Instructor: Sheri Sterner  
Office: Library, Office #105  
Office Hours: M, W: 5:45pm–6:15pm or by appointment  
Office phone and voice mail: (714) 432-5081  
Email: ssterner@occ.cccd.edu  
Additional course resources: http://occonline.occ.cccd.edu/online/ssterner

**Course Description:** This course addresses the principles and techniques which enter into experimental research concerning behavior and emphasizes designing, conducting, analyzing, and reporting research in the behavioral sciences. The course will emphasize the reasons for conducting experiments, types of experiments, adequate sampling, appropriate methodologies, and statistical treatment of data. It is expected that the student will develop a familiarity with research terminology, conducting experiments, the analysis and interpretation of data, and the reading and writing of APA papers.

**Required text:** Methods in Behavioral Research by Paul C. Cozby (Eighth Edition)  
*Additional study resources available by the author:* http://www.mhhe.com/cozby8

**Recommended text:** Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (Fifth Edition)  
*The Cozby text is available for short term check-out through the OCC Library’s textbook reserve collection. The APA Manual is available through the Library’s general reference collection.*

**Supplies:** Calculator with statistics functions. These generally cost under $20. A more advanced model is not needed for this course.

**Class Attendance and Policies**
- Attendance is required and will be taken within the first 5 minutes of each class.  
- You may be dropped from the course if you have more than 6 absences. Each time you are late counts for ½ of an absence. This applies to returning to class after break.  
- For voluntary withdrawals, it is your responsibility to drop the course using telephonic withdrawal process or by going to the Admissions & Records Office in person.  
- It is unnecessary to inform me of the reason you will be missing class unless you will be missing an exam or will be missing at least four sessions in a row.  
- Any changes in the tentative schedule will be announced in class. The instructor will not be responsible for any problems that arise due to changes in exam dates because a student did not attend lecture. If you miss class close to an exam date and are concerned about when the exam will be, please email me or leave a voice mail message, as soon as possible.  
- If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to obtain lecture materials from another student in class.  
- Cell Phone and Pager Policy – Please make sure all cell phones and pagers are not audible before entering the class.  
- Academic Honesty Policy – Any copying or sharing of exams, paper sections, or paper results in a ZERO grade for both sharers and may be reported to the Dean of Students. Plagiarism in any assignment follows the same policy. A second offense of cheating and/or plagiarism will again result in a ZERO grade and will be reported to the Dean of Students for severe disciplinary action.

**Psychology 280, Section #2072, Spring 2006**
Class Requirements
The total class grade will consist of 750 points:
Lab assignments – 10 @ 10 points each 100 pts
Statistics lab assignments – 5 @ 10 points each 50 pts
NOTE: Statistics and lab assignments are done in class and cannot be made up.
Written Assignments

APA Article Summary 1 25 pts
APA Article Summary 2 25 pts
Questionnaire 25 pts
2 Research Papers
Research Proposal 100 pts
Final Research Paper 100 pts
Final Research Paper Presentation/Group Participation 25 pts
3 exams (A combination of multiple choice and short answer questions, each worth 100 points). You will need two Parscore mini blue book test forms.

• Reading the textbook and attending lectures will be essential in understanding course material and being successful in this class. Students are responsible for all assigned readings, including material not directly covered in class.
• Lab assignments are designed to integrate lecture materials with its practical application. All lab assignments and activities must be completed in class and cannot be made up. Lab assignments are graded.
• Late assignments will be accepted up to one week after they are due. An assignment is considered late if it is not received at the start of the class period it is due. Late assignments will be penalized 10% each day they are late, including weekends, no exceptions!
• Course exams must be completed when scheduled. No make-up exams will be allowed.
• All written assignments must be typed and in APA format. The research proposal and final research paper will not be accepted via e-mail.
• The Final Research Paper will be a revision of the Research Proposal Paper plus additional sections. The research proposal consists of a partial abstract, title page, introduction, methods and references. The final research paper will include a revision of the Research Proposal Paper, results, discussion and tables/graphs. It is expected that you make the suggested revisions on your Research Proposal Paper or you will lose points on the Final Research Paper. Make sure that you SAVE your original research proposal with my revisions because they will need to be turned in with your final paper.
• Up to twenty (20) points of extra credit will be offered by conducting additional research related activities approved by the instructor. Further details will be discussed during the course.
• Grading:

90%-100%=A
80%-89%=B
70-79%=C
60-69%=D
0-59%=F
### Tentative Course Schedule for Spring 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Test/Assignment Due Dates</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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| Week 1 (1/30-2/5) | Course Overview/Syllabus
Scientific Approach
Descriptive Statistics | | Chapter 1
Chapter 5, 94-96
Chapter 12, 212-219 |
| Week 2 (2/6-2/12) | Ethical Research                                                      | | Chapter 3             |
| Week 3 (2/13-2/19) | Hypotheses, Ideas & Brainstorming
Research Proposals
Introduction to APA
Literature Resources | Begin formulating ideas for research project | Chapter 2
Appendix A, 272-287 |
| Week 4 (2/20-2/26) | Variables                                                            | Holiday – 2/20 (No Class)                      | Chapter 4             |
| Week 5 (2/27-3/5) | Reliability & Validity
APA Format, Abstract, Introduction & References                       | APA Article Summary 1 Due – 3/1
Research idea identified | Chapter 5
Appendix A, 272-287 |
| Week 6 (3/6-3/12) | Experimental Design
Basic Experiments
Independent Groups
Repeated Measures
Other Designs | Exam 1 (Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5) – 3/8 | Chapter 8 |
| Week 7 (3/13-3/19) | Experimental Design – con’t
APA Method                                                                   | APA Article Summary 2 Due – 3/15
Develop research design                                                   | Chapter 8
Appendix A, 272-287 |
| Week 8 (3/20-3/26) | Conducting Experiments
Understanding Research Results                                             | | Chapter 9
Chapter 12 |
| Spring Break (3/27-4/2) |                                                                      | |                      |
| Week 9 (4/3-4/9) | Understanding Research Results – con’t
Inferential Statistics                                                      | Research Proposal Due – 4/5 | Chapter 13 |
| Week 10 (4/10-4/16) | Observation                                                            | Exam 2 (Ch. 8, 9, 12 & 13)                     | Chapter 6             |
| Week 11 (4/17-4/23) | Surveys                                                                | Start data collection on research project       | Chapter 7             |
| Week 12 (4/24-4/30) | Complex Experimental Designs                                           | Survey Assignment Due – 4/26                    | Chapter 10            |
| Week 13 (5/1-5/7) | APA Results & Discussion
APA Figures & Tables
Data Analysis                                                               | Begin data analysis on research project         | Appendix A, 287-295   |
| Week 14 (5/8-5/14) | Data Analysis - continued
Generalizing Results                                                        |                                           | Chapter 14            |
| Week 16 (5/22-5/28) | Single Subject Design                                                  | Research presentations
Exam 3 (Ch. 6, 7, 10, 11, 14) – 5/24            |                      |