

****Exam 2: Thursday 3/6 in class****

The exam will consist of:

□□25 multiple-choice questions (2 pts. each = 50 pts.)

□□15 points short answer

□□10 points short essays

Total: 75 points

****Pay close attention to recommendations regarding research methodology,
or the pros and cons of various approaches discussed in class!!****

This is what you need to know for the exam:

2-20-14

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Provide an example of a semi-structured observation

- Observe family “subsystems”
- I.e.:
 - o Couple discussion (10 min)
 - o Triadic (mom-dad-baby) interactions (5-10 min)
 - o Mother-baby interactions (5-10 min)
 - o Father-baby interactions (5-10 min)

Describe the Lausanne Trilogue Play (observational technique)

- One expecting parent plays with “baby”
- Other expecting parent plays with “baby”
- Both play together with “baby”
- “Baby” sleeps and couple talks
- This has predictive validity
 - o Actually does predict what it will be like once the baby comes

Describe interobserver reliability and the process used to achieve it

- When observers rate the same people or behavior their ratings should agree strongly
- Most important when the observers are rating complex behaviors
 - o i.e. warmth or corporation
- Tricky because:
 - o Can take 3-6 months of training and must keep checking for coder drift

Define triangulation and know why it is important for observational research

- Use of 2+ measures to measure the same variable
- Same results from different measures means more confident of validity
 - o Important because it is a check for observational research
 - I.e. surveys and observations

Understand different ways of measuring child behavior

- Ask a parent or teacher
- Observe the child
- Ask the child (but not babies)

Be able to describe benefits & drawbacks of parent & teacher reports and observations, including the role of social desirability bias and negative bias

Benefits

- They know the child well and have seen the child in diverse environments/situations
- Teachers have a comparison group (other students)
- It's cheap and easy

Drawbacks

- Social desirability bias
 - When a person responds a certain way (interview or self report) or behaves a certain way (observation) because they think that is how they are “supposed” to act/answer according to society.
 - I.e. a parent might respond positively to all questions about their child’s behavior because they don’t want the researchers to think poorly of them.
- Negative bias
 - When a participant responds negatively to survey question even when the negative response isn’t accurate.
 - I.e. depressed mothers respond negatively because they tend to interpret everything more negatively.
 - I.e. negative bias from a teacher towards a student if the teacher doesn’t like the student.
- Parents may not have comparison group

Describe Mangelsdorf et al. (2000)’s argument about why observations and reports of children’s behavior often don’t agree

- Parents report their children both objectively and subjectively.
- Reporters don’t see the child in the same situations
- The behaviors are not easily observable