**APPL 632-185: Research Methods for Applied Psychology**

**SPRING 2015,**

**T 5:30-8:00pm, AC 235**

**Instructor: Rebecca J Thompson, PhD Office: LC 416**

**E-mail: rthompson@ubalt.edu**  **Office Hours: Wed 3-5 or by appt.[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Prerequisites**

APPL 631

**Required Text:**

Weathington, B. L., Cunningham, J. L., & Pittenger, D. J. (2010). *Research Methods for the Behavioral and Social Sciences*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley. ISBN: 9780470458037

APA (2010). *Publication manual of the APA*, 6th edition. ISBN: 10-4338-0561-8

Wagner, W. E. (2014). *Using IBM® SPSS®* *statistics for research methods and social science statistics.* 5th Edition. Sage. ISBN-10: 1483351289

**Recommended Supplement(s):**

Morgan, S. E., Reichert, T. & Harrison, T. R. (2002). *From numbers to words: Reporting statistical results for the social sciences.* Allyn & Bacon. ISBN-10: 080133280X.

**Course Website**: The course website can be found at: <https://ubonline.ubalt.edu/> [Sakai]. Here you can find course materials (including syllabus).

**I. Course Information**

A. Catalog description: The analysis of experimental and statistical designs used to investigate researchable questions. Special emphasis placed upon the translation of research findings to applied settings.

B. Course description: This course will provide a detailed description of fundamental research methods with their associated statistical procedures.

**II. Objectives of course:**

The primary objective of this course is to prepare the student to critically evaluate the validity, adequacy, and relevance of psychological research. The student will learn the relative merits of various methods of studying behavior, and the circumstances under which each is appropriately applied.

**III. General Goals:**

To provide the student with an understanding of how various research designs can be used to answer questions about behavior.

To understand the process of research including shortcomings of the various designs and practical difficulties in conducting research.

To develop a sound understanding of how statistical tools are used to describe and analyze data.

**IV. Class format: Assigned material will be discussed and clarified.**

*In-Class segment will be used for*: (1) lecture, (2) discussion of SPSS lab projects, and (3) review of chapter discussion questions posted to Sakai.

*Online segmen*t: Students will respond to Chapter Discussion questions (topics) posted to Sakai forums (one for each week). Please do not create duplicate prior responses.

**Overview of Class Policies:**

1. Class attendance is expected. Students who miss classes for any reason are responsible for all of the material covered in class. Please contact classmates for any missed material.
2. Sakai is our course management system. We will be using the messaging, gradebook, and assignment submission functions of Sakai. Please check the site frequently.
3. Make-up exams/assignments are not allowed unless under documented circumstances. Please contact me as soon as you know you are not able to come to class on exam day or complete an assignment as assigned.
4. Any evidence of cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a 0 on the assignment or an F in the course, depending upon the severity (See Academic honesty section below).
5. The following behaviors are disrespectful, and therefore, inappropriate:
   1. Conversing with other students when the instructor or another student is speaking.
   2. Use of cell-phones, pagers, or computers for purposes other than taking notes.
   3. Disrespectful actions such as obscene language, harassment of any kind, rude remarks (to any member of class) or any other action that will interfere with student learning.

**Class Attendance:** University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located on-line at http://www.ubalt.edu/academics/uploads/catalogs/Academic%20Policies.pdf. While attendance is not mandatory it is expected that you will attend each class, as much of the material that will be covered on exams comes from lectures and discussions in class. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get any materials or information you missed.

**University Policy – Use of Turnitin.com:** As a part of an institution-wide effort to ensure the originality of student work, the University of Baltimore licenses Turnitin, a commercial text matching service that analyzes students’ submissions against its own archive of student papers, articles and web sites to report on student originality and identify possible plagiarism. Incorrect use of other individuals’ work will likely result in plagiarism charges, which can lead to a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or even suspension from UB. All UB faculty members reserve the right to use this or other measures to evaluate your work for originality and proper attribution. Not understanding the definition of plagiarism or improper attribution are not excuses for failure to abide by originality requirements in this or any other course.

**Course Assessment: 400 points Total**

**Exams (100 pts each)**

There will be a midterm and final exam. Each will comprise a mixture of material from lecture, readings from the textbook, class discussions, and conceptual questions. The concepts build upon one another and therefore a thorough knowledge of all material covered will be necessary for each exam. The exams will contain both short answer and multiple choice questions. **Use of electronic devices other than an approved scientific calculator during an exam (e.g., cell phones) will result in an automatic zero on that exam.**

Each exam will require the use of a scantron (**green, Form No. 882-E**) which can be purchased at the bookstore.

**SPSS Lab Reports (50 pts each, 150 total)**

The lab reports will involve writing an APA-style introduction, methods, results, and discussion of research questions. In addition, the relevant tables and figures will be included to support findings and conclusions.

**Responses to Chapter Discussion Questions (50 pts)**

A discussion question about the assigned readings will be posted prior to class each week for students to respond to on Sakai. Students should read prior responses in order to facilitate the discussion, providing novel comments and questions.

**Grading Scale**\*: Point Breakdown:

A = 93% and higher Midterm 100 points

A- = 90% to 92.9% Final Exam 100 points

B = 83% to 86.9% SPSS Lab Reports 150 points

B- = 80% to 82.9% Discussion Questions 50 points

C+ = 77% to 79.9% 400 points

C = 73% to 76.9%

Below 73% = failing grade

**Incompletes**

Incompletes will not be granted except under extreme circumstances (at my discretion). In the event that a student requests the grade of “incomplete,” they must contact me at the earliest possible time to discuss the reason with. In addition, students must have at least a passing grade (C- or better) in the course up to that point.

**Communication**

I am available to help you and answer questions throughout the semester. My preferred method of communication is through messages on **Sakai.** Please also make sure to check the box “Send a copy of this message to recipients’ email address(es).” However, before you send a message, please take the following steps in order to ensure that I am able to understand your situation and help you as quickly as possible: (1) a clear description of your problem or question; (2) any steps you yourself have taken to address the problem/question; and (3) what you feel I can do to help you,. Finally, please allow at least 24-48 business hours for me to read and respond to your message.

Please check Sakai every day in order to ensure that you are current with the work of the course. Through Sakai, you will be able to: post work for the course; download articles and additional readings; check for class announcements; review the syllabus, assignments, and check your grades; send messages to members of the class.

**Dropping the class:** It is your responsibility to understand the University’s procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class.

**Classroom Behavior and Respect:** This class does not tolerate remarks that are sexist, racist, homophobic, or otherwise ridicule people. Students who do not follow these guidelines may be asked to leave class.

Because I do not require attendance, I expect those who attend class are there because they are both interested in learning the material and/or concerned with earning a good grade in the course. Any behavior that is not in line with these goals will not be permitted.

**UB Academic Policies**

**Academic Integrity:** The University of Baltimore comprises a community of students, faculty, administrators, and staff who share a commitment to learning. Since the practice of academic honesty is essential to learning, the university has established the following policy for academic honesty. The university's Academic Integrity Policy is derived from the following convictions:

* that honesty is the foundation of personal integrity
* that honesty promotes substantive learning
* that honesty validates the recognition of scholarly achievement
* that honesty demonstrates respect for the work of others, enabling effective cooperation
* Students, faculty, administrators, and staff share responsibility for fostering academic honesty. The practice of honesty requires an ongoing discussion of activities that may violate the spirit of honesty. It requires active discouragement of dishonesty.

While the Academic Integrity Policy places primary emphasis in fostering honesty, it recognizes the need for clear consequences of behavior that violates the policy, together with fair procedures for judging alleged cases of dishonesty. The academic integrity policy is included in the student handbook found athttp://www.ubalt.edu/campus-life/student-handbook.cfm#Academic\_Integrity

**Nondiscrimination Statement:** The University of Baltimore does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or disability in its programs, activities, or employment practices. Inquiries regarding discrimination related to educational programs and activities should be directed to Kathleen Anderson, Dean of Students, University of Baltimore, Academic Center 112, 1420 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-5779; 410.837.4755. Inquiries regarding employment discrimination should be directed to Rebecca Spence, Affirmative Action Officer, University of Baltimore, 1030 North Charles Street, 3rd Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-5779; 410.837.5410.

**Accessibility Policy:** The University of Baltimore is committed to providing barrier-free education to physically handicapped students and is actively working to bring its facilities and programs into full compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended (P.L. 93-112, P.L. 93-516). It is the policy of the university to reassign classes to accessible buildings whenever conflict arises for a handicapped student.

**Privacy Act:** Public Law 93-380 (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, also known as the "The Buckley Amendment") provides certain rights to students (and in some cases parents) concerning access to educational records. Briefly, these rights are of two kinds:

* the student has the right to examine his/her records, to challenge items the student believes are incorrect, and to appeal a decision made by the university concerning such items to the Department of Education
* the student's privacy rights may not be waived without the student's written consent, except to authorized personnel of the university and other educational institutions. The act provides that certain items designated as directory information may be released by the university. A complete copy of the HEW regulations from the Federal Register of June 17, 1976 is available in the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. Offices where students' records are kept are Records and Transcripts and, in some cases as applicable, Financial Aid, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, Admissions, Law Admissions, and those of the academic deans.
* More specific information about the regulation is located at [www.ubalt.edu/ferpa](http://www.ubalt.edu/ferpa).

***Student Resources***

**Sakai Support**

If you have a Sakai technical support question, please contact UBOnline Sakai Support in one of the following ways:

* Toll-Free Phone: 1.855.501.0856
* Email: ubsakaisupport@ubalt.edu
* They were contracted specifically to support UB users, so make sure to address your technical questions to them.

**Langsdale Library:** Langsdale Library at the University of Baltimore is a full partner in UBOnline. You can access a wide array of library services including the online catalog, electronic databases, electronic reference services, research help, reserved readings in full-text, intercampus borrowing, and interlibrary loan (ILL Express).

**Center for Educational Access:** Any student who feels they have a disability that may affect their work, and for which they may require accommodations, should contact the Center for Educational Access (CEA) immediately so that learning needs may be appropriately met. All accommodations must be approved through the CEA Office. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore planning for accommodations as early as possible is necessary. Please stop by AC-139 or call 410.837.4775 to schedule an appointment with a disability specialist. For more information, please visit the CEA web site.

* **Achievement and Learning Center:** The Achievement and Learning Center (ALC) is a free resource for all UB students. Any student who feels the need for academic support should contact the ALC. Among other services, the ALC provides tutoring, individual writing consultations, workshops in writing and public speaking, and peer advising.
* The ALC writing consultants can offer comments and advice on anything you’re writing for UB courses at any point in the writing process, from brainstorming to editing. Please note that writing consultants will not proofread papers, but they can help you learn to proofread your own work. You may work individually with a consultant or request a small-group tutorial to share questions and insights with other students. The ALC consultants can help you with reviewing course materials.
* Depending on their schedule, consultants may be available days, evenings, or even weekends. Some consultants may be able to provide assistance by e-mail, phone, fax, or web-based audio-conferencing.
* The ALC also offers workshops on various topics. For more information or to make an appointment, call 410.837.5383, visit the ALC web site, e-mail alc@ubalt.edu, or stop by AC-113.

**Tentative Schedule\*\***

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| **Date** | **Wk** | **Readings to be discussed** |
| **Jan 28** | 1 | Syllabus; Ch. 1 |
| **Feb 4** | 2 | Ch: 2 & 3 |
| **Feb 11** | 3 | Ch: 4 & 5 |
| **Feb 18** | 4 | Ch: 5 & 6 |
| **Feb 25** | **5** | Ch: 6 & 7; **Lab Report 1 Due** |
| **Mar 4** | 6 | Ch: 7 & 8 |
| **Mar 11** | 7 | Mid Term Exam |
| **Mar 18** | 8 | **SPRING BREAK** |
| **Mar 25** | 9 | Ch: 9 |
| **Apr 1** | 10 | Ch: 10; **Lab Report 2 Due** |
| **Apr 8** | **11** | Ch: 11 & 12 |
| **Apr 15** | **12** | Ch: 13 |
| **Apr 22** | **13** | No Class. Work on Lab Report |
| **Apr 29** | **14** | Ch: 14 & 15; **Lab Report 3 Due** |
| **May 6** | **15** | Ch; 16 |
| **May 13** | **16** | **Final Exam** |

**\*Order of lecture material and other course content may not correspond to order of material in textbook. Please keep in mind that the textbook is a supplement to the lecture. Both are important.**

**\*\*Disclaimer: This professor reserves the right to change this syllabus. Students will be notified of any changes.**

1. Please try to always message me to let me know you plan to attend office hours so that I can prepare for your specific questions. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)