

PSYCHOLOGY 4800 -- Experimental Social Psychology

Fall 1996 Course Outline

Section A: Robert Arms

TTh 3:05-4:20

Room D635

Office: D852

Phone: 329-2407

email: arms

The Tuesday class meetings will take place in D635 unless otherwise announced. The Tuesday meetings will cover lecture material and the Thursday sessions will meet on an ad hoc basis for the purpose of discussing research projects, review of course material and to hear speakers invited by the Psychology Department. You may be required to participate in one evening off-campus research experience to be announced during the semester.

TEXT:

Judd, C. M., Smith, E. R., & Kidder, L. H. (1991). Research methods in social relations (6th ed.). New York: Harcourt Brace Janovich.

ASSIGNED READINGS (on reserve in the library):

1. Adair - Social psychological issues in research
2. Dickerson et al. - Using cognitive dissonance
3. Martin and Gray - Effects of audience laughter
4. Byers et al. - Birthdate and mortality

EVALUATION:

- 25% Midterm examination* (October 22): Chs. 1,2,3,4,5 and 20 + readings 1 & 2
- 25% Final exam (December 14): Chs. 7,8,10,12 and 14 + readings 3 and 4
- 25% Research Report** (due December 6)
- 15% Research Presentation (begin November 26)
- 10% Attendance at Thursday lab. sessions and invited speakers

*Makeup exams will not be prepared for those who miss examinations without a valid reason.

**Twenty-five per cent of the marks will be deducted for each day late.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

DATE	Chapter
September 10	1
17	2
24	3
October 1	4
8	5
15	20
22	Midterm exam
29	7
November 5	8
12	10
19	12 and 14
26	Class presentations
December 3	Class presentations
14	Final Exam

RESEARCH PROJECT

Students, working in groups of no larger than three persons, will be required to complete a social psychological research project. This will involve selection and approval of a research topic, a research proposal, data collection a class presentation and a final research report. The research report must be written in APA format. APA publication manuals (1987) are available in the library. You may use either the 1987 or the 1994 version which is available in the bookstore.

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

The research project is worth 40% of your final course grade. This is broken down as follows:

- Proposal (100 words), due October 29.....2.5%
- Photocopy of raw data, due November 19.....2.5%
- Class presentation, begin November 26.....15%
- Report, due December 6.....20%

The project may be either a replication or an original study. It may be an experiment, a quasi-experiment, a survey, participant observation or it may be creation and validation of a research instrument such as an attitude scale. The main requirement is that some data must be collected.

You may work on projects in teams of up to three persons or by yourself.

You must check with your instructor prior to beginning your research. This is done by submitting a formal proposal (October 29) for which you will receive 2.5% of your grade. This should include a brief literature review (which will be expanded in your final report) a statement of your hypothesis or predictions and a method section, including some ideas about the materials you plan to use (i.e., questionnaire). You should also address any ethical concerns that may arise from the study.

A photocopy of your raw data must be submitted by November 19. This is worth 2.5% of the grade.

Submitting your report:

- Your paper should have the traditional sections for an empirical report- remember that the Abstract should be on a separate page and be about 100- 150 words long.
- The introductory section should be about three to four pages long and should thoroughly review the relevant literature using an 'hourglass' approach. That is, begin with a broad general statement and gradually proceed through the literature, concluding with the actual hypothesis of your own study. Read

published papers to get the idea.

- Your report must be typed or computer printed.
- Attach a photocopy of the original study you are replicating or your main reference.
- If you are working as a team, one joint report is to be submitted. It is assumed that each group member will have made an equal contribution to the final product.
- Grading of the final report will be based on 5 marks for APA style, 10 marks for content, i.e., adequacy of literature review, explanation of method, quality of discussion and 5 marks for writing style, i.e., clarity of expression, grammar, spelling etc.

CLASS PRESENTATIONS

Each group or individual will give a class presentation that describes their research project. This presentation is worth 15% of the final grade. Each presentation will be allowed 20 minutes to provide the class with a literature background for their study, a description of the methods used, an explanation of the results and a discussion of the implications of their findings. Five minutes will be allowed for questions. When a group is presenting, each member must participate in the presentation. The presentations will begin on November 26.

GRADE RANGES

85% and over = A

75-84.9 = B

60-74.9 = C

50-59.9 = D

less than 50 = F
