Psychology 3120

Understanding Psychological Research = Spring 2013

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Christman

Meeting Times: Monday, Wednesday 11:00 am - 12:15 pm; UH 4410

Office: UH5018C (phone: 530-4684) **Office Hours**: Tuesday 11:00-3:00 (& by appt.)

Textbooks: 1. Conducting Research in Psychology: Measuring the Weight of Smoke, 3rd Ed.,

by B.W. Pelham & H. Blanton, 2007, Wadsworth. [CRIP] 2. Statistics Without Tears: A Primer for Non-mathematicians

Apr 15 ESP Experiment

Apr 17 ESP Expt: Discussion of results

Apr 22 Variability Revisited Apr 24 Review for Exam

Friday, May 3, 10:15 – 12:15 pm **EXAM III**

Course Requirements:

Attendance is not required, but is *highly* recommended, especially for the final six weeks of the course (March 27 – April 24), since the questions on Exam III will be based in part on lecture-only material. Also, **attendance on April 15 and 17 is required**, as we will be conducting an in-class experiment.

Grading:

Exam I 25%
Exam II 25%
Exam III 25%
Experimental proposal paper 15%
Participation in ESP Experiment

Data Collection/Discussion 10%

(there will also be an opportunity to earn extra credit worth up to 5% of your final grade on Exam III).

COURSE INFORMATION

Format: The basic format for the course will consist of lectures. However, in-class questions are not only permitted, they are encouraged.

Attendance: Attendance is not mandatory. The instructor's view is that this is no longer high school, and it is now up to college students to manage their time responsibly and effectively. However, regular attendance is HIGHLY recommended. Our textbook covers a very large amount of material, only some of which will end up being covered on the exams. The content of lectures will provide students a strong guideline for distinguishing between the critical material covered in lecture that will constitute the bulk of exam questions and other, secondary material that will not be covered in lecture and will constitute a small percentage of exam questions. Also, the instructor does not simply "lecture out of the book". By attending lectures regularly, students will be able to learn about the material both from the way the book presents it and from the alternate way in which the instructor presents it.

Grading: Exams are graded on the basis of a modified curve that will be explained in class. Each of the three exams will be worth one third of the final grade. Exams will consist of (mostly) multiple-choice questions, along with one or two short answer questions. The final exam will *not* be cumulative, and will feature an extra-credit essay question.

Make-up policy: In general, make-1 (a) -.0 1 Tf-