

Research Methods – Psychology 303, Spring 2004, CRN 34158

Tuesday & Thursday 12:00-1:20 p.m. Straub 146

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Office Hours: Mon. 2:00p-3:00p, Tues 10:30a-11:30a and by appt.

Teaching Assistants

Lab Section(s) (Straub 180)

Office Hours

Contact Info

Jessica Kieras

W 12:00p-1:20p., Th. 8:30a-9:50a

W 11a-12p, Th 10a-11a

Straub 388, 346-4075,

jkieras@darkwing.uoregon.edu

Jess Holbrook

W 2:00p-3:20p

W 10a-12p

Straub 325, 346-1980

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COURSE OBJECTIVES By the end of the term you will have:

- 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;
- Become a more knowledgeable consumer of information;
- Prepared for more complex research projects in the future.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (And you had no idea this was a Stress Reduction Plan...)

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”. Based on my previous stress and that of my lab students in past 303 classes, as well as a successful pilot run of a Collaborative Research Project (implemented with my Psych 303 class, Summer 2003), the format for the research project in this course is likely quite different from the experience of most other 303 students (except those who took Stacey Pederson’s 303 course in Winter 2004).

Rather than struggle through the harrowing process of an entire research project on your own, each of the lab sections will work as a team on **one** research study. 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.

MANUAL (optional, but highly recommended, especially for students considering graduate school in Psychology):

American Psychological Association (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5th Ed. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

*** (Note: 4th Edition is not acceptable due to changes in reference citation format).

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

All sessions held in Knight Library classrooms.

Week 1: Thurs. Apr. 1 11:00-11:50 Information Technology Center Classroom 2nd fl. **Fri. Apr. 2** 11:00-11:50 Edmiston Classroom, Rm.144 **AND Fri. Apr. 2** 1:00 - 1:50 Edmiston Classroom, Rm.144

Week 2: Mon. Apr. 5 5:00 - 5:50 Edmiston Classroom, Rm.144 **Tues. Apr. 6** 9:00 - 9:50 Edmiston Classroom, Rm.144 **Fri. Apr. 9** 4:00 - 4:50 Edmiston Classroom, Rm. 144

Data Collection Night (Required for EVERYONE) Location Details to Follow

Thursday, May 13: 6:00-9:00 p.m.

COURSE EVALUATION SUMMARY

Course grades will be based on:

In-class participation (5%)

Research 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. ***Class attendance and participation grade includes a requirement to post a “bi-weekly pondering” (by Sunday at midnight of each even-numbered week) on the course Blackboard site. To receive credit you must post on the Discussion Board forum for the appropriate week and lab section (e.g., the first one will be in “Week 2 Monday Lab” forum if you are in the Monday lab section).***

Research 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 and peer evaluations by your team members. 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 the instructor if a solution cannot be achieved within the group.

Lab Grade (20%)

◆ 1 hour of experiment credit – Required

This requirement is done in the same way as Psych 201 and 202. Detailed instructions will be given in class on . Turn your slip(s) into your T.A. to receive credit for your participation. 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. You will also complete a Research Experience Assignment, which will be discussed in class.

◆ Attendance of PsychINFO Session

You must attend 1 PsychINFO Session; you will sign up in class during the first week.

◆ Lab Assignments (*Assignment Details Given in Lab*)

You will have a variety of assignments that are to be completed in lab (e.g., statistics review write-ups based on lab lecture), as well as several assignments that are to be submitted to each research team throughout the quarter. These assignments are all listed in the lab syllabus, and will be discussed in greater detail in your lab section. These assignments will be graded by the teams to which they are submitted, so be sure to include concepts learned in class.

◆ 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 due **in class on Tuesdays**, and are listed in the course schedule. Pay careful attention to due dates and to information about guidelines for what to include in each section of the paper.

5 Blackboard learning checks (10%)

In-class quizzes will be given every two weeks (Thursdays of every even-numbered week) and will cover 2 chapters each. To assist you in studying for the quizzes, you will complete a Learning Check on Blackboard on your own time every odd-numbered week. The deadline for each is the Monday before the quiz at midnight (e.g. Learning Check 1 is due the Monday before Quiz 1). Because they are open book, they may be more challenging than the quizzes, and likewise, because of the limited format of Blackboard quizzes, they may be less challenging than quizzes later in the term.

5 Quizzes and 1 Jumbo Quiz (20%)

Five 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. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped, and there will be no make-up quizzes. The “jumbo quiz” (80 pts.) will be cumulative and will cover concepts learned throughout the course. The jumbo quiz will serve as your final exam, but will not be nearly as lengthy or difficult as most finals. The “jumbo quiz” is scheduled for Tuesday, June 8 at 8:00 a.m. (sorry - I don't make the finals schedule).

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. I am very strict about deadlines and due dates. However, I am not without sympathy for real things that come up in the course of real life. If you have a major life catastrophe that keeps you from performing well in this course, please let me 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. Because immediate feedback is needed for most of the assignments, late assignments make grading a nightmare for your T.A.s Therefore, 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 date of the final exam at 3:00 p.m. sharp. Because I will be grading all papers, I need plenty of time to read them so that I 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 Jennifer Simonds' mailbox., open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Final research papers turned in between 3:01 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on June 8 will lose 30%. Papers turned in on Wednesday June 9 will lose 40%. No papers will be accepted after 5 p.m., June 9.

3. If you miss class or lab (for any reason) it is your responsibility to contact one of us (Jen for class, Jessica or Jess for lab) 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 assignments will be posted on Blackboard.
4. Failure to complete the research project, or missing more than two quizzes, 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. This will make me very sad and disappointed, and it will make you angry and embarrassed.

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 references... 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 the 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 (library, 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. (And, see #1 & #2).

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. 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:
 - 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.

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 (2nd floor). If you are having difficulty, check the ITC website at <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/kitc/faq/faq.html>.

- Go to <http://bb1.uoregon.edu>
 - Username: your email address (e.g., jsimonds@darkwing)
 - Password: your email password