimental procedures as well as critical evaluation of experiments in various areas of Psychology;
2. Learning how to write an experimental report in APA style.

Course Requirements and Assessment of Learning Objectives:

Course Papers: The following experimental reports are designed to assess students’ understanding of research methods and understanding of the APA style of writing an experimental paper:

1. Report on first class project: A partial paper on mirror-tracing experiment and a small partial paper on Remote Associates Test experiment will be combined to total 1/3 of the student’s grade.

2. An experimental report on the second class experiment on anagrams will total 1/3 of the final grade.

3. An experimental report on the original individual experiment will be assigned a possible total of 90 points. Students will conduct the experiment with 8 participants. This assignment assesses the student’s understanding of experimental design, appropriate experimental methods and controls as well as ethical treatment of research participants.

EMAILED PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Class attendance will be a factor in grading (two points will be added to the final grade if there is almost perfect attendance). Class participation will be taken into account when a student is between grades.

Students will present the results of their original experiment in five minutes during the
scheduled final exam period. Eight points will be added to the final grade for the class presentation.

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CLASS GROUP EXPERIMENT: Line Drawing with Practice Method Section

CLASS EXPERIMENT: Mirror-Tracing Experiment for Partial Paper

PARTIAL REPORT DUE ON MIRROR-TRACING CLASS EXPERIMENT (80 points)

Sampling

Basic Between-Subjects Designs       Chapter 8
Writing the Research Report         Chapter 16

SHORT REPORT (20 points) DUE ON REMOTE ASSOCIATES (RAT) EXPERIMENT

Between-Subjects Factorial Designs   Chapter 9

CLASS EXPERIMENT ON ANAGRAMS

REPORT ON ANAGRAMS DUE (100 points)

Within-Subjects Designs                Chapter 10
Within-Subjects Designs: Small N
REPORT ON INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DUE: DURING SCHEDULED FINAL EXAM TIME. ONE PACKET, ALL 8 INFORMED CONSENT FORMS AND COPIES OF RELEVANT ARTICLES MUST BE INCLUDED.

BRIEF 5 MINUTE PRESENTATION OF PROJECT: DURING SCHEDULED FINAL EXAM TIME. THERE WILL BE NO FINAL EXAMINATION.

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