

Research Methods – Psychology 303, Winter 2004

Mon & Wed 10 – 11:20 a.m.; Straub

Stacey Pederson, 328 Straub; Phone: 346-4924

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Office Hours: Mon 11:30-12:30, Wed 1-2, and by appointment

Teaching Assistants

Mike Myers

Tuesday 12-1:20

Straub 323, 346-4902

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Tuesdays 1:30-2:30

Lab Section(s)

Office Hours

Lindy Beane

Monday 2-3:20, Wednesday 8:30-9:50

Heustis 212, 346-4903

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Wednesdays 1-2 and by appt.

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 (A.K.A. This is not your Mama's Research Methods Course)

Many of the GTFs in the department have found that the sheer volume of work in this class often made important assignments seem nothing more than “busy work”. Based largely on the input (and angst) of GTFs who have T.A.ed this course in the past, as well as the phenomenal feedback from Jennifer Simond's innovative Collaborative Research Project (implemented with her Psych 303 class, Summer 2003, and my class Winter 2003), the format for the research project in this course is likely vastly different from the experience of most other 303 students.

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 (REQUIRED: Sign Ups Will Be Distributed In Class)

Thursday, April 1: 11-12 p.m.**

Friday, April 2: 11a-12p; 1-2 p.m.*

Monday, April 5: 5- 6p.m.*

Tuesday: April 6, 9-10 a.m.*

Friday, April 9, 4-5 p.m.*

*In Edmiston Classroom, Room 144 in Knight Library; **ITC classroom, 2nd floor

Data Collection Night (Required for EVERYONE)

Wednesday, May 12, 6-9 p.m. for Participation

Thursday, May 13, 6-9 p.m. for Team Implementation

Location Details to Follow

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 participation is also based on your attending a PsycINFO training session in the library. ***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, as well as an overall evaluation by your T.A. 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, but the procedure changed last term and sign-ups and research credit are now recorded online. Detailed instructions will be given in class on Wednesday, March 31. The one-hour requirement is necessary for you to receive a grade for the lab portion of the course. If you are uncomfortable with this assignment, alternative assignments (e.g., attending research colloquia in the Psych department) are available. Two additional hours are optional and will be worth extra credit points toward your overall grade (20 pts. total).

◆ 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 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 Duck Call. 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 Mondays (with the exception of the Abstract and Discussion due to a holiday)**, 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. You **MUST** staple the grading sheet to the front of your drafts.

5 Blackboard learning checks (10%)

In-class quizzes will be given every two weeks (Wednesdays 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 Sunday before the quiz at midnight (e.g. Learning Check 1 is due the Sunday before Quiz 1). Because they are open book, they may be more challenging than the quizzes.

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.

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 also have a heart. 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 a heart 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 on the date of the final exam at 10:15 sharp. Because I will be grading all 54 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: Final research papers turned in between 10:16 a.m. and midnight on Thursday, March 18 will lose 30%. Papers turned in on Friday, March 19 will lose 40%. No papers will be accepted after 5 p.m., March 19. Late papers are to be turned in to the psychology office—Straub 131, and must be time stamped and initialed by the department secretary and placed in Stacey Pederson’s mailbox.

3. If you miss class or lab (for any reason) it is your responsibility to contact one of us (Stacey for class, Lindy or Mike 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. As an emotion researcher, I'd like us to avoid those emotions at all costs!

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.

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).

Computer problems are not a valid 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 listed on Blackboard in the Course Documents Folder.

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: first part of your email address (e.g., jblow@gladstone)
 - Password: your email password

ACCESSING EXPERIMENTS FOR CREDIT

Go to <http://uopsych.sona-systems.com/>. You must first create an account, listing the courses to which you will be applying the research credit. All sign-ups and credits are now completed online!!!