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PSY 490 - Advanced Research Methods

Course Detail

Units

Career Undergraduate

3.00

Grading Basis

Lecture Required

Course Components Campus

Gables Campus

Academic Group

Course Attribute

College of Arts and Sciences

Academic Organization

Psychology

Enrollment Information

Typically Offered

Fall, Spring

Enrollment Requirement

Pre-Requisite: 2.5 PSY GPA; 15 PSY credits, including PSY 291 or 292, and 390; Senior standing; BS in Psychology major (PSYCS_BS or PSYCS_AS_A) Writing

Description

Students will develop, conduct and write up two research projects: (i) a project that uses descriptive methods and associated statistical techniques and (ii) a project that uses experimental methods and associated statistical techniques. These projects will integrate the concepts and skills learned in the Introductory and Intermediate Methods courses as well as the Introductory and Intermediate Statistics courses. Students will be asked to select a research topic and first develop a survey to examine the relationship between two predictor variables and an outcome variable. They will collect and analyze their data using correlational techniques (e.g., regression analyses) and will write up a methods and results section. Next, students will turn their descriptive study into an experiment. They will collect and analyze their data and write up a publishable research report that includes the findings from both the descriptive and experimental studies. The project will serve as a capstone, requiring them to find and critically evaluate relevant literature on their topic of choice, design a study taking into account time demands, sample characteristics and their effect on the hypotheses they are able to test, decide on instrument selection, consider potential extraneous and confounding variables (and how they will handle them if at all), select appropriate analyses for their data and hypotheses, and then present the results of their work in both poster and research report format.