RESEARCH METHODS

THE PURPOSE OF ANY EDUCATION IS “TO ACQUIRE, TO CREATE, TO INNOVATE, TO CHALLENGE” NOAM CHOMSKY

PSY3213L
3 CREDIT HOURS
FALL/2016
** ONLINE
** NO CLASS MEETING TIME(S)

INSTRUCTOR: Marina A. Klimenko, Ph.D., M.P.A.

Psychology Building, office in room 361

GTA (GRADUATE TA): Nathalie Fernandez, Kissel Goldman, and Carly Logan
UTA (UNDERGRADUATE TAS): Denise Williams and Mohima Meera

COURSE WEBSITE:

https://ufl.instructure.com/

IN PERSON OFFICE HOURS: Friday, between 10:30 am and 1pm. *Feel free to visit me in my office if you have any questions or concerns, or to just say ‘Hi’. To make sure I am in the office, send me a quick email in Canvas in advance.*

VIRTUAL OFFICE VIA BIG BLUE BUTTON IN CANVAS: email to schedule an individual virtual office meeting.

INDIVIDUAL VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS BY SKYPE: (prof.klimenko) Email to schedule an individual Skype meeting
STRUCTURE OF COURSE IN E-LEARNING: This course uses E-Learning in Canvas. Students will have to complete weekly readings, quizzes, and a small research project. The research project will be broken down into five interrelated assignments. Group Introduction, Group Literature Review, Assignment 1, and Assignment 2 will be completed in groups. Assignment 3 will be a research paper and will be based upon the research project that you will complete for this course.

The course is divided into 4 modules, roughly corresponding to the four major themes and steps of a typical research process.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS: All communication will be done in Canvas—emails, discussions, and announcements.


ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: any SPSS manual recommended

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS: Some knowledge of SPSS will be helpful but not required

PURPOSE OF COURSE: Psychology is a discipline dedicated to the scientific understanding of behavior and mental processes. This course will provide students an opportunity to learn about the scientific methods psychologists use to study psychological questions, in part through course readings and lectures, and in part through conducting their own small research project.

COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES: By the end of this course, students will:

1) Think critically and reason scientifically.
2) Understand a general process of research in psychology
3) Be able to evaluate the quality of evidence in published research.
4) Gain practical experience in research process by formulating hypotheses, collecting small data, analyzing it and communicating results.
5) Clearly and effectively present ideas in writing to contribute to the dissemination of knowledge and to exchange ideas in the field of psychology and social sciences.
6) Become better consumers of social sciences.
There will be a quiz for each chapter covered in this class, 11 quizzes in total. Only 10 highest quizzes will be counted towards your final grade. Each chapter quiz consists of short 10 objective questions (multiple choice format). Each item is worth 1 point. So each quiz is worth 10 points. Items are drawn at random from a larger pool of items, so no two people will receive the same quiz. Chapter quizzes are not cumulative; each quiz pertains to the material covered in a particular module. Thus, carefully review all material posted in the modules, including text chapters, lectures, notes, videos, and any other additional information. The quizzes are timed and must be completed within certain specific time frames. Most quizzes will be opened at 7 am on Thursday and closed on Sunday, 11:59pm (unless otherwise stated). Quizzes will not be accessible after the deadline. The answers will be automatically released after the deadline, usually on Mondays, 12am, and will stay open for one full week so you can review them and make any necessary inquiries about your grade or the correct answers (the answers will close afterwards).

Weekly quizzes are relatively easy, and most students do well on them—the average grade is around 85 and 90.

IMPORTANT: You are responsible for your internet strength and reliability, and for using a reliable computer. If you lose internet connection due to issues with your computer or internet, you will not be allowed to retake the quiz. If the interruption in connection is caused by issues in Canvas, contact e-learning help desk and get verification. The decision to allow retaking a quiz will be determined on an individual basis and will be based on the cause of the issue. Since the chances of experiencing technical issues more than once in a semester are very small, no one will be allowed to retake more than one quiz.

RESEARCH PROJECT & RELATED ASSIGNMENTS (113.5 POINTS)

There will be 3 interrelated assignments, each building on the preceding one. All three assignments will be due Sundays, 11:59pm. Instructions and details about the Research Project can be found in Canvas Research Project Overview web link. There will be a Group Introduction and two group discussions, Assignment 1 and Assignment 2 Group Discussions, the purpose of which is to give you the space and
time to discuss Assignment 1 and 2 with your peers (e.g., share ideas and help each other by answering each other questions). The points for Assignment 1 and 2 will be based only upon their completeness and timeliness, not their correctness. You will receive our general feedback about assignment 1 and 2 soon after their submissions. Be sure to correct/revise each assignment accordingly since they will affect the outcome of your study. Do not hesitate to seek help and ask questions when you don’t have a clear sense of what you should do next or have questions about the assignments and the project in general. It will be your responsibility to contact your instructor or TA with any follow up questions. If we don’t receive questions from you, we will assume that you understand what you are doing.

Inquiries about the assignments (e.g., questions, ask for help, etc.) should be made at least 24 hours before their due dates to ensure that you will receive our response on time (before assignments are due). Questions can be sent to class instructor or TAs via Canvas mail.

Please know the final research paper will constitute a major portion of your final grade and is the most challenging assignment in this course. The average score is 80 out of 100 possible points, and many students will see a slight drop in their overall grade after completing it. However, students, who consistently participate in all group discussions, stay engaged, ask questions, and seek help promptly, usually do very well.

The final assignment related to your research project is Research Summary and Peer Review. You will be required to create a short (no more than 10 minutes) presentation describing your study and its results. You will also provide a critique of two of your peers’ presentations.

**Research Related Activities & Due Dates:**

Group Introduction, **due Aug 31, 11:59pm** (0.5)

*(Optional) Virtual Office Hour via Canvas Conference (to discuss Assignment 1), Sep 14, between 10 and 11am. Conference will be taped, for those who cannot attend.*

Assignment 1 Group Discussion, **due Sep 18, 11:59pm** (0.5 point)

Assignment 1: Designing Study, **due Sep 18, 11:59pm** (1 point)

*(Optional) Virtual Office Hour via Canvas Conference (to discuss Assignment 1 & 2), Oct 12, between 10 and 11am. Conference will be taped, for those who cannot attend.*

Assignment 2 Group Discussion, **due Oct 16, 11:59pm.** (0.5 point)
Assignment 2: Developing Statistical Plan of Data Analyses & Data Submission, due Oct 16, 11:59pm. (1 point)

(Optional) Virtual Office Hour via Canvas Conference (to discuss Assignment 2 & 3), Oct 26, between 10 and 11am. Conference will be taped, for those who cannot attend.

Assignment 3: Research Paper, due Nov 6, 11:59pm. (100 points)

Research Summary and Peer Review, due Nov-30, 11:59pm. (10 points)

**GROUP DISCUSSIONS (12 POINTS)**

_There will be 9 group discussions. Only 8 of them (with the highest grade) will be counted towards your final grade._ You can miss any one of the 9 group discussions, but _with the exception of the final group discussion_ (you cannot miss or replace the final week discussion). Each discussion will pose a question or a set of questions and you will be asked to give your opinion. To receive full credit, (1) the length of your response should be at least one paragraph, and (2) your opinion should be substantive and persuasive (i.e., support your opinion with evidence that you can find in our class material or from other reliable sources). In addition to posting your answers, you will have to respond to two other posts from your group discussion forum. **IMPORTANT:** Many online students have jobs, families and many other responsibilities. They organize their schedules ahead of time. Thus, it is important that when an assignment involves interaction with other students everyone completes his/her part on time. To make this assignment go as smoothly and as stress-free as possible, the deadline for posting individual answers is Saturday (exceptions are group introduction, week 1 group discussion; see class schedule), 11:59pm, and the peer replies must be completed by Sunday, 11:59pm. Canvas will only display the individual post due dates.

- Week 1 Group Discussion #1: Human Intellectual Evolution (1.5 point)
- Week 2 Group Discussion #2: Falsifiability (1.5 point)
- Week 3 Group Discussion #3: Sex, Drugs, Disasters and the Extinction of Dinosaurs (1.5 points)
- Week 4 Group Discussion#4: Importance of Conceptual and Operational Definitions (1.5 point)
- Week 5 Group Discussion#5: Observational Methods (1.5 point)
• Week 6 Group Discussion #6
• Week 9 Group Discussion #7: Emotional Contagion
• Week 12 Group Discussion #8: Health Benefits of Eating Chocolate
• Final Week Group Discussion #9: Adverlying (cannot miss this discussion)

You can also earn 2 extra points at the end of the semester if you demonstrate excellent collaborative work (i.e., actively and thoughtfully engage in all group discussions and help others in your group with suggestions and/or answering questions) and lead engaging discussions.

CLASS SCHEDULE

MODULE # 1

1. Week 1: Aug 21-27: Development of Scientific Thinking (Chapter 1)
   • Quiz 1 (chapter 1 and week 1 material), Aug 31, 11:59pm (extended).
   • Group Introduction (0.5), due Aug 31, 11:59pm (extended).
   • Week 1 Group Discussion (1.5), Sep 1-2, 11:59pm (extended).

2. Week 2: Aug 28-Sep 3: Modern Science (Chapter 2)
   • Quiz 2 (chapter 2 and week 2 material), Sep 1-4, 11:59pm.
   • Week 2 Group Discussion, due Sep 3-4, 11:59pm.

3. Week 3: Sep 6-10: Generating Testable Hypotheses & Developing a Research Plan (Chapter 3).
   • Quiz 3 (chapter 3 and week 3 material), Sep 8-11, 11:59pm
   • Week 3 Group Discussion: Sex, Drugs, Disasters and the Extinction of Dinosaurs, due Sep 10-11, 11:59pm.
   • Emotional Attitudes Survey 1 (Study Extra Credit Participation)
   • Social Attitudes Survey 2 (Study Extra Credit Participation)

4. Week 4: Sep 11-17: Content Analysis (Chapter 4)
   • Week 4 Group Discussion, due Sep 17-18, 11:59pm. Feedback will be provided immediately after the deadline to aid in assignment 1 and quiz 4.
   • (Optional) Virtual Office Hour via Canvas Conference (to discuss Assignment 1), Sep 14, between 10 and 11am. Conference will be taped, for those who cannot attend.
   • Assignment 1 Group Discussion, due Sep 18, 11:59pm.
• Assignment 1, due by Sep 18, 11:59pm.
• Quiz 4 (chapter 4 and week 4 material), Sep 15-18, 11:59pm.

MOUDLE #2

5. **Week 5: Sep 18-24: Observational Research Design (Chapter 5)**
   • Quiz 5 (chapter 5 and week 5 material), Sep 22-25, 11:59pm
   • Week 5 Group Discussion, due Sep 24-25pm
   • Feedback for Assignment 1 posted

6. **Week 6: Sep 25-Oct 1: Data Analysis Part 1 (Chapter 8)**
   • Quiz 6 (chapter 8 and week 6 material), Sep 29-Oct 2, 11:59pm
   • Week 6 Group Discussion, due Oct 1-2, 11:59pm.

7. **Week 7: Oct 2-6: Data Analysis Part 2 (Chapter 9)**
   • Quiz 7 assignment will be posted Oct 3, 7am (you will have to compute stat tests before taking quiz 7).
   • (Optional) Virtual Office Hour via Canvas Conference (to discuss Assignment 1 & 2), Oct 12, between 10 and 11 am. Conference will be taped, for those who cannot attend.
   • *No Quiz this week.*
   • *No Group Discussion this week.*

8. **Week 8: Oct 9-15: Data Analysis Part 2 cont. (Chapter 9)**
   • Assignment 2 Group Discussion, due Oct 16, 11:59pm.
   • Assignment 2, due Oct 16, 11:59pm.
   • Individual Assignment_Data, due Oct 16, 11:59pm.
   • Quiz 7 (chapter 9 and week 7 and 8 material), Oct 13-16, 11:59pm
   • Optional Mid semester survey (0.5 extra point), due Oct 15, 11:59pm.

MODULE #3

   • Week 9 Group Discussion, due Oct 22-23, 11:59pm.
   • Feedback for Assignment 2 posted.
   • *No quiz*

    • Quiz 8 (Chapter 10 and week 9 and 10 material), due Oct 27-30, 11:59pm.
• No Group Discussion
• (Optional) Virtual Office Hour via Canvas Conference (to discuss Assignment 2 & 3), Oct 26, between 10 and 11am. Conference will be taped, for those who cannot attend.

11. Week 11: Oct 30-Nov 5: working on research paper
   • Assignment 3: Research Paper is due by Nov 6, 11:59pm.
   • No quiz
   • No Group Discussion

MODULE 4

12. Week 12: Nov 6--12: Experimental Design (Chapter 6)
   • Week 12 Group Discussion, due Nov 12-13, 11:59pm.
   • No quiz

   • Quiz 9 (chapter 6 and week 12 and 13 material), Nov 17-20, 11:59pm
   • No Group Discussion
   • Research Summary Presentation due Nov 20, 11:59pm.

   • Quiz 10 (chapter 7 and week 14 material), due Nov 26-30, 11:59pm.
   • No Group Discussion
   • Peer-Reviews of Two Summary Presentations, due by Nov 30, 11:59pm.
   • Social Attitudes Survey 3 (Study Extra Credit Participation), due Dec 7, 11:59pm. Or Extra Credit Article Summary due Nov 30, 11:59pm.

15. Week 15-16: Dec 1-7: Becoming a Wise Consumer of Science
   • Final Week Group Discussion: Adverlying, due Dec 4-5, 11:59pm.
   • Quiz 11, due Dec 3-6, 11:59pm.
   • Social Attitudes Survey 3 (Study Extra Credit Participation), due Dec 7, 11:59pm.

POLICY FOR DISPUTING GRADES

You will have one week (exception is quiz 11 for which your inquiries should be emailed to your instructor by Dec 7, 11:59pm), including weekends and holidays,
after the release of the grade to dispute it (disputes are defined as questions about the material on quiz or assignments), and will NOT be accepted after that date.

If you want to dispute a grade you will need to write a paragraph explaining the dispute (write out the question on the quiz or explain the part of the assignment in detail). Quiz disputes must be sent to my Canvas mail (your instructor). Disputes about your research paper or group work should be sent to your graduate TA via Canvas mail.

COURSE POLICIES & GUIDELINES

1. All communication will be done in Canvas.

If you have any questions/comments pertaining to
   a. Course administration, not time sensitive: post your question in Technical issues and course materials errors/FAQ discussion board.
   b. Course concepts: post your question in Course Concepts discussion board.
   c. If you do not receive an answer from either FAQ or Course Concepts discussion boards within 24 hours, contact instructor or TA by Canvas mail.

   *Discussion boards will not be monitored on Saturdays and Sundays.

If you have a question about
   a. A quiz, email instructor via Canvas mail.
   b. Research project, email instructor or your TA.
   c. If you have concerns/need help, email me instructor or your TA.

Do not post questions or information about your grade on the discussion boards.

   *CANNOT CONTACT INSTRUCTOR OR GTA WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT ASSIGNMENTS 8 HRS BEFORE THE ARE DUE!!
   d. In the case of a serious medical condition, a family emergency or other situation that will keep you out of class a week or more, email instructor (mklimenko@ufl.edu).

2. All interactions with instructors and among class members are expected to be professional and appropriate. Students are encouraged to answer each other’s questions on the FAQ and Course Content Board.
3. **Announcements:** Occasionally, announcements will be made if there are any changes to class schedule or assignments.

4. **Extension of deadlines:** May be requested **ONLY** for university excused absences with adequate documentation. Requests for an extension must be based on University approved reasons and must include proper documentation as per University guidelines. Requests for extensions must be made before the deadline, if possible, or within 24 hours of the deadline for unexpected emergencies.

5. **Computer/internet access to e-learning:** Required for this course. Students are responsible for maintaining access to e-learning.
   
   e. Extensions will not be given for student-based technical difficulties. Do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments and quizzes! Do not take your quizzes on the bus! Use a land connection instead of Wi-Fi.

   f. If UF e-learning experiences technical difficulties, deadlines will be adjusted to allow for completion of assignments.

6. **This course adheres to all University Policies.** See [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/) for useful information at the Dean of Students Office webpage.

7. **Academic Honesty:** This course uses the definitions and guidelines for academic honesty as described by the Dean of Students Office. See [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php) for details.

8. **Students with disabilities:** Requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. See [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) for details.

9. **Religious Observances:** Please check your calendars against the course syllabus. Any student having a conflict due to religious observance should contact me as soon as possible so that we can make any necessary arrangements.

10. **Copyright Statement:** Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. **They may not be retained in another medium or**
disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act.

11. Syllabus Change Policy: Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. If changes are made to this syllabus they will be announced and/or emailed. It is your responsibility to check for announcements and/or email of changes online.

12. Extra Help: Contact me as soon as possible for extra assistance if you discover you are having trouble. I want you to do well!

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**GRADING**

Your final grade is based on the total number of points you accumulate. Your grade will be calculated by summing the points you earn on quizzes and assignments.

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<td>Research Project &amp; Related Assignments</td>
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<td>Group Discussions</td>
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How to Calculate Your Grade in the Class:

\[(\text{Grade} \times \% \text{ assignment is worth}) + (\text{Grade} \times \% \text{ assignment is worth}) = \text{Grade in class}\]

*The good news is – these grades are firm – there is no curve. Everybody in the class can get an A grade and I hope you do.*
The bad news is – these grades are firm – there is no curve. If you score just a quarter of a point below the cutoff then you will receive the lower grade.