

STUDY GUIDE #8

For this assignment I am asking you to apply the classical experimental design (see Chapter 8) to test a hypothesis related to your topic. Follow all the steps below to construct your design. If you think that you can explain your design best by drawing a representation of what you plan to do, please do so. Note that if you do provide a diagram, you must still address all of the items below.

This homework is worth 100 points.

1. Write a research question on your topic that is appropriate for experimental testing.
2. Write a hypothesis that can be tested using an experimental research design - that is, a hypothesis that allows you to manipulate variables in a controlled setting.
3. Identify, conceptualize your dependent and independent variables.
4. Discuss how you would select your research subjects. Think about research ethics, informed consent, and voluntary participation in experimental research.
5. Discuss how you would assign subjects into experimental and control groups.
6. Discuss your research setting.
7. State how you will pretest your dependent variable - that is, how are you going to measure your dependent variable.
8. Discuss how you would introduce your independent variable.
9. Discuss your post-test measures - that is, discuss how you will measure possible changes in your dependent variable.
10. Critique the use of classic experimental design to answer your research question. Be sure to discuss the issues of internal and external validity.

HINT: Keep it simple!!! You may design your study to test a specific hypothesis derived from theory, or you may design an experiment to evaluate a program or some sort of specific intervention. Please remember, I am asking you to use a classic experimental design in which you, the researcher has total control of the experimental conditions.