

Human Relationships Capstone Psych 4980WI

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Required Texts:

This course pack is the only required text.

Recommended Texts:

Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association – 6th Edition.

Note: An electronic version of this text is available online at the APA website.

Pyrczak & Bruce (2007) *Writing Empirical Research Reports*. 6th Edition.

Cronk (2012) *How to Use SPSS Statistics* -- 7th Edition (actually, any edition will do)



Course Objectives & Content Description

A capstone course is intended to bring together the various components of the undergraduate psychology major. In addition, APA standards for the major in psychology recommend that each student design and conduct a psychological study. Towards that end, students taking this course *will conduct empirical research on some aspect of human relationships and produce an APA format paper detailing their research*. That means that each student is responsible for designing a study, producing an instrument to collect data, collecting and analyzing data, and describing the outcomes. Attention will be focused on writing the individual components of an empirical article including the background or introduction, the methods, the statistical results, the conclusions, and the discussion. In addition, students will describe their project in a short presentation to the class.

Course Structure, Grading, & Assignments

The course is designed to help you create, conduct, and write-up your study. Each class session is meant to move you toward successful completion of your study and description of your results. Therefore, grades are partly a function of your attendance, participation, and adherence to schedule.

Participation. Our (the instructor's and TA's) job is easier if you come to class. Every time you come to a class session, 5/5 points will be factored into your grade. That means if you come to every class, we will factor in a perfect score worth more than the final paper into your grade.

Lab Activities. The SPSS labs are designed to prepare you for your own data manipulation and analysis. Each Lab Activity is worth points toward your grade. If you miss a lab activity day, you will need to make up those points by completing the activity on your own time. You must make up the lab activity prior to the start of your own data analysis. You may not make up the 5/5 optional attendance points for the labs.

Written Assignments. The bulk of your grade is determined by the quality of your written assignments. Because it adds a lot of work for everyone when you turn in assignments late, we will dock 25% for late papers; you cannot earn points for a section that is more than one week late. Note: paper section drafts must still be submitted for feedback.

Written Assignments

Written Assignment Summary

Note: see schedule for due dates. This does not include the lab activities.
The word counts are approximate.

	Assignment	Words	Points
1	Goal Setting Essay	500–700	10
2	Idea and Five Sources	10-50	10
3	Research Question and Hypothesis	500 – 800	20
4	Title Page and Abstract Draft:	150-350	40
5	Methods Draft	500-1200	40
6	Introduction Draft	900-1500	45
7	Measures Proposal	variable	20
8	Reference Section Draft	≥ 5 sources	20
9	Results Draft	300-800	25
10	Discussion Draft	700-1500	40
11	Figure Draft		20
12	Table Draft		20
13	Final Complete Paper	3000-6000	100