

**Research Methods and Design I**  
**PSY 390(4) 391(4): Section 2**  
**Spring Fall 2018**  
M W F 10:55-12:05  
Final Exam: F 10:30-1  
Location: T312

**Instructor: Kim W. Schaeffer, Ph.D.**

Office Location: Culbertson 212 (between The Greek and Colt)

Office Hours: TU & TH: 12-1; W: 6:00-10:30; TH: 6:00-10:30

Email: [kimschaeffer@pointloma.edu](mailto:kimschaeffer@pointloma.edu) (on average will check 2-3 times per work day)

Phone: (619) 849-2466

**Course Description**

PSY 390: Students gain experience in methods of design, data collection, management, and analysis. Students begin a significant research project. This course must be taken in the semester immediately preceding PSY391. Prerequisite(s): PSY103 and MTH203 (may be taken concurrently or with the consent of instructor).

PSY 391: Study of design and of research in psychology and the use of statistics. Practice in the integration of design and statistics is included. Students finish a significant research project. This course must be taken in the semester immediately following PSY 390. Prerequisite(s): PSY 103 and PSY 390 or consent of instructor.

**Course Learning Outcomes in PSY 390-391:** Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Solve real-life, practical problems using psychological science and the scientific method.
- Understand and interpret statistical research findings that are presented in writing, in numerical form, or as tables or figures.
- Apply statistical concepts in clinical and non-clinical applications to optimize vocational performance. This includes being able to interpret clinical test scores, analyze business and financial performance, and empirically assess decision making outcomes.
- Critically evaluate research claims made by academics, business professionals, and media figures by formulating alternative hypotheses, generating alternative explanations, and designing follow-up and replication studies.
- Identify and remediate potential problems in empirical and non-empirical research. This includes recognition of incomplete literature reviews, design flaws, poorly formed hypotheses, ethics violations, incorrect statistical execution and inference, and unsupported conclusions.
- Write a research proposal and submit it to an institutional review board.
- Present the results of empirical research to professional and lay audiences using written, oral, and visual expression. This includes being able to write a research paper using APA style, construct a poster for a research conference, and present research in a brief oral presentation with visual aids.

**Reading in PSY 390-391**

Employers want employees who are good critical thinkers. According to Diane Halpern (2003), there are 4 aspects to critical thinking: (a) a critical thinking attitude, e.g., not accepting claims at face value; (b) the capacity to implement specific critical thinking skills, e.g., deductive reasoning, hypothesis testing, understanding probability; (c) the facility to apply these critical thinking skills to new situations; and (d) the skill to think about one's own thinking, or metacognition. We will use a significant portion of our class time for activities that will enhance your critical thinking skills. It is imperative that you read and study the reading assignment before coming to class.

**Working in Teams in PSY 390-391**

Employers want employees who work well in teams. In order for us to improve our critical thinking and become even better team members, in-class peer collaboration will be a major portion of our course. In-class teamwork includes analysis of quizzes, and a variety of critical thinking activities that relate to research design. Toward the end of the semester you evaluate the "helpfulness" of your team members and assign them a grade that will contribute to their final grade.

**Required Textbook**

Mitchell, M. L., & Jolley, J. M. (2013). *Research design explained* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Thomson-Wadsworth.

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Mastering APA Style: Student's Workbook and Training Guide* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author.

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author.

**How Grades Will Be Earned (A = 93-100; A- = 90-92.99; B+ = 88-89.99; B = 84-87.99; B- = 80-83.99; C+ = 77-79.99; C = 70-76.99; C- = 65-69.99; D+ = 62-64.99; D = 55-61.99; D- = 50-54.99; F ≤ 49.99%)**

15%	Readiness Assurance Tests (RATs)
10%	Team Application Exercises
5%	Group APA Style Mastery Test
5%	<u>Team Member Helpfulness (peer-graded)</u>
5%	Quiz 1
5%	Quiz 2
15%	Test 1
15%	Test 2
10%	Homework
15%	APA Research Paper

Note: Final Examination. Minus 10% in overall grade if not present

### **Managing Your Life and This Course**

If you cannot take a major test due to extreme circumstances, please ask me for permission to take the test at another time before the exam.

Most people need to miss a class due to illness, flight delays, and so on. Therefore, a safety valve is built into the course. For the safety valve to become effective, 90% or more of the class must complete the IDEA course evaluation during the first week it is posted.

*Safety Valve:* Best practices for employees allow personal cell phone usage only during mandatory breaks.

Therefore, if throughout the semester I suspect no one is using their cell phone or computer for non-class activities, the four lowest Team Application Exercises, the four lowest Homework scores, the two lowest iRATs, and the two lowest tRATs will be dropped. Two absent minded faux pas are allowed for the entire class throughout the semester.

### **Academic Honesty**

As a result of working in small groups in this class, it is highly important that you understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. You will write your own individual APA research paper. To ensure that another student does not steal your work, please do not send electronic copies or loan any part of your research paper (except the Method/Procedure section discussed below) to anyone but the professor. If this happens, and plagiarism occurs, both students will be subject to the consequences of plagiarism (failing grade for the course).

The IRB proposal (a different paper than the APA research paper) will be the only group paper. Since the proposal largely comprises the Procedure section of the APA research paper, you may cut/paste whatever is necessary from your IRB proposal to your APA paper. All other portions of the APA research paper, including tables, figures, references, cover page, must be your own work (exceptions can be made by the professor).

### **Incompletes and Late Assignments**

Due to the generous nature of the class lifeline, incompletes and late assignment will not be accepted.

### **Second Half of Syllabus Posted on Canvas**

I am required to include additional material to the syllabus. This is posted in Canvas under Syllabus (Part II).

## SYLLABUS PART II



### **PLNU Mission**

#### **To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send**

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

### **COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION**

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In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 or 4 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

### **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

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Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member has the option of filing a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of W or WF consistent with university policy in the grading section of the catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) in the (undergrad/graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.

### **INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

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All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. *It is Dr. Schaeffer's policy not to accept late assignments.*

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

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Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As explained in the university catalog, academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. Violations of university academic honesty include cheating, plagiarism, falsification, aiding the academic dishonesty of others, or malicious misuse of university resources. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for a) that particular assignment or examination, and/or b) the course following the procedure in the university catalog. Students may appeal also using the procedure in the university catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for further information.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

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While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students must request that academic accommodations by filing documentation with the [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student. See [Academic Policies](#) in the (undergrad/graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.

## **FERPA POLICY**

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In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (Note: each faculty member should choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission; or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic roster.). Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the "Information Release" section of the student portal. See [Policy Statements](#) in the (undergrad/ graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.

## **FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY**

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Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

## **COPYRIGHT POLICY**

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Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

Week	Date	M	W	F
1	8/27	RAT (ungraded)	Writing the Introduction MAS: pp. 31-37; 88-93	Work Session: Intro <b>Due: Cover Page</b>
2	9/3	Labor Day		Work Session: Intro
3	9/10			<b>Due: Intro (Rough Draft)</b>
				Work Session: Materials/Procedure
4	9/17			<b>Due: Intro</b>
				Work Session: Materials/Procedure (Rough Draft- Due end of class)
5	9/24		Midterm 1	<b>Due: Data Collection</b>
6	10/1		RAT1	
7	10/8		RAT2	<b>Due: Results Section</b>
8	10/15			Fall Break
9	10/22		RAT3	<b>Due: Discussion</b>
10	10/29		RAT4	
11	11/5		Midterm 2	
12	11/12			
13	11/19		Thanksgiving Recess	Thanksgiving Recess
14	11/26			
15	12/3			
16	12/10		Final: 4:30 PM @ Colt Hall	