

**PSY 379H, Honors Research II, Spring 2010**

**Meeting time & location:** Wednesday 1-3 p.m., SEA 4.242

**Unique #** 44025

**Professor:** Dr. Catharine Echols

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**Office hours:** Tues. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Fri 2-3 p.m. & by appointment

**TA:** Judith Easton

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**Office hours:** Tues. 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Wed. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. & by appointment

**Texts:** Pyrczak, F., & Bruce, R. R. (2005). *Writing empirical research reports: A basic guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Los Angeles: Pyrczak Publishing.

Cronk, B. C. (2006). *How to use SPSS: A step-by-step guide to analysis and interpretation* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Los Angeles: Pyrczak Publishing.

American Psychological Association (2001). *Publication manual* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Additional readings may be assigned during the semester. The additional readings will be made available through the University of Texas Libraries electronic reserves.

**Prerequisite:** Admission into the Psychology Department Honors Program and PSY 359H, Honors Research I.

**Course objectives:**

1. To conduct, analyze and interpret an independent research project.
2. To improve your skills in thinking and writing about research.
3. To enhance your ability to present your ideas to others.

**Course requirements:**

**1. Analysis Plan.** The analysis plan is a revision of the research proposal that you submitted at the end of the fall semester, including any revisions required to incorporate changes that have been made in your methods and/or conceptual approach to your project. In addition, you will add your specific hypotheses and the analyses that you plan to conduct to test them, then report the predicted outcomes. You will give a brief presentation on this plan.

**2. Poster.** At the end of the semester, the entire class will participate in a poster session, to which other psychology students and faculty will be invited. You are expected to produce a poster that describes your project and its findings

**3. Research Report.** This paper will be the final report of your project and will build on the proposal that you submitted last semester and on the analysis plan. It should contain an overview of the problem and literature review, a description of the design, experimental procedures, stimuli and hypotheses, a results section in which you describe the analyses and findings, and a discussion of the results and their implications. This paper should be about 15-20 pages in length, and should follow APA format.

Detailed handouts for each assignment will be passed out during the semester.

In addition, several class sessions will be devoted to topics that are relevant for those planning research and professional careers in psychology and related fields. There will be assigned readings and possibly other assignments for these sessions.

**Attendance & preparation:** The discussions with the professor and other students that take place during class time are a fundamental part of this course. Consequently, attendance is expected. If you miss more than one class, you will need to provide a written explanation of your absence, accompanied by any relevant documentation. Effective discussions also require that participants are prepared. Therefore, you should come to each class meeting prepared to participate. Please avoid being late to class as it is disruptive to the instructor and other students.

**Grading:** The final grade will be calculated as follows: Your first paper (the analysis plan) and presentation will account for 30% of the grade, class participation for 10%, and your final paper, including the overall quality of your project, combined with your poster, will account for 60% of the grade.

**Academic integrity:** Academic integrity is an integral and essential part of the educational process. Because dishonesty harms the individual, other students and the integrity of the University, scholastic dishonesty of any type WILL NOT be tolerated. The penalty for academic dishonesty of any type is a grade of F and referral to the Dean of Student's Office.

**Students with disabilities:** The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY. Dr. Echols is available to discuss any appropriate academic accommodations that might be necessary for this course.

**Office hours:** The office hours of the professor and TA are printed on the syllabus; any changes in office hours will be announced in class. Please feel free to visit during those times for assistance with issues pertaining to this course—such as advice on conducting your project, analyses, interpreting your results, writing, or constructing a poster—as well as for more general questions regarding the field of psychology or such issues as preparing for graduate school. If you can not come in during office hours, you can make an appointment by talking with one of us after class, by calling us at the numbers listed on the syllabus or by sending e-mail.

### CLASS SCHEDULE

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tentative Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Jan. 20	Introduction/updates	
Jan. 27	Individual meetings	
Feb. 3	Issues in conducting experimental research	
Feb. 10	Topic: Ethics in psychological research	
Feb. 17	Statistical analyses	
Feb. 24	Individual meetings	
Mar. 3	Analysis Plan presentations	ANALYSIS PLAN DUE
Mar. 10	Analysis Plan presentations	
Mar. 17	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS	
Mar. 24	Topic: Students' choice	
Mar. 31	Individual meetings	
Apr. 7	Topic: Students' choice	
Apr. 14	Writing analysis and results sections	Pyrczyk, Ch. 10
Apr. 21	Graphics resources	
Apr. 28	Writing discussion sections and abstracts	Pyrczyk Ch. 11 & !2
May 5	Poster Session	POSTER DUE
May 12	FINAL PAPER DUE*	

\*Supervisors also should have the opportunity to read and grade final papers before a course grade is submitted; I will need grades from supervisors by 12 noon on Monday May 17. It will be each student's responsibility to check with the supervisor regarding the amount of time that s/he needs for grading the paper. Depending on the supervisor's requirements, some students may need to complete their papers prior to May 12.