

EVALUATION"

RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Student Name	Rebecca Wucker	Instructor(s)	Michelle Barton
Student ID	Nxxxxxxx	Course Division	Social Sciences
Course Type	Regular Course		
Part of Term	Full Term		
Designation	Satisfactory		
Narrative Evaluation			
<p>COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students got exposure to several research methods in psychology, as well as grounding in the core concepts of experimental design. The main texts were Cozby (2012, 11th ed.), "Methods in Behavioral Research," and the APA Publication Manual (6th ed.). Students applied and interpreted statistical procedures, and wrote research reports in standard APA style. Each student collected data for 3 group projects and wrote up the results as formal reports. Students took 3 exams, 2 quizzes, and did several homework assignments. The final project was an independent study, designed and executed by the student. Final projects were also presented orally to the class and formally written as a research report.</p> <p>QUIZZES AND HOMEWORK: Both quizzes and all the homework were satisfactory.</p> <p>EXAMS: All 3 exams were solidly satisfactory (indeed many answers read just like the key). The only area that cropped up as a repeated point for clarification was on the explanation of lurking third variables. Areas of true experiments were completely mastered by the second exam, and most other errors were minor. Areas of solid performance included reliability, identifying variables and designs, interpreting factorial designs, chi-squared, time and event sampling, graphing, validity, blind designs, and cell and text notation. Overall, excellent work showing a very strong facility with the course concepts.</p> <p>PAPERS: All 3 papers were strongly satisfactory. You demonstrated excellent writing style, organization and logic in each one. The abstracts and intros were concise, direct, and logically developed to flow smoothly to your questions and method. The explanations of your studies were thorough and used the literature to explicitly state your goals and hypotheses. These were excellent and showed your critical thinking skills and effective communication of your ideas. The methods and results were all clean and complete, readily accessible to the reader. The discussions were insightful and thorough treatments of your results. These showed careful thinking about the designs and the relation of your data to the past literature. These were informative and produced concrete new knowledge based on your study. Excellent work across the board.</p> <p>FINAL PROJECT: Your final project examined patterns of interpersonal similarities in college student seating choices in the cafeteria. This was a logical extension of the literature you cited. Your talk was good overall; you knew your material well, expanding clearly on the content of your slides and making good eye contact with your audience. The slides were a little rushed - the background slide was too wordy, and you then leaped to your hypotheses. Break it up a little and offer the question you are asking before you go to the hypotheses. The methods were explained well, but the results went by really fast; given that you used a different stat than we had used in class, you really needed to explain it like you had done for me in the emails. The comments on the limits of the design were insightful, and showed you were thinking carefully about what your data might mean. The paper was very well done. The abstract was excellent, the intro flowed smoothly and led nicely to your question and hypotheses (although state your goal at the start of that last paragraph and offer some reasons for your hypotheses). The discussion summed up your findings and offered nice comparisons of the past lit to your data. You did list many limits to your study, but be careful that they are really affecting your data. You did offer some ideas for new research; try to be as specific as you can there too; expanding on the idea and its reasons will lead to a new study more readily.</p> <p>OVERALL: The work on exams and papers indicates that you have a strong mastery of both the course concepts and their applications, as well as a very effective writing style. The exams were excellent demonstrations of your facility with design issues and study results. The papers showed you have excellent skills synthesizing new information and integrating past research with yours. Excellent work all around and it was a pleasure to read your papers and exams.</p>			

The narrative content of this evaluation is a personal communication between the professor and student. Only the student can provide their evaluations to persons outside New College. Outside evaluators, however, should note the context of evaluations as documents intended to guide students. Thus an evaluation of even the strongest student performance may contain critical comments intended to help the student reach higher personal attainments. Evaluations are not intended as substitutes for grades, are never converted to grades, and are never attachments to the official transcript.