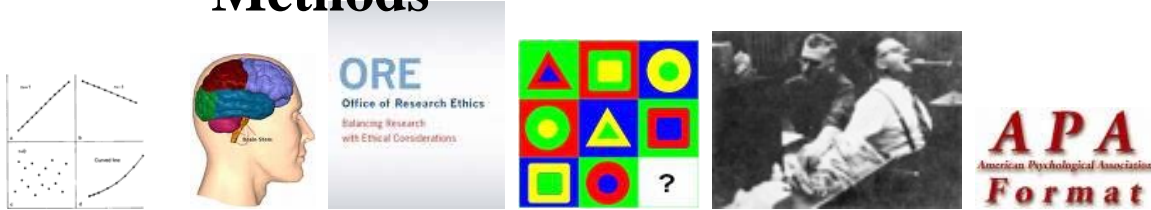


Psychology 303: Research Methods



176 Education, Tuesday/Thursday 4:00-5:20

Course Instructor: Meredith Meyer
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Office: 398 Straub Hall
Office Hours: Monday 2:00 & Thursday 11:00, or by appointment

Course Description: Course Description and Goals

Welcome to Research Methods! This course provides you with a unique opportunity to learn new skills in conducting and evaluating scientific research in psychology that will sharpen your ability to think critically and logically about important topics. The research skills you learn in this course are essential for becoming a wise consumer of the often overwhelming and confusing mass of information provided by the media, corporations, sales people, the government, and other various sources. In addition, these skills will provide a basic foundation in scientific methodology if you choose to go on to graduate study in psychology. Along the way, you will find answers to such questions as:

- Where did an IRB go wrong in approving research on the effects of lead-based paint, resulting in Baltimore parents successfully suing the hospital overseeing the study?
- Why were people suspicious of the genetic makeup of Snuppy the Afghan Hound after reports of unethical research on stem cells were released in the winter of 2005?
- Why is there little point in paying attention to polls reported in *Men's Health* or *Cosmopolitan*?
- Why did inappropriate control groups lead doctors to unnecessarily irradiate the thyroids of thousands of infants in the early part of the 20th century?
- When is deceiving people beneficial?
- Why is it a good thing that you haven't forgotten all the statistics you learned last term? (because you *do* remember everything, right?!)
- What can a genie tell us about conflicts of interest in research, language acquisition, and the value and limitations of case study research?

Important Academic Calendar Dates

October 1st: Last day to process a complete drop and receive a 90% tuition refund (no W)
October 2nd: Last day to process a complete drop and receive a 75% tuition refund (no W)
October 4th: Last day to add a class
October 8th: Last day to process a complete withdrawal and receive a 75% tuition refund (W)
October 15th: Last day to process a complete withdrawal and receive a 50% tuition refund (W)
October 22nd: Last day to process a complete withdrawal and receive a 25% tuition refund (W)
November 12th: Last day to change grading option (Graded or P/N)
NOVEMBER 23-24th: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!!!

Course Pre-Requisite

Successful completion of Psychology 302 (Statistics) is a pre-requisite for this course. I am assuming you have a working knowledge of basic statistics. We will review important statistical concepts as they apply to conducting, analyzing, interpreting, and reporting research results, but this should not be 'new' material for you.

Required Textbook

Cozby, P.C. (2007). *Methods in Behavioral Research*, 9th edition. Boston: McGraw Hill.

Recommended Supplementary Reference Text

American Psychological Association (2001). *Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association, 5th Ed.* Washington, D.C., American Psychological Association.

(note: Changes to the 5th edition include a different reference citation format and different recommendations on writing style; if you currently own an older edition and plan to use it as a reference source for this course, be aware that some sections are outdated and that you are responsible for following the most recent format and writing style recommendations. The recent edition can be found in the Reference section at Knight Library for in-house use. If you are a psychology major, owning this book is *highly* recommended, as it will serve useful in nearly all upper-level psychology courses you will take in the future.)

Additional Resources

The publisher of your text maintains an on-line learning center for students with quizzes, flashcards, chapter outlines, exercises, and additional links for relevant content. I encourage you to use the site when note-taking, studying, and preparing for quizzes. The address is www.mhhe.com/cozby9

Course Components and Requirements

Your final grade will be based on:

Lab attendance and activities

Mini-Quizzes

In-class Scheduled Quizzes

Final APA-Style Research Paper

Library Activity

Lab attendance and activities: This course includes traditional lecture meetings and a weekly lab meeting. Attendance at all labs is **mandatory** and will be an essential part of your success in this course. Attendance will be taken by your GTF in lab.

Lab sessions will focus on some of the steps of the research project. The lab sessions will be conducted by a graduate student serving as a teaching assistant for this course. You cannot make up missed labs for credit, and you must attend the lab session you are registered for each week. If an emergency prevents you from attending your scheduled lab, talk to your TA as soon as you can. In rare cases, partial credit will be given to students who are unable to attend their scheduled lab but make arrangements to attend a different section. Some labs will include assignments that are due at the end of the lab session, and some labs will include assignments that are due at the beginning of the next week's lab session. Late lab assignments will be penalized 2 pts. per day past due. Be sure to bring your textbook, APA manual if you have one, paper, and writing utensils to each lab as you will often need these to complete the activities.

***Please also note that there is a mandatory group data collection night scheduled for **Wednesday, November 1st from 6:00 to 9:00 in Columbia 150**. This activity will allow you access to research participants for your study in the form of your 303 classmates. Your lab GTF will give you more information about how you will need to prepare for this as the date approaches.

Mini-quizzes: Attendance will not be taken at lecture; however, in-class "mini-quizzes" will be administered throughout the term and will account for part of your final grade.

These will consist of one-question, closed-book, multiple choice questions given at the end of lectures. They are not designed to be challenging and should not be a huge source of stress! If you are present in class and have half an ear open, the question will be easy.

In-class Scheduled Quizzes Quizzes will be used to assess your mastery of the lecture and reading material. There will be 4 quizzes in the course and the lowest grade will be dropped before calculating your course grade. If you miss a quiz for any reason, this will serve as the dropped quiz score when calculating your course grade. Thus, make-up quizzes will not be scheduled. There is no final exam in this course; the last quiz will be administered on the last day of class.

Research Paper: Each student will complete a research project during the course from projects developed by previous research methods instructors. The culminating product will be an APA-style manuscript describing the study you have chosen to complete. A timeline for completing the research project will be provided to help ensure you do not fall behind on your project. The research project is a major component of the course. It demonstrates your ability to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills you have gained in reading, lectures, and lab sessions. **The research paper is due on Tuesday, December 5th.** Late papers will be penalized 10 points per day past due.

Library Activity: Finally, students will complete a library activity conducted at Knight Library during the second week of class. This activity is designed to help you learn how to do library searches using PsycINFO. This is an essential skill in

conducting research and writing an APA research paper. Students must attend one of the following sessions to receive credit for this component of the course. All sessions will be held in the **Edmiston Classroom (Rm 144) of Knight Library** during the following times:

Tuesday September 26th, 12:00-12:50

Wednesday September 27th, 2:00-2:50

Thursday September 28th, 12:00-12:50

Friday September 29th, 11:00-11:50

***If you cannot make any of these times, you must contact me by Thursday, September 28th.

Additional Notes

Blackboard: The course blackboard site will be a critical source of information throughout the term. Any changes to the lecture or reading schedule will be posted on this site as well. In addition, slides to accompany lectures, scores, and non-textbook readings will be posted there. Please make sure you are able to view slides created in Powerpoint and .pdf documents. You may need to download a Powerpoint viewer, available free from many sites including www.microsoft.com/downloads. Adobe Acrobat provides a free downloadable reader that will allow you to open and view .pdfs. Alternatively, slides and .pdf documents can be downloaded and printed using public computers at the university.

You should already have a login ID and password through your university email account to access blackboard. If you are unfamiliar with blackboard or do not know your password, contact me as soon as possible.

Posting of Grades

Scores for lab activities and quizzes will be posted on blackboard throughout the course. Please do not wait until after final grades are submitted to dispute a grade; keep track of your scores as they are posted, and alert me **in writing** (e-mail is fine) as soon as possible if you think that there has been a mistake in grading. If the dispute involves a grade for a lab activity, please try to resolve this first with your GTF.

Extra credit is available to improve your grade by up to 3%.

Credit to improve your overall grade by up to 2% can be earned by participating in Psychology Department research through the Psychology Department Human Subjects Pool. For each hour of participation you can earn a 1% improvement to your mark as long as you assign your extra credit to Research Methods 303. Half-hour (or half credit) studies will count as half a percentage point. The coordinator of the Human Subjects Pool, Jeff Loucks, can provide you with a handout containing details regarding your possible participation, and you can also gain information by going to the HSP website at <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~hscoord>. If you have an account on sona from prior classes (e.g., Psych 201 and Psych 202), you should use the same login information that you used for this class.

Studies must have been completed by the last day of class, Thursday, November 30th.

An alternative to participating in research for extra credit is to write a 2-page (double-spaced) summary of an empirical article. You can write up to 2 summaries for a total of 2% points of extra credit; however, note that this is an alternative to study participation rather than an additional form of extra credit. See "Alternative to HSP" under Course Documents for a more thorough description of this assignment.

Article summaries must be turned in on the the last day of class, Thursday, November 30th.

You can also receive 1% by turning in answers to all of the questions listed on the first page of this syllabus. This does not need to be a formal paper; this is the only written product for this class where you have permission to skip the spelling and grammar check!

Your responses are due on the last day of class, Thursday, November 30th.

NOTE: There is a maximum of 3 percentage points of extra credit total for the class, two points from research participation/article summaries and one point from answering the questions on the first page of the syllabus.

Course Grade: Based on percentage of points earned out of 320 possible

A 94-100%
A- 90-93%
B+ 88-89%
B 82-87%
B- 79-81%
C+ 78%
C 72-77%
C- 69-71%
D+ 68%
D 62-67%

Point Breakdown (320 total)

Lab: 90 points
Research Paper: 100 points
Mini Quizzes: 30 points
Quizzes (out of 3): 90 points
Library Activity: 10 points

Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Lecture Date</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Week's Lab Topic</u>
9/26	Introduction & Scientific Method		Introduction and Project Group Selection
9/28	The Research Process	Ch. 1 & Ch. 2 and Reading 1	
10/3	Science in Context	App. A/Ch. 3	Research Design
10/5	Ethical Issues	App. A/Ch. 3 and Reading 2	
10/10	Quiz 1 (Ch. 1-3, App. A & Lecture)		References and Citation
10/12	Variables	Ch. 4 and Reading 3	
10/17	Research Designs	Ch. 4	IRB
10/19	Reliability & Validity	Ch. 5 and Reading 4	
10/24	Observation	Ch. 6	Introductions
10/26	Survey Research	Ch. 7 and Reading 5	
10/31	Quiz 2 (Ch. 4-7 & Lecture)		Single Case Design
MANDATORY GROUP DATA COLLECTION NIGHT (Wednesday, November 1st, Columbia 150 6:00-9:00)			
11/2	Experimental Designs	Ch. 8	
11/7	IV's and DV's	Ch. 9	Choosing the Right Statistic
11/9	Complex Experimental Designs	Ch. 10	
11/14	Complex Experimental Designs	Ch. 10	Data Analysis
11/16	Quiz 3 (Ch. 8-10 & Lecture)		
11/21	Description & Correlation	Ch. 12 and Reading 6	Thanksgiving Holiday, NO LAB
11/23	Thanksgiving Holiday NO CLASS		
11/28	Statistical Inference	Ch. 13	Group Feedback on Final Papers
11/30	Quiz 4 (Ch. 12-13 & Lecture)		

EXAM WEEK: There is no final exam for this course. **FINAL PAPER IS DUE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th to your GTF.**

FOUR IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Keeping up with assignments: Your success in this course will rely in large part on your ability to stay organized and on top of due dates. You should expect to be in frequent communication with your group-mates from lab, your GTF, and me to make sure that you are on top of responsibilities. If you are not already in the habit of checking e-mail every day, start now! Some good ideas for staying productive and in touch with your class are:

1. Save your work frequently; computer problems will not be considered a valid excuse for late work. Saving your work will also allow you to avoid that horrible feeling of loss and despair when your computer freezes, depriving you of hours worth of writing.
2. Save copies of sent e-mails, and be on the lookout for notices of "failed delivery."
3. Use blackboard as a means to communicate to avoid typos in e-mail addresses. On the left hand side of the class site, you will see an option for "communication." Clicking on this will allow you to select an "e-mail" option, and you will be able to select single recipients from the class list.
4. Be respectful of your fellow classmates. When you arrange meeting times out of class, make your best effort to be on time or to contact your groupmates as soon as possible if a conflict arises. Avoid "social loafing"!
5. Speak up if you think a group member is not contributing his/her fair share. If you see a problem developing, respectfully bring your concerns to the awareness of your groupmates. Dialogue with your groupmates should be the first option for a solution, but if this fails, do not hesitate to bring your concerns to your GTF and to me.

Turning in Assignments via e-mail: All written lab assignments should be turned in to your GTF in hard copy format unless otherwise requested. When turning in assignments at the front office, please write the name of your GTF on the front page of your document.

Academic Honesty: As a member of the university community you are expected to be honest and forthright in all your academic endeavors. To falsify the results of one's research, to present the words, ideas, data, or work of another as one's own, or to cheat on an examination corrupts the essential process by which knowledge is advanced. All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously, may be grounds for automatic failure of the course, and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with the instructor before you complete any relevant requirements of the course. (Text adopted here as recommended from the UO web site regarding academic honesty at:

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~conduct>)

Specifically for this course: Group discussion outside of class is (of course!) encouraged. Some assignments can be done in groups, such as locating articles for your introductions. Some assignments *must* be done in groups, such as devising hypotheses and operationalizing your IVs and DVs. However, unless you are specifically told that an assignment can be done with other group members, written assignments must be done independently **including the final research paper**. If we receive papers that have substantial portions matching in text, if one paper appears to have text from another paper with only minor modifications, or if your paper has portions of text that have been taken from published sources, you will be in danger of failing the course and reported to Student Judicial Affairs. We will be reading your papers very closely because it is our goal to note formatting details and responsiveness to draft suggestions; therefore, this is definitely not the class where you would want to take the risk of turning in work that is not your own!

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor soon. It would be wise to contact Disability Services (164 Oregon Hall, 346-1155). Also please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability by contacting Counselor for Students with Disabilities: Molly Sirois, 346-3211, 164 Oregon Hall, 346-1073, sirois@uoregon.edu