

**Research Methods – Psychology 303, Fall, 2004 CRN 14319**

Lecture: Mon. & Wed. 10:00a-11:20a / Straub 154

Lab Sections: Mon. 12:00p-1:20p, 2:00p-3:20p, & 4:00p-5:20p all in Straub 180

**Jess Holbrook, Instructor**

Office: Straub 325

Phone: 346-1980

[jholbroo@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:jholbroo@darkwing.uoregon.edu)

Office Hours: Tue. 10:00a-11:00a, Wed. 12:00p-1:00p, & by appt.

**Seraphine Shen, Lab Instructor**

Office: Straub 320

Phone: 346-4990

[cshen@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:cshen@darkwing.uoregon.edu)

Office Hours: Mon. 3:30p-5:30p

**Lorraine Stewart, Lab Instructor**

Office: Straub 335

Phone: 346-2921

[lstewar1@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:lstewar1@darkwing.uoregon.edu)

Office Hours: Mon. 3:00p-4:00p

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the term you will have:

- Become a more knowledgeable consumer of information
- More effectively evaluated scientific (empirical) research
- Learned essential research concepts
- Participated as part of a research team on a collaborative study
- Understood the challenges and rewards of conducting psychological research
- Prepared for more complex research projects in the future

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Many of the GTFs in the department have found that the sheer volume of work in this class often made important assignments seem like nothing more than “busy work”. During the Summer 2003 term, Jen Simonds, a graduate student in the psychology department, piloted a student-driven collaborative model for research. We will be using this format for our research projects. This format for the research projects in this course is likely quite different from the experience of many other 303 students.

Rather than struggle through the harrowing process of an entire research project on your own, each lab section will work on **one** research study as a group. Also, rather than being extraordinarily busy with countless deadlines and trying to manage a variety of tasks, you will join one sub-team (e.g., Introduction, Theory) in which you will only have to work like crazy for about a week and a half.

**TEXTBOOK (required):**

Zechmeister, J. S., Zechmeister, E. B., & Shaugnessy, J. L. (2001). *Essentials of research methods in psychology*. New York: McGraw Hill. (price: ~\$42.55 used, ~\$56.75 new)

**Optional (recommended, especially for students considering graduate school in Psychology):**

American Psychological Association (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. (price: ~\$27.00 - 40.00)

\*\*\* (Note: 4<sup>th</sup> Edition is not acceptable due to changes in reference citation format).

**PsychINFO Sessions (One Session REQUIRED: Sign Ups Will Be Distributed In Class)**

Tues., Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-3:50

Wed., Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-2:50 and 4:00-4:50 (ITC)

Thur., Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-4:20

Fri., Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 12:00-12:50

Tues., Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-2:50

All in Edmiston Classroom (Rm. 144) in the Knight Library (except 9/29 @ 4:00)

## **COURSE EVALUATION SUMMARY**

Course grades will be based on:

In-class participation (5%)

Team participation (10%)

Lab Grade: participation, assignments, experiment credit (20%)

Paper section drafts (15%)

Blackboard learning checks (10%)

In-class quizzes (20%)

Final research paper (20%)

## **REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR COURSE EVALUATION**

### **Class Participation (5%)**

You are expected to participate in activities and discussions in class. Because we know that each of you is not comfortable speaking in front of the large group, the participation grade will be based not only on participation in whole-group discussions, but also on small group and individual activities during the class session.

### **Team Participation (10%)**

You will be a member of one of the research teams for the quarter (Intro, Theory, Methods Development, Methods Implementation, or Data Analysis). You are expected to participate and contribute fully to the work of the group. Evaluation of your participation will be based on your own self-evaluation, peer evaluations by your team members, and by your lab instructor. Teams experiencing difficulties of any type are strongly encouraged to first try to discuss the problem as a group and then to discuss the problem with their lab instructor if a solution cannot be achieved within the group.

### **Lab Grade (20%) – Lab schedule to be distributed first week of Lab**

#### **◆ 1 hour of experiment credit – Required**

This requirement is done in the same way as in PSY 201 and 202. The one-hour requirement is necessary for you to receive a grade for the lab portion of the course. Two additional hours are optional and will be worth extra credit points toward your overall grade. Ask Jess about possible alternatives to experiment participation for credit.

#### **◆ Lab Attendance and Participation**

Because so much information is discussed in lab section that is not discussed in lecture, it is essential that you attend labs, and accordingly, part of your total grade is based on lab attendance and participation. Lab attendance is **required**. ***You may only attend the lab in which you are enrolled--any switching of lab sections must be completed through DuckWeb.*** The weekly labs are 80 minutes each, and are designed to assist and support you in your research project.

### **Drafts of each section of your final paper (Intro., Methods, Results, Discussion) (15%)**

You will be turning in a draft of each section of your final paper at different times during the term. These assignments are always at the beginning of class on the day they are due as listed in the course schedule. Pay careful attention to due dates and to assignment sheets containing guidelines for what to include in each section of the paper.

### **5 Blackboard learning checks (10%)**

Five learning checks will be due throughout the term, 1 to study for each Quiz and a review learning check. Learning checks are designed to be a way to show your learning without a time limit and with materials available to you, and to be a way to study for exams. Learning Checks are due on Mondays before quizzes by midnight. They cover two chapters that were covered in class that week.

#### 4 Quizzes and 1 Cumulative Exam (20%)

Four in-class quizzes (30 pts. each) will cover material from 1) Textbook, 2) Lab Section, 3) Lectures. The focus will be on material covered prior to each quiz, however, essential basic concepts will be tested throughout the term. **There will be no make-up quizzes.** The cumulative exam (80 pts.) will be just that, cumulative, and will cover concepts learned throughout the course. The cumulative exam will serve as your final exam, but will not be nearly as lengthy or difficult as most finals. The cumulative exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:15.**

#### Final Research Paper (20%)

You will be given suggestions on the drafts of your research paper and are expected to incorporate them into your final product: a full research paper using APA style citations within the text and an APA style reference page. Guidelines for the paper will be given in class and in lab throughout the term.

#### GRADING SCHEDULE

A+ = 97%	B+ = 87%	C+ = 77%	D+ = 67%
A = 93%	B = 83%	C = 73%	D = 63%
A- = 90%	B- = 80%	C- = 70%	D- = 60%

#### CLASS POLICIES

1. We are very strict about deadlines and due dates. However, we are not without sympathy for real things that come up. If you have a major life catastrophe that keeps you from performing well in this course, please let us know when it occurs – not at the end of the term when it will be too late.
2. Tardiness disrupts everyone's learning experience, and having sympathy also means being considerate of everyone. For that reason, all assignments are due at the **beginning of class or Lab on the date noted in the class and Lab schedules.** Assignments turned in after class or lab begins will be counted as late, and late assignments (with the exception of the final paper) will lose 10% for each 24-hour period they are late. No assignments will be accepted if they are more than 2 days (48 hours) late.
  - a. Final papers are due to the Psych Office on the day of the final sharp. Because Jess will be grading all papers, he needs plenty of time to read them so that he can submit your grades in a timely manner. For that reason, late penalties for the paper are very strict: Papers may only be turned in to the Psychology Office Straub 131, and **must be time stamped and initialed** by the department secretary and placed in Jess Holbrook's mailbox., open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
3. If you miss class or lab (for any reason) it is your responsibility to contact one of your instructors to obtain copies of any handouts or assignments you missed. Please keep in mind that although we will be happy to answer any questions you may have, we cannot provide individual lectures on material missed due to absences, and all course materials will be posted on Blackboard.
4. Failure to complete the research project, or missing more than one exam, will lead to **automatic failure** in the course.
5. Finally, a note about cheating and plagiarism: **Don't do it.** If you do, you will fail the course.

**Plagiarism** is the inclusion of someone else's product, words, ideas, or data as one's own work. When a student submits work for credit that includes the product, words, ideas, or data of others, the source must be acknowledged by the use of complete, accurate, and specific reference.

- By placing one's name on work submitted for credit, the student certifies the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgments.
- On written assignments, if verbatim statements are included, the statements must be enclosed by quotation marks or set off from regular text as indented extracts.

A student will avoid being charged with plagiarism if there is an acknowledgment of indebtedness. Indebtedness must be acknowledged whenever:

1. one quotes another person's actual words or replicates all or part of another's product;
2. one uses another person's ideas, opinions, work, data, or theories as one's own, even if they are completely paraphrased in one's own words;
3. one borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative materials--unless the information is common knowledge.

Unauthorized collaboration with others on papers or projects can inadvertently lead to a charge of plagiarism. If in doubt, consult an instructor or seek assistance from the staff of Academic Learning Services (68 PLC, 346-3226).

### **How to Prevent Computer Problems**

Computer problems are not allowed as an excuse for late submissions of assignments in this course. Because of the availability of computers in campus labs (libraries, EMU, etc.), you are expected to submit assignments printed clearly and on time. Your greatest insurance policy against computer problems is to avoid completing your work at the last minute. If you save finishing a paper with only moments to spare, you are out of backup options if something goes wrong. If, for some reason, you have tried *everything* and you are still stuck, contact the instructor **BEFORE** the deadline. Some steps (this is not an exhaustive list) you can take to eliminate the possibility of a computer mishap making your assignment late are as follows:

1. ***"I lost my file."*** Save your work every 5 minutes. Find the autosave function in your word processing program and set it to automatically save your document every 3 minutes or so. This way, your recovered document will not be more than 3 minutes of re-doing away. Always back your work up (frequently) on a disk or electronically by a) storing on a remote server (go to Computing Help Center to learn how to do this) or b) sending files to yourself by email attachment.
2. ***"My printer jammed" "I ran out of toner"*** First – Allow at least a half-day in advance to print your paper (while a computer lab is open). Have a backup plan for printing your document. By sending your file to yourself by email, you can pick it up on a school computer and print in a computer lab. While expensive, Kinko's is a 24-hour option for printing documents. Make arrangements with a friend, family member, or neighbor for getting help with printing. Ask them in advance: "If I were to have computer problems, would it be okay if I came over and used your printer? Is 2:30 in the morning okay with you? You could do the same at my house." Have a second toner cartridge on hand if you haven't changed yours recently.
3. ***"Something happened to my computer and I don't know how to fix it." "My computer crashed."*** Allow at least a half-day while computer labs are open to finish your work. Computer lab staff can help you if something breaks down. If you work at home, go to the computer help desk when you're on campus to ask questions about functions on your computer you don't understand. If you are unfamiliar with computers, make arrangements to work in a lab until you understand your home system better.

### **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

- **Concerns**: If you find yourself doing more poorly in the class than anticipated, please see the Instructor or your TA *sooner* rather than later. If you wait to come forward with any problems, you may find that it is too late to do anything about your grade.
- **Accommodations**: If one of the following applies to you, please see the instructor *as soon as possible* to make adjustments.
  - Documented learning or medical disability;
  - Non-documented need for adjustments to help you learn;
  - On a sports team that travels this quarter;
  - English is not your first language.

You are strongly encouraged to contact Disability Services if you have a non-documented condition that prevents you from learning (346-1155). With advance planning, adjustments are relatively easy. Adjustments at the last minute are problematic and sometimes not possible:

### **ACCESSING BLACKBOARD**

**Logging On**: You **MUST** have an email address and be registered for the class in order to log on to *Blackboard*. If you are registered, then you should have received an email letting you know that you are registered for the site. If you do not have an email address, go to the Information Technology Center (ITC) in the Knight Library (2<sup>nd</sup> floor). If you are having difficulty, check the ITC website at <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/kite/faq/faq.html>.

- Go to <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>
  - Username: your email address (e.g., jholbroo@darkwing)
  - Password: your email password