

North Carolina State University
Department of Psychology
Psychology 762 Quasi-Experimental Design
Spring 2009

Instructor: Mark A. Wilson
Office Hours: M/W 2:00-3:00 or by appointment
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Required Text:

Shadish, W. R., Cook, T. D., & Campbell, D. T. (2002). *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Required Additional Readings:

See course web site.

Course Objectives:

To gain a complete understanding of Quasi-Experimental design, basic meta-analysis, and philosophy of science.

There are five course requirements:

Quasi-Experimental Design Exam worth 25 course points.

Three article critiques (3-5 pages) that are design oriented reviews of papers worth 10 points each. See examples on course web site.

A meta-analysis of at least 20 studies (5-10 pages) worth 20 course points. See examples on course web site.

A statement of your philosophy of science (10-15 pages) worth 20 course points.

Class participation worth 5 course points.

Course Format:

The majority of class time is devoted to discussions and brief presentations. Frequent questions are asked and students are expected to participate. A much better understanding of the course material can be obtained by answering questions and asking your own questions.

Course Grade is based on the following breakdown of a possible 100 course points:

A+ = 100 - 98	A = 97.99 - 92	A- = 91.99 - 90
B+ = 89.99 - 88	B = 87.99 - 82	B- = 81.99 - 80
C+ = 79.99 - 78	C = 77.99 - 72	C- = 71.99 - 70
D+ = 69.99 - 68	D = 67.99 - 62	D- = 61.99 - 60
F = 59.99 - 00		

The readings from the schedule page coded as SCC refer to chapters in the course text: Shadish, W.R., Cook, T. D., & Campbell, D. T. (2002). *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference*. Houghton Mifflin: New York.

The readings coded with MA (meta-analysis) or P (philosophy of science) followed by a number are additional readings that can be found on the course web site in folders labeled "Meta-Analysis Readings" and "Philosophy of Science Readings."

Topic	Date	Readings
Course Overview	1/7	
Part 1: Design		
Experiments	1/12	SCC 1, 8
Threats to Validity	1/14	SCC 2, 3
Quasi-Experiments Part 1	1/21	SCC 4, 5
Quasi-Experiments Part 2	1/26	SCC 6
Quasi-Experiments Part 3	1/28	SCC 7
Design Exam	2/2	
Part 2: Meta-Analysis		
Causal Inference	2/4-2/9	SCC 11, 12
Meta-Analysis Overview	2/11-2/16	SCC 13, MA1
Conversions	2/18-2/23	MA2
Meta-Analysis Correlations	2/25-3/9	MA3, MA4
Lab-Software	3/11-3/16	MA5
Part 3: Empiricism		
Philosophy of Science	3/18	P1, P2
Locke	3/23	P3, P4
Berkeley	3/25	P5, P6
Hume	3/30	P7, P8
Kant	4/1	P9, P10
James	4/6	P11, P12
Summary	4/8	P13, P14
Discussion of Personal Philosophy's	4/13-4/15	
Review of Meta-Analysis Projects	4/20-4/22	
Due Dates:		
Article Critiques	1/26, 2/2, 2/9	
Meta-Analysis Project	4/15	
Personal Philosophy	4/8	