**Roanoke Valley Governor’s School for Science and Technology**

**Research Psychology**

Syllabus 2023-2024

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1. **Course Information**
2. **Course Description**

Research Psychology is an introduction to the basic principles of research in psychology, with an emphasis on statistical techniques used in psychological science. Major themes include the standards of ethical psychological research, the pros and cons of experimental, quasi-experimental, and correlational research designs, how to operationalize variables, how to ensure construct validity, and the process of using various statistical analyses to test psychological hypotheses. Students will conduct a thorough literature review, develop a project proposal, become proficient with statistical software, conduct a research project, and write a VJAS style research paper.

1. **Gifted education strategies**

The application of science and technology in a specific profession will require the use of interdisciplinary skills. While the primary focus of the mentorship is research and observation, daily assignments during the mentorship may require such tasks as record keeping and communication with the public sector. The scope of the research project will determine the nature of math and science skills exercised to successfully complete data-driven research.

1. **Text, Printed Resources, and Media Resources**

Students will read selected research papers relating to a variety of psychology topics. Extensive use of online journal articles, news articles, and case studies are used in this course.

*Lilienfeld, S. O., Lynn, S. J., Ruscio, J., & Beyerstein, B. L. (2010). 50 great myths of popular psychology: Shattering widespread misconceptions about human behavior. Wiley-Blackwell.*

1. **Grading Policy**
2. **Grading Scale**

100-90% **A**

89-80% **B**

79-70% **C**

69-60% **D**

59-0% **F**

1. **Types of Evaluations**
2. **Homework:** A summer reading assignment will be given in the spring.Students will be asked to complete short homework assignments during the fall semester focused on the research process, development of personal research, and labs completed in class.
3. **Research Process:**
   1. **Class Labs:** A lab experiment will be conducted as a class on one ofthe long elective days in the fall semester.
   2. **Pre-Intersession Work on Project:** Development of a research topic,a research plan, experimental design, and completion of ISEF forms will be completed during the fall semester. Students will communicate regularly with their teacher about the details of their project, contact experts outside of RVGS, and begin their lab notebook. Some students will begin experimentation, also.
4. **Intersession Work on Project:** Grades will be determined based onquality of work, maintaining an updated lab notebook, lab safety, teacher and self-assessment. Rubrics and deadlines will be provided and all deadlines will be published on the Research Psychology course calendar which will be linked to Canvas.
5. **Research Paper:** Students will write a paper, following the guidelines ofVJAS. The paper will be edited and rewritten until it meets the standards of a well-written paper. Failure to upload the final paper to the TurnItIn site by the school-wide deadline will result in a zero for the assignment.
6. **Research Presentation:**
   1. **PowerPoint Presentation:** Students will prepare and present aPowerPoint presentation according to the standards established by VJAS. Presentations will be revised based on teacher and peer review.
   2. **Project Forum Day:** All students are expected to be in attendance andon time for all events related to project forum. Students will present a poster to judges.
   3. **Other Science Fairs and Symposia:** All students are expected to participate in all science fairs and symposia available to them. Failure to attend a science fair without prior approval from the teacher will result in a grade penalty.
7. **Semester Grade Determination**

Your grade will be calculated using total points. The weight of each assignment will vary according to the amount of time that would have been required to complete that assignment. Students will know the number of points each assignment is worth before submitting it. In most cases, a rubric will be provided.

1. **Final Grade Determination**

The final grade is the average of the 2 semester grades. Students who do not maintain a B average or above will be subject to the RVGS probationary policy.

1. **Class Policies and Procedures**
   1. **Absences and tardies:** The policy in the RVGS student handbook will be followed. More information below.
   2. **Make-up Work:** Assignments will be announced in class and placed on the course calendar. It is the responsibility of the students to record homework in their planner and to complete the work as directed. In the event a student knows he/she is going to be absent, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor **BEFORE** the next elective session.
   3. **Late-work policy:** Late work will be accepted at the instructor’s discretion and be discounted at a rate determined by the instructor. All assignments must be submitted.
   4. **Cheating:** The policy in the RCPS student code of conduct will be followed.
   5. **Technology Policy:** The RCPS Acceptable Use Policy and the RVGS student handbook policy will be followed.
   6. **Extra help:** Students are expected to contact the teacher by email when extra help or guidance is needed.
   7. **Home Access Center:** Grades are available at all times through Synergy. When viewing your grades, understand that:
      1. A blank in the grade book means that the assignment has not yet been graded. Teachers will have all assignments graded within 5 school days of the due date (with the exception of very long assignments which will be graded within 10 school days). You may have a blank because the teacher has not graded the class set or because your assignment was turned in after the due date. Blanks do not count as zeros in your average.
      2. A zero in the grade book means that you have earned a zero on the assignment. Cases in which this might occur include submitting incorrect answers to an assignment or submitting an assignment past the due date.
      3. An excused (EX) in the grade book means that you are excused from the assignment without penalty.
   8. **Interim Reports:** The interim report is a snapshot of the current class average. Please feel free to discuss your report with your instructor.
   9. **Student Performance Strategy:** Interventions will be implemented at the teacher’s discretion or in the event that the student's grade falls below an 80.