Meeting times 2:10pm Mondays
Class meets in: G22 Hoyt

Course Description:
This course provides a mechanism by which capstone projects will be refined, conducted, analyzed, and completed. This will culminate in a final paper and presentation. Our work will involve experimental work, one-on-one meetings, and group meetings.

Course Objectives:
The goals of this course are:
1. To finalize the experimental design of your project
2. To conduct your experiments, with the ability to troubleshoot, manage, and alter your project as necessary
3. To critically review the scientific literature relevant to your project
4. To compile and analyze the data you've collected in an appropriate manner using statistical software
5. To be able to interpret and communicate your findings to your scientific colleagues as well as the public (this will be in paper form and also in poster or powerpoint format)
6. To be able to assess and provide critical, scientifically informed, and beneficial feedback to your classmates on their capstone projects

Course Materials:
These will be generated over the course of the class and involve scientific articles, some websites, and some other sources. I will present articles for discussion that are relevant to projects, and expect you to do the same. Some of these articles will be discussed in one-on-one meetings, others will be discussed in a group setting. You will also be responsible for compiling articles of your own that are relevant to your research project (I recommend finding 3-4 at minimum per week throughout the term).

Course Evaluation: Your grade will be based on a combination of scores from:
- Attendance (5pts/meeting): 130 pts
- Final presentation: 100 pts
- Evaluation by your peers: 25 pts
- Draft of discussion: 20 pts
- Evaluation of your peers: 15 pts
- Final paper: 100 pts
- Experiment completion: 50 pts
- Paper draft: 25 pts
- Draft of Results: 20 pts
- Updated timeline: 15 pts

Your grade will be converted to a percentage as (total pts/500), which results in these final grades:

A: 93 to 100%
A-: 90 to 92.99%
B+: 87 to 89.99%
B: 83 to 86.99%
B-: 80 to 82.99%
C+: 77 to 79.99%
C: 73 to 76.99%
C-: 70 to 72.99%
D+: 67 to 69.99%
D: 63 to 66.99%
D-: 60 to 62.99%
F: 0 to 59.99%

PLEASE NOTE: An 87.5 rounds to an 88, and a B+. An 87.49999999999 rounds to an 87 and a B.

Grades: In general, the final paper, final presentation, experiment completion, and paper draft will be graded for EFFORT/CONTENT (meaning you'll get a grade based on how well I think you did). Your peers will grade you on the feedback you provide. The rest of the assignments will be pass/fail (if you do it as described below and including all components and turn it in on time, you get the points regardless of how “good” the draft is. If you do it, but don’t follow the instructions, I reserve the right to reduce your points accordingly).

Course Policies:
Attendance: Attendance in this course is incredibly important given that it will be highly interactive and relies heavily on your input. We will devote a great deal of class time to updates on projects, working through data collection, analysis, and presentation together, and review of paper drafts and presentation practice. If you miss class, it will be up to you to learn what we missed and catch up as necessary, which will be a challenge at times.
**Late Assignment Policy:** Your assignments lose 20% of total possible points every 24 hrs. Meaning- if your due date is 3:30pm Monday, September 4 for our group capstone meeting, and you turn something in later that day, you have already lost 20% of your points. *Last semester we were lenient with some due dates; this semester we’ll need to be more strict to keep us on schedule.*

**Academic Integrity:** You are expected to comply with Westminster College’s policy on Academic Integrity (see your Student Handbook). If you are suspected of violating this obligation on any assignment, draft, or presentation, you will receive a zero for that assignment. If you are suspected of plagiarizing any portion of your theses or fabricating data, you will fail the course. Ignorance is NOT an excuse- it is your responsibility to become informed of these regulations. Be sure you know what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

**Accessibility Statement:** Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact Faith Craig, Director of Disability Support Services, located in 209 Thompson-Clark Hall. Phone: 724-946-7192.

**Email:** I will be communicating with the class via email. You should all have a Westminster email account that you check regularly (i.e., at least once a day); email is also the best way to get in touch with me.

**Assignments:** ALL DRAFTS ARE DUE BY 11:59pm on the FRIDAY before our Monday group meetings.

1. **Updated timeline:** please update your experimental timeline (email or hard copy is fine). 15pts; due 9-3-18
2. **Meeting attendance:** you are expected to attend group and individual meetings. If we are NOT meeting, this should be arranged in advance. Some weeks you will be focused on data collection, and it is FINE to not meet. It is NOT fine for me to sit in my office waiting for you because I didn’t know that 😊. 130 pts; ongoing
3. **Successful experiment completion** (someday- it will happen, I promise!): this does not mean that if something goes wrong with your experiment, you lose all of these points. This means that you put in the work as planned, adjusted to any issues that arose in order to continue to investigate your problem, and completed alternate work as agreed if the experiment needed to be altered as we made observations. 50pts; ongoing
4. **Results draft:** at least one page, complete with analysis and graphs. 20 pts; due 11:59pm Fri, Oct 26
5. **Discussion draft:** have a detailed outline of the major points you plan to address in your discussion with details filled in in text form. This should include not just a list of points, but also at the very least, a 2-3 sentence description of how those points relate to your study and how they will be integrated into your paper, especially if that is not obvious. 20pts; due 11:59pm Fri, Oct 12
6. **Paper draft:** come with hard or electronic copy of a near final draft of your paper. It can have grammar or similar errors, but you should have all the main sections and content. 25pts; due 11:59pm Fri, Nov 16
7. **Final presentation:** content, accuracy, style, explanations and response to questions. 100pts; end of semester
8. **Final paper:** more to come including rubric, I need this in advance of your final submission as I am to officially “approve” it before submission – 100pts; by 11:59 SUNDAY, Dec 2
9. **Evaluation by your peers:** based on the scores you get from me and your peers, 25 pts; end of term
10. **Evaluation of your peers:** at the end of the term, you will receive an email from me requesting a score (0-25) and brief paragraph justifying your designated score for each of your peers. 15pts; due 11:59pm Sun, Dec 9

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>What’s Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 1 8/27</td>
<td>Project Review/Revision</td>
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<td>Supplies needed</td>
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<td>Experimental helpers</td>
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<td>Wk 2 9/3</td>
<td>Experimental Schedule</td>
<td>Update timeline</td>
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<td>Questions from me</td>
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<td>Wk 3 9/10</td>
<td>Are you ready to go or already going?</td>
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| Wk 4 9/17 | What will my data look like?  
How will I analyze it?  
Creating mock data that is most useful | SPSS Manual pages 27-38  
http://calcnet.mth.cmich.edu/org/spss/toc.htm  
http://www.psych.utoronto.ca/courses/c1/spss/toc.htm | Bring a plan for data analysis to class |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wk 5 9/24 | Paper review: good and bad  
Progress update |  | Look over provided capstone papers in advance of class |
| Wk 7 10/8 | Paper: Discussion  
Progress updates | http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/msscha/psych/report_discussion.html  
http://www.sfedit.net/discussion.pdf  
http://www.wingate.edu/uploads/cms/file/apa%20discussion.pdf | Bring your discussion draft |
| Wk 8 10/15 | Paper: graphs |  | Bring your sample graphs and data |
| Wk 9 10/22 | Results section |  | Bring outline of results section |
| Wk 10 10/29 | Possibly no meeting; FALL BREAK WEEK  
Results draft |  |  |
| Wk 11 11/5 | Paper: abstract, and in its entirety and revising  
Progress updates | http://www.muhlenberg.edu/depts/psychology/Em piricalPrimer.htm |  |
| Wk 12 11/12 | Giving presentations and professionalism  
Data issues? |  |  |
| Wk 13 11/19 | Evaluating your paper; possibly no meeting, THANKSGIVING BREAK |  | Come with a “near final” draft of your paper  
PRESENTATION PRACTICE? |
| Wk 14 11/26 | Presentations and finalization of papers |  | PRESENTATION PRACTICE? |
| Wk 15 12/3 | Presentations  
Final paper due (to Dr. B) |  | FINAL PAPER DUE TO DR. B  
FINAL PRESENTATIONS |
| Finals Week | Departmental presentations |  |  |
| Spring | Public presentations |  |  |