Prerequisites
Introductory Psychology (PSY 1013) and Introductory Statistics (PSY 2383).

Course Description
An introduction to research methods in psychology that stresses critical thinking about methodological issues. Research skills are developed in hypothesis construction, research design, interpretation of statistical results, scientific writing, library and internet research, and presentation of results to a professional audience.

Required Text

Course Objectives for Students
1. To develop a proper perspective on the advantages and limitations of qualitative and quantitative methods as they apply to the questions of human behavior.
2. To fully integrate the appropriate use of the scientific method in psychology with each student's personal faith.
3. To become informed consumers of research.
4. To learn to understand and critique quantitative and qualitative research.
5. To acquire skills including: the development of hypotheses, the design of research, proper interpretation of results, scientific writing in APA style, the optimal use of libraries and the internet for research, conducting research and developing oral and poster presentations.
6. To learn about the various quantitative and qualitative research methods through research experiences, lectures and demonstrations.
7. To be exposed to the culture of scholarly research in the social sciences.
8. To prepare for other courses requiring these skills.

Behavioral Expectations for Faculty and Students
1. Participants will attend regularly and be on time.
2. Assignments will be turned in on time and returned quickly.
3. Participants will actively participate in class discussions.
4. No one will speak in class in a way that is disruptive of the learning atmosphere.
5. Ideas may be challenged but no one will be made to feel as if their contributions to the discussion are not welcome.
6. Participants will do all of their own work on all papers and quizzes. All references to the work of others will be properly cited.
7. Cell phones will be silent and class computers will be used only for class work during class.
Procedures
The instructor will directly present some of the preliminary information but much of the learning will result from student participation in demonstrations, lab assignments and projects. There will be chapter quizzes over the material covered in the text and in class. In place of a final exam, students will present an original research project at a class poster session during finals week.

Requirements
Attendance is expected and will be recorded but will have no direct effect on grades unless half or more of the class meetings are missed which, by college policy, will result in an F for the course. Friday labs count as regular class periods for purposes of attendance. Attendance at some of the Friday labs will be required to obtain points on certain assignments and to certify you to use certain programs and procedures in the final project. The registrar will be given a report of anyone missing two weeks of class (six class periods in a row). All quizzes must be taken on the days scheduled unless arrangements have been made in advance. If you miss a lab involving a draft of your paper, your drafts, which count for 40 points, will not be accepted for credit. If you are absent during one of the days used to certify you for a certain research skill, you will not be certified to use that element in your research project without evidence of alternative training. For example, if you miss the session on creating online surveys, you won’t be able to conduct an online survey as part of your final project without completing alternative training on online survey development.

Online quizzes will cover assigned readings and will be due by Wednesday at class time each week. Chapter quizzes will cover the topics of the readings, lectures, and demonstrations. All quizzes will consist of five short answer questions worth 10 points. Makeup quizzes will not be given unless scheduled in advance of the day of the quiz. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. The course will be writing intensive. Most of the papers will be short and highly structured. Papers must be turned in on time for full credit. One point will be lost for every class period it is late.

Three Continuing Research Units will be required during the course of the semester. These will involve attendance at research-related events which may include: approved campus speakers who may have research interests, chapel speakers, faculty presenting recent research at colloquia, Alpha Chi symposia, a Psych club colloquium of student or faculty research or an undergrad research conference. A complete list of approved opportunities for this semester will be posted on the class website. If you hear of an opportunity not on the list, please let me know as soon as possible so that it can be approved for the entire class. Opportunities must appear on the list before they occur in order for them to be used for credit. In order to receive credit for attendance, a brief write-up of the experience and its connection to Research Methods must be completed.

The individual research project is the culmination of the entire semester's learning. It involves the completion of an original research project from conception to presentation. A literature review will be conducted and written first and none of the later parts of the paper will be accepted for credit until the earlier parts are turned in. The research project will be written in accordance with APA style (6th edition) and presented to the class in both oral and poster formats. Although the oral reports will not be graded, failing to make an oral presentation will result in a zero for the research project. Class members and the instructor will critique the first drafts of the various
parts of the independent study. No late rough drafts will be accepted. You must bring it to the workshop on the day it is due to be discussed in class or it will not be accepted for credit. All drafts must be typewritten. Drafts will be heavily marked up to allow for improvement on the final draft. Preliminary drafts will be graded but most of the grade on the draft will be earned by turning in a reasonable attempt on time. No part of the paper will be accepted for credit after the deadline for the Human Subjects Committee proposal until the proposal is forwarded to the committee. Lab reports are due one week after the lab is discussed.

The Blackboard Supplement
From the EagleNet homepage (http://eagle.jbu.edu), click on “Login to myEagleNet”. (If you are logging on from off-campus and are asked for a User Name or Password during this process, use your JBU network user name and password.) Then click on My Blackboard. You will be automatically logged into Blackboard. (If it doesn’t automatically log you on at first, click to Refresh the Blackboard login page.) When you have logged on to Blackboard, investigate the site by clicking on each of the buttons to the left of the page. Each week you will have a pre-test on Blackboard of the upcoming material for that week. The weekly pre-test must be completed by Wednesday at class time. Missed pre-tests cannot be made up after they have been discussed in class on Wednesday. Contact me if you have any questions about using the site.

Statement on Academic Integrity
As a Christian institution of higher education, John Brown University seeks to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Violations of these standards will result in substantial penalties. At a minimum, any instance of cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment and a report submitted to the academic dean. Further infractions will result in failure of the course and possible suspension. For additional information and examples, refer to the Academic Integrity section on pages 4-5 of your John Brown University Student Handbook.

It is also not appropriate to turn in the same paper for credit in more than one class even if another professor has approved it. You may conduct research on the same topic for two different classes, you may use many of the same research references, you may use the same tools to collect the data and you could even use the same sample of individuals from which to collect the data for multiple projects. However, 1) the papers must involve the testing of distinct hypotheses, 2) the Introduction section must be written specific to each hypothesis and 3) the results reported and discussed must be different for each paper.

Statement on Academic Expectations
John Brown University is a selective academic institution that consistently ranks among the top ten southern baccalaureate universities. As a student, you are expected to devote significant time and effort to your academic courses and to be aware of the effort you will require to perform up to your expectations in this class. This course has been designed with the expectation that students will spend adequate time and effort in preparation for each class meeting by doing assigned readings and assignments and will spend adequate time and effort completing each assignment.
Office Hours
My office hours are MWF 9:00 and 1:00 and TT 9:00 and 4:00. If you see me in my office at any other time, please feel free to come in. You are welcome to come by at any time.

Policy on Students with Disabilities
Students with documented disabilities who need academic accommodations should make an appointment with the Director of Student Support Services (238-8770) to begin the accommodation process. They also are encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible. Students without documented disabilities who feel they may have difficulty with this course are also encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor to discuss what steps need to be taken to be successful.

Evaluation
Your grade can be determined at any point during the semester by using the following tables.

600 points – labs (13 @ 50 points each—drop lowest one)
60 points – weekly Blackboard pretest (13 @ 5 points each—drop lowest one)
60 points – Continuing Research Units (20 pts. from 3 different events)
120 points – chapter quizzes (13 @ 10 points each—drop lowest one)
160 points – independent research project (150 pts.) and media release (10 pts.)
1000 points – TOTAL

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Course Outline
(see next page for Friday Lab Schedule)

INTRODUCTION TO COURSE AND LIBRARY RESEARCH

Aug 26
Science, Research Ideas, Critiquing Research and Hypotheses (1 & 2)
Writing and Assembling an APA-Format Research Report (14)
Ethics in Psychological Research (3) and JBU HSC Guidelines
Ex Post Facto Studies, Surveys and Questionnaires and Sampling (5)
Variables and Control (6)
Internal and External Validity (8)

Aug 31, Sep 2
Part 1

Sep 9*
Part 2

Sep 14*, 16 p

Sep 21*, 23 p

Sep 28*, Sep 30 p

FALL BREAK

Oct 19

Final Considerations and Cross-Cultural Issues (7)
Using Statistics to Answer Questions (9)
Conducting and Analyzing Experiments with Two Groups (10)
Conducting and Analyzing Experiments with More Than Two Groups (11)
Conducting and Analyzing Experiments with Multiple Independent Variables (12)

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS (no class on Nov 23)

Nov 23

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov 25, 27

Alternative Research Designs (13)

Nov 30*, Dec 2 p

ORAL PRESENTATIONS OF RESEARCH (or during symposium)

Dec 7*, 9, 11

PROJECT POSTER SESSION

8:00 am – 10:00 am, Tuesday Dec 14
(Alternate time for poster: 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Wednesday Dec 15)

Online pre-test quizzes on the chapter(s) to be covered each week are due before class on
Wednesdays except on Aug 26, Sep 9, Oct 21, and Dec 9.

Final presentation policy
Students must present their final project poster at the time specified or the alternate time given.
The only exceptions are death or serious illness of a member of the student's immediate family,
or illness of the student as documented by a medical professional. Any exception to this policy
must be approved by Becky Lambert, the Associate Dean of Academic Services.

The number in parentheses (1) indicates the chapter(s) in the text to be covered during those dates. The in-class quiz
over that material will take place the following Monday.

* Day of a quiz over the previous week’s material.
* Day of a pre-test quiz over the current week’s material (two will be during labs on Fridays)
Friday October 23 (after midterm grades are reported) is the deadline for dropping a class.
Friday Lab Schedule

Science and Faith (no lab required)  Aug 28
Finding a Topic  Sep 4
Writing the Literature Review/Intro**  Sep 11p
Completing a Human Subjects Committee Proposal**  Sep 18
Survey Construction and Online Survey Delivery*  Sep 25
Statistical Analysis and Reporting: Correlation***  Oct 2
Planning your design and writing a Method section**  Oct 9
Quack Science Detector**  Oct 16
Cross-cultural Issues  Oct 23p
Using Excel, SPSS and the Web for Data analysis***  Oct 30
Statistical analysis and reporting: 2 group comparisons***  Nov 6
Statistical analysis and reporting: multiple comparisons***  Nov 13
Reporting and Interpreting the Results of Your Study: Results and Discussion**  Nov 20
Developing a PowerPoint for use in Oral and Poster Presentations  Dec 4

All labs are due by midnight on Friday one week following their discussion in class (except during the week of Thanksgiving). The Results and Discussion lab is due Dec. 4.

p Day of a pre-test quiz over the current week’s material (two will be during labs on Fridays)
*Attendance at this lab is required to obtain certification for use of this feature in the final research project.
** Attendance at this lab is required for related paper to count for credit.
*** Attendance at this lab is required to use this statistical procedure in the research project.