NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus. Summer term courses may be accelerated – please check the Ecampus Schedule of Classes for more information.

PSY 460
ADVANCED SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS – 4 credits
Instructor Kristen Yax

COURSE CREDITS:
(4) This course combines approximately 120 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 4 credits.

PREREQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES AND ENFORCED PREREQUISITES:
PREREQS: PSY 301 [D-] and PSY 360 [D-]

COURSE DESCRIPTION FROM CATALOG

PSY 460. ADVANCED SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS (4).

Advanced experimental research methods in the social sciences. Issues in psychological construct operationalization, experimental design, data collection, analysis, and report writing will be emphasized. (Writing Intensive Course)
PREREQS: PSY 301 [D-] and PSY 360 [D-]
Baccalaureate Core Course Attributes: Core, Skills, WIC

CONTACT INFORMATION:
For more information, contact: SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE OFFICE, REED LODGE, 541-737-2311

Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information. For accuracy, please check the Ecampus Schedule of Classes to see the most current instructor information. You can search for contact information by name from the OSU Home Page.
LEARNING RESOURCES:

Required Text:


Optional Text:


NOTE: For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the [OSU Bookstore website](http://www.oregonstate.edu). Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.

Students can also click the ‘OSU Beaver Store’ link associated with the course information in the [Ecampus schedule of classes](http://www.ecycle.net) for course textbook information and ordering.

COURSE SPECIFIC MEASURABLE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course is designed to familiarize students with the process of doing research in social psychology. Topics include methods in several areas of study, such as attitudes, judgment and decision-making, social cognition, social perception, attribution processes, group dynamics, stereotypes and prejudice, and emotions. Not only will we apply social psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues, we will approach these topics from the perspective of a researcher who is taking a theoretical approach to understanding the dynamics of these areas. In addition, we explore the various methodological challenges that make the task of research in social psychology especially challenging (e.g., field vs. laboratory research, the nature of independent and dependent variables in social psychology research, ethics, and research settings).

This course is a writing intensive course designed to explore the basic concepts of scientific research and writing. Students will become more familiar with the major topics in Social Psychology and think critically about the issues in Social Psychology and Life. You will gain an understanding of the research process in social psychology, including development of research ideas, methodology, statistics, and applications. In addition,
you will learn how to critique research articles and write papers using the American Psychological Association (APA) writing style.

Your time partaking in this course will be spent in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, sharing ideas and discussing interesting topics, designing and executing an independent research study, calculating results through use of statistical software programs, writing a formal research paper, and developing a presentation to communicate one's research. There will be a class discussion board and frequent instructor availability via email or phone.

**Course Requirements and Learning Outcomes**

(1) Students will develop and articulate content knowledge and critical thinking through frequent practice of informal and formal writing. Weekly written assignments must be completed on time. The majority of assignments will be submitted via Canvas.

(2) Each week we will be taking necessary steps to formulate and develop an outline and draft of your final paper. These first drafts are critical for staying on top of the class and receiving feedback from me. Please complete the drafts on time.

(3) Students will demonstrate knowledge/understanding of social psychology and research methods through a course paper and presentation. You will be presenting your research paper at the end of the term via PowerPoint in Canvas. Students are to submit their PowerPoint presentations to the discussion board, which will allow classmates to see the work others have completed.

(4) Students will demonstrate the ability to compose a final paper through multiple aspects of writing, including brainstorming, drafting, using sources appropriately, and revising comprehensively after receiving feedback on several drafts. An APA style research paper will be submitted at the end of the term.

**Further WIC Objectives**

OSU also has specified the following objectives for this Writing Intensive Course. Students will:

1. Develop and articulate content knowledge and critical thinking in the discipline through frequent practice of informal and formal writing (at least 5,000 words).

2. Demonstrate knowledge/understanding of audience expectations, genres, and conventions appropriate to communicating in the discipline.
3. Demonstrate the ability to compose a document of at least 2000 words through multiple aspects of writing, including brainstorming, drafting, using sources appropriately, and revising comprehensively after receiving feedback on a draft.

COURSE CONTENT AND POLICIES:

This course will begin each week on Monday 12:00 a.m. and end on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. All due dates and noted times are PST, therefore if you live in a different time zone please take note of this. Under each weekly module you will find the supplementary materials, discussion thread topic, link to any applicable videos, and reminders of assignment due dates (if applicable).

**Developing a Research Study Assignment (15 points):** Students will identify an area of research that interests them, as well as devise a research question that can be realistically examined in during the term. This assignment will assist students in developing questions that are feasible, allow students to discuss ideas and gain feedback from others, and provide the opportunity to think about methodology.

**Discussion Board (50 points):** Students will be required to contribute to the DISCUSSION BOARD five times over the course of the term. Each Discussion Board week (noted in the course outline) will be worth 10 points. You will be rated on both the frequency and quality of your contributions. See Instructions for the Discussion Board (under the Course Information tab) for information as to how to earn points for class interaction through the discussion board. The discussion board will allow you to demonstrate your engagement with the issues raised throughout the course and to share your developing insights with the rest of the class through informal writing. Keep in mind that all postings that are late (the posting week goes from Monday to the following Sunday) will not be counted. The discussion board schedule can be noted on the course schedule.

**Research Design Worksheet (10 Points):** Students will demonstrate understanding of components of research design. Advanced knowledge of research methods and information from course material are required to complete the assignment.

**APA Exercise (10 Points):** Students will test their knowledge of APA style. The exercise consists of a typical psychology paper that is not formatted according to APA style. Students are to identify and correct the formatting errors in the psychology paper, making the paper consistent with APA style.

**Literature Review (60 Points):** Once you have chosen your research topic and developed your hypothesis, you will need to find at least SIX empirical studies that focus on your research topic. For the first section of the review, you will individually discuss each of the studies in detail. Some studies are more complex than others, and may...
take more space to explain. Aim for ½ a page per study, but use as much or as little space as you see necessary. The second section of the paper will be about 2-3 paragraphs where you will say how the studies fit together or how they contradict one another. A detailed outline of the requirements can be found under course documents.

**Rough Drafts (10 points each):** To help keep students on a weekly schedule and on task, a rough draft of each section of your paper will be submitted over several weeks. This will allow you to work steadily on your paper throughout the term and allow me to provide you with feedback and guidance. Thus, as we cover different sections of the research manuscript (Introduction, Method, Results, etc.) you will complete and submit a first draft to me by the due date as noted on the schedule.

**Presentations (30 points):** Students will be required to prepare a 15-20 slide PowerPoint presentation that outlines their research study. The presentation should highlight the most important elements, providing a quick background of the topic, your hypothesis, methods, results, and a brief discussion. Each presentation will be posted in a community area on Canvas to be examined by the instructor and your peers. Please do not just throw several ideas onto a blank white slide. These should be creative, visually interesting, and unique to your study. I will provide a sample presentation early on in the term.

**Peer Reviews (25 points):** For the final research paper, each student will be paired and critique another person’s paper. This will involve reading the paper, rating the paper on several items, and writing constructive comments about the paper’s strengths and weaknesses. I will give you a form for this later in the term. You will submit this as an assignment and return it to the person you are reviewing in your group.

**Research Paper (100 points):** The primary goal of this course is to develop and write an APA style manuscript. You are required to write a 12-17 page research paper that reflects your ability to understand social psychological research from start to finish. You will be expected to collect and analyze data reflecting your topic area. Step-by-step instructions and details of the final paper requirements will be outlined on an additional form located under course documents.

**EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:**

**Assignments and Possible Points (340 total)**
- Developing a Research Study Worksheet—15 points
- Literature Review—60 points
- Research Design Worksheet—10 points
- APA Exercise—10 points
- Introduction Rough Draft—10 points
- Methods Rough Draft—10 points
Results Rough Draft – 10 points
Discussion Rough Draft – 10 points
Contribution to Discussion Board – 50 points
Peer Review – 25 points
Presentation – 30 points
Final Research Paper – 100 points

Grade Assignments
Grades will be assigned on the following schedule (numbers are percentages of total points)

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>90 - 93</td>
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COURSE SITE LOGIN INFORMATION
Information on how to login to your course site can be found HERE.

STATEMENT REGARDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Oregon State University is committed to student success; however, we do not require students to use accommodations nor will we provide them unless they are requested by the student. The student, as a legal adult, is responsible to request appropriate accommodations. The student must take the lead in applying to Disability Access Services (DAS) and submit requests for accommodations each term through DAS Online. OSU students apply to DAS and request accommodations at our Getting Started with DAS page.

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND STUDENT CONDUCT (OSU POLICY)
Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Intentional acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism may be penalized by imposing an “F” grade in the course.

Student conduct is governed by the universities policies, as explained in the Office of the Dean of Student Life: Student Conduct and Community Standards. In an academic community, students and faculty, and staff each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment, whether online or in the classroom. Students, faculty,
and staff have the responsibility to treat each other with understanding, dignity, and respect.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g. on discussion boards, email postings, etc.) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded to themselves. Disrespectful behavior (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors are unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Student Conduct and Community Standards.

For more info on these topics please see:
- Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct
- Student Conduct and Community Standards - Offenses
- Policy On Disruptive Behavior

**PLAGIARISM**

You are expected to submit your own work in all your assignments, postings to the discussion board, and other communications, and to clearly give credit to the work of others when you use it. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F.”

- Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct
- Avoiding Academic Dishonesty

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

- COURSE DEMO
- GETTING STARTED

**TUTORING**

For information about possible tutoring for this course, please visit our Ecampus NetTutor page. Other resources include:

- Writing Center
- Online Writing Lab

**STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING**
The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available in week 9 and close at the end of finals week. Students will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. Students will log in to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted. Course evaluation results are very important and are used to help improve courses and the learning experience of future students. Results from questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and unit heads/supervisors. Unless a comment is “signed,” which will associate a name with a comment, student comments on the open-ended questions are anonymous and forwarded to each instructor. “Signed” comments are forwarded to the unit head/supervisor.

REFUND POLICY INFORMATION
Please see the Ecampus website for policy information on refunds and late fees.