Psy 207: Research Methods

Section I: General Information:

―Diligence is the mother of good luck‖, Ben Franklin

―With self-discipline most anything is possible‖, Theodore Roosevelt

―The scientist is not a person who gives the right answers, he′s one who asks the right questions‖ Clause Levi-Strauss

Section I A: Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Eric Roth     Contact Info: Email: eroth@psych.udel.edu (there is more than 1 Eric Roth on campus, be sure to use this address).

Office Hours: Wolf Hall 440, Mon 2:30-3:45, Fri 4-5pm, or by appointment

Section I B: Course materials:


Clicker Required

Section I C: Course Format:

The general sequence of information that you are presented and tested over is outlined in the important date section below (Section III). The test dates list the chapters to be covered in the order that they will be covered. Your goal should be to try to stay ahead of lecture with your chapter readings. If you are trying to estimate how far you should read to be prepared for class, I will give updates in class at the end of the week to give you a more detailed reading plan for the upcoming week. The course generally follows the required textbook with occasionally provided supplemental materials. All information that you will be tested over is provided within these materials. Additionally, on Sakai I provide chapter checklists for all terms and concepts that you may be tested over. Thus, you have all the information you need for testing within the required reference materials. Lectures are designed as an interactive exercise to highlight some (non-inclusive) of the required material, provide additional examples and clarification, and give you an opportunity to discuss and ask questions about material that you do not understand. Tests are solely derived from the checklists, textbook, and other reference material. You are not directly tested over the lectures or classroom interactions. The powerpoint presentations associated with lecture are designed to lead discussion for instructive and organizational purposes only. They are not intended to be reference material and will not be provided as such.

**The remaining details of the course are described throughout the syllabus. I treat the syllabus like a contract with the student. Thus, details of the syllabus are closely followed with rare exceptions. Know and understand the syllabus. You will be quizzed over it.**
Section II: Assessment and Grading:

Section II A: Point Values

Your course grade will be based on a total of 600 points.

300 Pts = 3 Tests (100pts each)

55 Pts: Quizzes, Miscellaneous Activities, Participation

100 Pts = Research Proposal (5+5+5+10+75) (Summary+ peer reviews+ your reviews + final version)

25 Pts = Research Proposal Powerpoint Presentation

120 Pts = Final Exam

Section II B: Grading Criteria

The percentage cutoffs and the total number of earned points out of a possible 600pts needed to reach each grade level are listed below.

A ≥93% (558pts), A- ≥90% (540pts), B+ ≥87% (522pts), B ≥83% (498pts), B- ≥80% (480pts), C+ ≥77% (462pts),
C ≥73% (438pts), C- ≥70% (420pts), D+ ≥67% (402pts), D ≥63% (378pts), D- ≥60% (360pts), F<60% (<360pts)

- Calculating your grade at any point in time in this class is a very simple and transparent process. All grades are posted on Sakai as well as the possible points for each item. Just add up your total points earned and divide by the total points possible. To convert this number to a percentage multiply by 100 and then compare to the cutoffs above. At the end of the semester you don’t even need to calculate a percentage. You can just simply compare your total points earned to the cutoffs above. For example, you will receive a B+ if you earn 522 to 539 points.

- Curve : If there is an additional class curve at the end of the semester, I will simply post the point curve total on Sakai. Just treat these curve points like extra credit points. In other words, only add them to your total points earned (do not add them to your total points possible) and then recalculate your percentage or compare to cutoffs.

Section II C: Final Course Grades

- You determine your grade through classroom activities and test performance. Grades are not need-based. Thus if you know you need a given grade to graduate, maintain a scholarship, etc…, prepare accordingly from the beginning of the semester. When the course is over, I may apply a curve to the overall class, but everyone is graded by the same set of criteria as I do not make alterations to individual grades. I simply enter the number of points you accumulated into the computer, and it assigns your course grade based on the predefined criteria set in this syllabus. Throughout the semester I am more than happy to try to assist you in improving your performance, but after the final is completed, I do not have any options available for offering additional extra credit or selectively revising grades. Plan accordingly.

- Final Borderline Grades: In general see Final Grades discussion above. To reiterate, grades are determined by strict point thresholds (See Section II B). All point cutoffs are firm. Whether you need 1 point or 20 points, I do not manipulate individual borderline grades. You either meet and/or exceed the threshold or you do not. I do give 10 free extra credit points to everyone at the end of the course. One of the purposes of these free points is to push you up to the next grade level in borderline situations (see Section II D below).
Section II D: Extra Credit

- Extra Credit Points: Defined: An extra credit point is a free point (no point basis; out of 0pts) that is added to your total earned points at the end of the semester. It does not affect the total points possible. In other words, when calculating your grade (%), it only affects the numerator.

- 10 Points: At the end of the semester you are given 10 free extra credit points. After the final exam is graded and all grades are tallied, the free extra credit points are simply added on to your total earned points for the semester. These free points serve 2 main purposes: 1) They provide some insurance against Murphy (see Section VI C); and 2) If you have a very borderline grade, they may bump you up to the next level.

- Cumulative Final Exam/Test Replacement: Potential Extra credit points: 0-100pts: Sooner or later, everyone has a test they would like to do over. To provide such an opportunity or a similar insurance policy, if your percentage on the Final Cumulative Exam is above your lowest test score, I automatically replace your lowest test score with your % grade on the Final Exam. For example, the Final Exam is out of 120 pts. If you score 108pts out of 120 (i.e., 90%), the 108pts are added to your total earned points but in addition, your lowest regular test score (assuming it is lower than a 90) is replaced. Thus if your lowest test score was a 65, it would be completely dropped and replaced with a 90. In this example the end result is mathematically equivalent to just adding 25 extra credit points to your total earned semester points. In summary, the Final Exam can negatively impact your grade similar to an individual test score, but for those that need it, the Final Exam can have a tremendous positive impact on your overall grade.

- Additional extra credit opportunities may be offered in the form of small unannounced quizzes/activities. To receive credit attendance is required. (i.e., these quizzes/activities may not be made up)

Section III: Important Dates:

Dates are firm, see schedule below, plan accordingly.

Mon Feb 4... First day of class
Fri Feb 15 ... Quiz1: 10Pts (Over Content of Syllabus and journal article: see sakai for details)
Mon Feb 25 ... Test 1: 100 Pts (Chapters 1, 2, 16, 3, 4, and journal article)
Fri Mar 1st ... Research Proposal Summary Due: 5 Pts (For Details: See Sakai: Resources: Research Proposal Getting Started)
Fri Mar 15... ANOVA Quiz (25 pts)
Fri Mar 22 ... Test 2: 100 Pts (Chapters 5, 14, 15, 6, and ANOVA)
Wed Apr 10 .... Research Proposal Due!! (finished version, not a rough draft!)
Tues Apr 16 ... Last day to drop without academic penalty
Fri Apr 19 ... Quiz: 5 Pts. Journal Article: See Sakai for details
Mon Apr 22 ...Peer Reviews (2) Due
Wed Apr 24... Test 3: 100 Pts (Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and article)
Mon Apr 29 ... Research Presentations may begin and continue through Mon May13 (attendance mandatory)
Wed May 8 ... Research Proposal Final Corrections Due
Wed May 13 ...Last day of class
Date TBD ... Final (120 Pts) (Cumulative: Chapters 1-11, 14-16, ANOVA, and Journal articles)

**In the rare event that classes are cancelled due to weather related University shutdown or other reasons, once classes resume the above schedule will likely remain firm. If classes are cancelled on a scheduled test or quiz date, the exam or quiz will be taken the first day that class resumes.**
Section IV: Testing
- Required materials: multiple sharpened #2 pencils and an eraser
- All tests are officially cumulative and may contain review questions from prior material, but the majority of test questions focus on information highlighted in the chapter checklists for the assigned chapters (See Section III)
- Tests are scheduled far in advance. Please plan your schedule accordingly. If you have a personal conflict with a test date, the sooner you alert me, the more likely something can be done to accommodate you
- On the day (all day: before and after) of the test, I will not answer test content related questions
- I retain all tests, quizzes, and some assignments for documentation. If you wish to review your materials after grading or dispute a grade, you must request an office hour appointment within 2 weeks of a grade being issued. After that time, all grades are finalized and all items are archived and no longer accessible.
- All grades are continually updated on Sakai. Check Sakai frequently and immediately report any grading issues before the grades become permanent after that two week period

Section V: Assignments
- Assignments are generally due at the beginning of class at a prescheduled date and time. Assignments more than 1hr late will not be accepted without an email (no later than 12hrs after the assignment deadline) from you documenting the late assignment. All late assignments are subject to a 5pt penalty. Additional late point charges may be assessed if the assignment is more than 24 hours late. Detailed information on all assignments will be posted on Sakai. On Sakai you will also find rubrics for how the assignments will be graded.

Section VI: Attendance / Make-up Policy

Section VI A: Is attendance mandatory?
- Officially, yes! However, as long as assignments, pop quizzes, participation activities, or other testing do not occur on a given absence date, you will likely not be directly penalized for that absence.

Section VI B: Can I make up missed tests or quizzes with an excused absence?
- It depends. If you miss a scheduled exam (test or quiz), you must email me (preferably before the exam but no later than 12 hours after the missed exam) to acknowledge your absence and request permission to make up the exam asap. An exam date, time, and location will be determined and an automatic 5pt late penalty will be applied. Exams are generally made up before or during the next scheduled class period following the missed exam. Failing to make up the exam in this time frame may result in additional point penalties. Some exceptions are made for medical or extreme situations but if the test can’t be made up in a timely manner, a zero will be awarded and the final % may serve as the replacement grade. Since exams are scheduled well in advance, if you know you will miss an exam you may request (by email) to take the exam earlier and avoid the late penalty. If possible, I will accommodate you but sufficient advanced notice (generally 2-3 weeks) is required to provide time for scheduling and generating the exam. Other accommodations can also be made for athletes or other University related obligations if prior notice and documentation is provided.
- Small unannounced pop quizzes or participation activities may not be made up
Section VI C: Murphy

- Most of you are likely familiar with Murphy’s law: Anything that can go wrong will go wrong. Since sufficient advanced notice in not always possible and all late exams and assignments regardless of excuse are subject to a 5 point penalty, it is possible that Murphy (sickness, injury, travel problems, family matters, and other factors beyond your control) may cost some of you points. To make up for this, at the end of the semester, I add 10 unearned (free) extra credit points (see Section II D) to your overall total earned points. In other words, I have given you two freebies or 2 sick/vacation days to counteract Murphy. After the two freebies, additional lapses in attendance may start costing you real earned points. In extreme cases of chronic illness or attendance related issues, you may be switched to a more traditional non extra credit based attendance/make-up policy.

Section VII: Statement for students with disabilities:

- Any student who thinks he/she may need an accommodation based on a disability should contact me personally as soon as possible, as well as contact the Disability Support Service (DSS) office. The DSS office is located at 119 Alison Hall, Phone: 302-831-4643, www.udel.edu/DSS.

Section VIII: Statement on academic integrity:

- “All students must be honest and forthright in their academic studies. To falsify the results of one's research, to steal the words or ideas of another, to cheat on an assignment, or to allow or assist another to commit these acts corrupts the educational process. Students are expected to do their own work and neither give nor receive unauthorized assistance. Any violation of this standard will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.”

Section IX: Statement regarding classroom etiquette

- Be respectful and refrain from talking during lecture
- Be respectful and refrain from behavior that may be disruptive or offensive to others
- You do not need permission to enter or exit the classroom at any time (except during exams). However, be aware that this can be disruptive. Try to arrive to class on time and minimize disturbance when entering and exiting during lecture.
- Cell Phones, Laptops, Tablets, and similar devices: You are expected to silence your cell phone during class. Obviously, receiving/placing calls during class can be disruptive to others. During a quiz/test cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc must be kept stored away hidden from all lines of sight and all usage of electronic devices during tests/quizzes is strictly prohibited and may be treated as academic misconduct resulting in the immediate expulsion from the exam and/or course. Such violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Otherwise, laptop computers and tablets are welcome in the classroom for taking notes and course related activities. However, social networking, email, listening to music, and other recreational activities may be distracting to others, hinder your ability to interact in the classroom, and are not appreciated. Please restrict such activities for outside the classroom. Keep in mind that you are in a public space in relative close proximity to others. Thus, pictures, words, and sounds from your electronic devices are likely less than private. Be cautious not to expose others to something disruptive or offensive.
- During student presentations, please put away all electronic devices and give the student your full attention
Section X: Outside the Classroom: Office Hours, Appointments, and Email:

- Email me at any time. I will respond as quickly as possible
- I get many many many many emails on any given day, thus I quickly sort and prioritize them prior to reading and responding. To ensure your email is not ignored and prioritized appropriately, you must include your course and section number in the email subject heading (example: psy207 sect 12).
- Feel free to email me with any questions during the semester. However, I try to reserve email responses for procedural/administrative types of questions. I typically will not answer complex content related questions over email. Email is just an inefficient way to exchange complex information and brief email exchanges without appropriate context and personal interaction often lead to a misunderstanding of the material. Thus, if in an email you ask a content related question that requires a detailed answer and appropriate context, I will likely just provide an answer during the next class period or invite you to office hours.
- Ask the professor: mailbox. At the beginning of each class, I will answer course content email questions from students. For any question you may have or topic you wish to go over again in class, just put in the email request and it will be addressed in class. Each question will be anonymously posted along with a corresponding discussion. It does take a little time to acquire, process your question, and incorporate it into lecture. Allow 1 or 2 class periods, for an official response. Also feel free to ask questions during class or in office hours.
- Feel free to visit me during any regularly scheduled office hour. However, if possible, notify me ahead of time of your intentions to attend and I can prepare for your visit, reserve a time slot for you, and avoid scheduling conflicts with other students. If you wish to schedule an appointment outside of regular office hours, provide at least a 3 day notice prior to a desired meeting date.

Section XI: Other Frequently Asked Questions

- Do I have to take the final even if I do not need to replace a grade?
  Yes the final is required. It can be used to replace a test score, but it is also a stand alone gradebook item worth 120 pts. Final exam scores can’t be dropped or replaced.
- If I do miss a class or a test or something, do I need a doctor’s note or written excuse documentation.
  No documentation is needed. All absences are treated the same.
- Are there any other ways I can receive extra credit?
  No, plan accordingly. The main potential source of extra credit is your performance on the final as it relates to replacing the lowest test score.
- Do I really need the textbook?
  Yes, the entire course is heavily centered on the textbook
- Could you email me my grade?
  For privacy reasons, I do not discuss details of your grade over email. All your individual grades are posted on Sakai with detailed instructions in this syllabus on how to calculate your grade. At any time I am also happy to calculate and privately discuss your grade in person. Just set up an appointment with me.

Have a great semester! I look forward to interacting with you. If you need anything, please let me know.