

Methods Lab 297A Section 12
Wednesdays 9:00 a.m.- 10:50 a.m. (Rm. 128)

Instructor: Pedro Wolf

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Office hours: Thursdays 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. and by appointment

Goals:

1. An overarching goal of this lab section is to learn how to design and conduct a *feasible* study within a specific time frame. This will require some creative and critical thinking on your part; my part is to guide you through this process.
2. We will break down the research project into parts that are distributed throughout the semester. Each lab period is organized in such a way to contribute to your understanding of the research process, so attendance is mandatory.
3. In addition to getting firsthand experience of designing a research project, I will also introduce you to *peer-review*. This is the checks and balances system in the sciences. It will also help you reinforce concepts and learn how to evaluate your own and others' work with a critical mind.

Learning Objectives: By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

4. Develop a research question.
5. Design and implement a study.
6. Critically examine research you are exposed to in the news and in your courses.

Evaluation

Quizzes	10%	(40 pts.)
Assignments	50%	(200 pts.)
Paper	25%	(100 pts.)
<u>Presentation</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>(60 pts.)</u>
Total	100%	

A	= 90-100 percent
B	= 80-89.999... percent
C	= 70-79.999... percent
D	= 60-69.999... percent
F	= 50-59.999... percent

What you need to do well.

1. Turn in all assignments on time. I do not accept late work.
2. Come to class on time. If you miss a quiz due to an unexcused absence, you missed the quiz and do not have the opportunity to do make it up.

Special needs

Students with registered special needs will be appropriately accommodated with notification to the instructor.

Syllabus changes:

Changes not related to grading in this syllabus can be made with appropriate notification.

Academic Honesty and Appeal Procedure:

This class will comply with all university policies regarding plagiarism, cheating, and other disorderly conduct. **Cheating will result in a failing grade.**

Course outline

Week	Date	Assignment
1	01/20/10	Introductions & syllabus;
2	01/27/10	Quiz 1. What is a literature review? How is it done and when does it stop? Keeping record of your resources Assignment: Conduct lit review
3	02/03/10	Quiz 2. APA Format; Components of a research project; Introduction to the introduction
4	02/10/10	Writing your introduction
5	02/17/10	Quiz 3. Steps to conducting research: Methods; Assignment: Read and critique methods sections
6	02/24/10	Quiz 4. Writing your methods section; Developing a survey Assignment: Design a survey
7	03/03/10	Quiz 5. Conducting the research Assignment: Data collection & data entry
8	03/10/10	<i>Spring Break</i>
9	03/17/10	Quiz 6. Analyzing data; Writing the results; Learning to interpret results; Graphs
10	03/24/10	Quiz 7. Writing a discussion; References; Abstract
11	03/31/10	Quiz 8. What is peer-review? Why is it useful? Assignment: Peer-review 2 papers
12	04/07/10	Quiz 9. Return papers and revise; point-by-point revisions
13	04/14/10	Quiz 10. Turn in Research projects; Turning a paper into a presentation
14	04/21/10	Quiz 11. Presentations
15	04/28/10	Quiz 12. Presentations

In-Class Survey

1. Name and Email address:
2. Year in school:
3. Major (& minor, if applicable):
4. Do you have research experience? With whom and what did/do you do?
5. Have you or are you taking any related courses?
6. What is your experience with statistics?
7. What do you plan to do after you graduate? Work? Graduate school?