

Psychology 4850A – Advanced Methodology - Fall 2015

Department of Psychology

Location: Tuesday, 3:05-5:45 pm, C674

Course Dropbox: adjacent to C866

Instructor: Jesse Martin

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Office: D854

Course Description:

This course is designed to give senior students the opportunity to learn about advanced research methodology. It is assumed that you will have a strong background in psychology, and so the class will be largely student led. Each class will consist of talks about research methodology topics, as well as time for you to work with your peers on a project. During the week, you will be required to write a short (≈500 words) blog entry about an advanced research methods topic, as well as comment on a number of your peer's blog entries. You should note that this is NOT a lecture-based course. The course is not suitable for students who cannot commit to attending every class and to spending a significant amount of time each week outside of class working on advanced research methods.

Prerequisite Courses and Background Preparation:

The prerequisites for this course are Psychology 2030 AND four (4) additional courses (12.0 credit hours) in Psychology or Neuroscience (including two at the 3000-level), AND 4th year standing (a minimum of 90.0 credit hours completed). With respect to 3000-level courses, it is strongly recommended that students have one course in Psychology (3.0 credit hours; designated Social Science), and one course in Psychology or Neuroscience (3.0 credit hours; designated Science). Students who do not have the required prerequisite courses (e.g., verified transfer credits) may be deregistered from the course without warning. In exceptional circumstances, a prerequisite waiver will be considered for a student who has adequate equivalent background. If you are considering requesting a waiver, please contact your instructor prior to the end of the add/drop period. Submitting a request for a waiver does not guarantee that you will receive one; each case will be evaluated individually, and you will have to provide supporting documentation for prior courses not taken at the U of L. At the 4000-level, students are expected to have a broad range of knowledge of the fundamentals of psychology and

neuroscience; prerequisite courses are considered the minimum background preparation for this course.

Required Text:

There are no required texts for this class.

Course Rules and Regulations:

You are expected to attend and arrive on time for every class. Should you have an ongoing situation that prevents you from arriving at the class on time, please speak to your instructor prior to the end of add-drop. You are encouraged to bring your laptop or tablet to class. As an adult, you are expected to show respect and consideration to your peers in this class, both in person and online.

NB. All students are expected to be familiar with Part 4 of the current University of Lethbridge Calendar that governs Academic Regulations, Policies, and Program Requirements. In particular, all students should be familiar with Sections 5 and 9 <http://www.uleth.ca/ross/academic-calendar/2013-14>.

Students with Special Needs:

If you have a documented condition that prevents you from fully participating in this course, including evaluation procedures, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor regarding your individual situation. Please note that no accommodations will be given without official notification from the Accommodated Learning Centre (<http://www.uleth.ca/ross/accommodated-learning-centre/>).

Course Information Online:

Moodle: All course information will be available from the Moodle LMS system and students will be able to track their standing in the course by accessing the Moodle gradebook. All students are expected to be aware of copyright regulations.

Email: Other than posts to Moodle and the class blog, my primary method of communicating with you for general notices and points of interest to supplement course material will be via in-class announcements or by email. Please check your U of L email account on a regular basis, or have that account forwarded to your preferred provider. Please do your best to remember to do regular housekeeping of your U of L account so that you do not miss important notices due to a full mailbox.

NB: Email Policy

Please note that your instructor will reply to any email that is not sent from your U of L account unless it is an emergency situation.

Blogs: Your blogs will be hosted on WordPress, a public social media website. If you are uncomfortable with your writing being available in a public manner, you may need to find an alternative class to take.

Assessments:

Weekly Blogs (100% total). Your weekly blogs, and the comments you make on other's blogs, will constitute 100% of your class grade. The weightings and requirements are as follows (further details will be available on Moodle):

BLOG (due)	Topic	Weighting (%)
1 (18/09)	Free	5
2 (25/09)	Free	5
3 (2/10)	Free	5
4 (9/10)	Free	10
5 (16/10)	Free	10
6 (23/10)	Topic	10
7 (30/10)	Topic	10
8 (6/11)	Topic	10
9 (13/11)	Topic	15
10 (20/11)	Synthesis of Topic	15
11 (27/11)	What you have learned	X (5)

Grading Scheme:

Letter grades will be assigned to each blog (A, B, C, D, F), and the average grade for the semester will be calculated based on your weekly grades.