
Research Methods in Psychology

Psy303 :: Spring 2005 :: CRN: 37157

Lecture: Mon. & Wed. 10:00a-11:20a / Esslinger 105

Lab Sections: Mon. 12:00p-1:20p, 2:00-3:20p, & 4:00p-5:20p / STB 180

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Course Objectives

- Become a more knowledgeable consumer of information.
- Be able to more effectively evaluate scientific (empirical) research.
- Learn essential research concepts.
- Participate as part of a research team on a collaborative study.
- Understand the challenges and rewards of conducting psychological research.
- Be prepared for more complex research projects in the future.

Course Description

Your time in this course will focus on the broad concepts underlying scientific research and the intricacies of conducting your own research project. Lectures are devoted to introducing, explaining, and providing examples of the concepts, terminology, and methods commonly used in scientific research. Lab sections are devoted to your specific research project and writing scientific research papers. You will work in small groups on a research project that you will develop, conduct, analyze the data from, and report in a final research paper. While you will work in groups on your projects, all evaluation is at the individual level.

Textbooks

Required:

Gravetter, F. J., Forzano, L. B. (2003). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences*. Thomson Wadsworth.

Szuchman, L. T. (2005). *Writing with style: APA style made easy* (3rd Ed.). Thomson Wadsworth.

Optional (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. (price: ~\$27.00 - 40.00)

Course Evaluation Summary

Exams	40%
Final Research Paper	30
Lab Grade	10
Paper Section Drafts	10
Learning Checks	10

Exams (40%)

Four in-class exams will cover material from (a) Textbook, (b) Lab Section, and (c) Lectures. The focus will be on material covered prior to each exam, however, essential basic concepts will be tested throughout the term. Exams will consist of true false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. **There will be no make-up exams.**

Final Research Paper (30%)

The importance of clearly and accurately communicating research is second only to the importance of conducting quality research in the first place. The final research paper will reflect your ability not only to conduct quality research, but also to communicate it in a scientific writing style. You will be given suggestions on the drafts of your research paper throughout the term and are expected to incorporate these suggestions into your final product, a full research paper using APA style. Guidelines for the paper will be given in class and in lab throughout the term.

Lab Grade (10%) (Lab schedule will be distributed first week of Lab)

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 and writing your final project paper.

Team Participation

You will be a member of a research team. You are expected to participate and contribute fully to the work of the team. 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 team and then to discuss the problem with their lab instructor if a solution cannot be achieved within the team.

1 Hour of Experiment Credit (required)

This requirement is completed 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.

Drafts of Sections of the Final Paper (10%)

You will be turning in a draft of each section of your final paper throughout the term. Drafts are always due at the beginning of class on the day they are listed as due 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. Drafts be reviewed by your Lab Instructor and returned to you with suggestions for revision. Drafts will be graded as acceptable or unacceptable.

BlackBoard Learning Checks (10%)

Five learning checks will be due throughout the term. Learning Checks are small multiple-choice tests administered through BlackBoard. Each will act as an assignment and study guide for each exam except for the final learning check. Learning checks are designed to be a way to show your learning without a time limit and with materials available to you. Additionally, they are a way to study for exams. Learning Checks are due on Tuesdays before exams by midnight.

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%

Course 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 circumstance 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. There is no predefined set of circumstances we find acceptable as reasons affecting course performance, however it is usually something that affects all aspects of your life, not just this course.
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 15% 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. 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 you Lab Instructor's mailbox. The Psychology Office is 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: **Do not 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).

Tips for 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. Arrange 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 have not 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 are on campus to ask questions about functions on your computer you do not understand. If you are unfamiliar with computers, arrange to work in a lab until you understand your home system better.

Accessing BlackBoard

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

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.