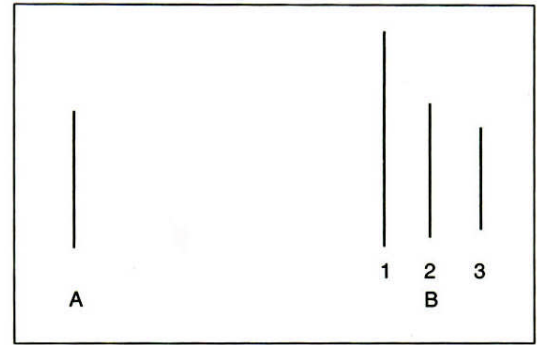


# PSYC 220

## Research Methods

### Cerritos College, Spring 2009

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Which line at "B" is equal in length to line A?

#### Course Description

The lecture and laboratory portions of the course are intended to familiarize students with general research methods including designing and running experiments, collecting and analyzing data, formulating conclusions, evaluating the conclusions of others and presenting scientific findings. In short, students will learn how to conduct psychological research in both humans and animals.

#### Textbook (required)

Gravetter, F. & Forzano, L. (2009). Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed Wadsworth – Cengage Learning: United States

It will be difficult to do well in this course without the textbook. New and/or used copies should be available in the campus bookstore. You can also obtain a copy on-line or from other local textbook vendors. Sometimes shopping around can save you a few dollars. If for some reason you cannot purchase a textbook, let me know, and I can arrange to have a book put on reserve to be read in the library. Furthermore, it would be a good idea to complete the assigned readings prior to the class meetings.

	<u>TOPICS</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
Week 1	Introduction, Acquiring Knowledge and the Scientific method	Ch. 1
Week 2	Introduction, Acquiring Knowledge and the Scientific method	Ch. 1
Week 3	Research Ideas	Ch. 2
Week 4	Defining and Measuring Variables	Ch. 3
Week 5	Ethics in Research	Ch. 4
Week 6	Ethics in Research	Ch. 4
Week 7	Selecting Research Participants	Ch. 5
Week 8	Research Strategies and Validity	Ch. 6
Week 9	The Experimental Research Strategy	Ch. 7
Week 10	The Experimental Research Strategy	Ch. 7
Week 11	Midterm review	
Week 12	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
Week 13	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
Week 14	Experimental Design- Between-Subjects	Ch. 8
Week 15	Experimental Design- Within- Subjects	Ch. 9
Week 16	Factorial Designs	Ch. 11
Week 17	Factorial Designs	Ch. 11
Week 18	The Correlational Research Strategy	Ch. 12
Week 19	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>Comprehensive</b>

## Coursework and Grading

There will be several quizzes, one (1) midterm exam and one (1) final exam. Quizzes will be announced one week prior to the quiz date and may take place during the lecture or lab portions of the course. They may include multiple choice, true-false, matching, fill-in-the-blank and/or short answer questions. The midterm and final exams will be multiple choice and perhaps short answer. Exam and quiz questions will come from material covered in class, lab and the textbook. No makeups for exams or quizzes will be given without prior notification and/or documentation of an emergency. If you find that you are having difficulty with the course, you can seek additional assistance at the Academic Support Center. Also if you need special accommodations while taking exams or quizzes let me know in advance.

The lab portion of the course provides some flexibility. At times it may be used to continue with lecture material. However, the primary focus of the lab is to provide a time for you to develop and work on your final project. The final project will consist of an original research experiment in which you will develop a hypothesis, obtain a sample of subjects, collect and analyze data and present your findings to the class in the form of a poster session. The final project will be a group effort. Students will be randomly assigned to groups, and the group will determine how the work on the final project will be distributed between its members. More on the specifics of the final project will be discussed as the class moves forward. Unless there are unusual circumstances, each group member will receive the same grade for the final project since it is a collaborative effort.

An approximate grade/point breakdown for the various methods of evaluation in the course is shown below.

<u>Graded Coursework</u>	<u>Grade Breakdown</u>
Quizzes 75 Points	A = 90%
Midterm 50 Points	B = 80%
Final Exam 100 Points	C = 70%
<u>Final Project 100 Points</u>	D = 60%
Total 325 Points	F = 59% or less

(Example:  $325 \times 90\% = 293$  points for the "A")

(Example:  $325 \times 80\% = 260$  points for the "B" and so on)

## Attendance/Classroom Etiquette

You are expected to attend class and lab each meeting. Attendance will be taken regularly. **While it is your responsibility to officially drop the course if you no longer wish to be enrolled, I may automatically drop students who fail to attend class regularly. You are also expected to show up for class on time and stay for the entire class period. Excessive tardiness or leaving class early on a regular basis may also result in you being dropped from the course.** As for classroom etiquette, **you are in college and are expected to act accordingly.** While I encourage students to participate and ask questions, inappropriate, disruptive and/or disrespectful behaviors will not be tolerated. These inappropriate behaviors include, but are not limited to, talking to others during class, passing notes, doing work for other classes, text messaging or sleeping. Additionally, **turn off your cell phones before coming to class.** If I feel that anyone is disrupting the learning environment for any reason, that person or persons may be asked to leave, may have points deducted from their grades, or may be automatically dropped from the course.

## Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism (the theft of language, ideas or thoughts from another that are represented as one's own original work) and cheating are serious offenses and **will not be tolerated.** Disciplinary actions for such offenses include an "F" on the test or assignment, "F" in the course and/or possible expulsion from the college.