

Psychology 303: Research Methods

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Graduate Teaching Assistants:

Megan McDade

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Lecture: MW 8:30-9:50 in 302 Gerlinger Hall

Labs:

M 12-1:20 in 180 Straub

M 2-3:20 in 180 Straub

T 8:30-9:50 in 180 Straub

TH 10-11:20 in 180 Straub

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.

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 Textbooks

Cozby, P.C. (2004). *Methods in Behavioral Research*, 9th edition. McGraw Hill

APA (2001). *Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association*, 5th edition.

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. Access to the

site is free if you have purchased a new text book. I encourage you to use the site when note-taking, studying, and preparing for exams. The address is www.mhhe.com/cozby9

Course Components and Requirements

The course includes traditional lecture meetings and a weekly lab meeting. Attendance at all lectures and labs is mandatory and will be an essential part of your success in this course. Students improve their learning when they stay current with the assigned reading and participate actively in discussing, applying, and evaluating research issues.

Class Meetings: The class meetings will include lectures focusing primarily on selected textbook material, information relevant to the research project and paper, and unannounced in-class small group exercises. Lecture outlines intended to assist note-taking will be posted on Blackboard. These are not complete lecture notes, and it would be a mistake to use them in that way. You should bring the notes with you to class (either a hard copy or on a laptop) and add additional information to the notes during class. In-class exercises are designed to help you master important concepts and prepare for exams. Each in-class activity is worth 5 points. You must be present to participate in the in-class exercises—they cannot be made up for credit after class for any reason.

Exams: Multiple choice exams will be used to assess your mastery of the lecture and reading material. There will be 3 exams in the course, each worth 40 points, and the lowest exam grade will be dropped before calculating your course grade. If you miss an exam for any reason, this will serve as the dropped exam score when calculating your course grade. Thus, make-up exams will not be scheduled for any reason. Students who miss more than one exam cannot pass the course.

Research Project: Each student will complete a research project during the course from projects developed by the instructor. 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 assist you in keeping up 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 in class on 6/6.** The paper is worth 100 points. Late papers will be penalized 5 points per day past due.

Lab Sessions: 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. Each lab session is worth 10 points. You cannot make-up missed labs for credit for any reason, and you must attend the lab session you are registered for each week. 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 1 pt. per day past due. Be sure to bring your textbook, APA manual, research project materials, paper, writing utensils, and some method for electronically storing your work to each lab, as you will often need these to complete the activities and/or save your work.

Library Activity: Students will also complete a library activity conducted at Knight Library by a member of the library staff. 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. The library session is worth 10 points. 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**

Tues April 3 11:00 - 11:50
Wed April 4 Noon - 12:50

Thurs April 5 4:00 - 4:50
Tues April 10 10:00 - 10:50

Learning Accommodations

Instructors will accommodate students with documented disabilities and will comply with individualized instructions provided by Disabilities Services. However, students must take the initiative in discussing arrangements with the instructor in the first week of class and providing documentation as soon as it is available. Students without a documented disability who are experiencing learning difficulties are encouraged to consult Disabilities Services (164 Oregon Hall; 346-1155). Without documentation, special accommodations are not guaranteed and are to be made at the discretion of the instructor. [Disability Services: disabsrv@darkwing.uoregon.edu, 346-1155; <http://ds.uoregon.edu/>]

Academic Honesty

Members of the university community are expected to be honest and forthright in their 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. It is the official policy of the University of Oregon that all acts of alleged academic dishonesty by students be reported to the Director of Student Judicial Affairs in the Office of Students Life.

Peer Advisors

If you have questions about course requirements, graduation, graduate school or anything else related to a degree in psychology, check with the peer advisors in room 141 Straub first! They are there most days 10-4, so drop by to have your questions answered.

Grading

Exams:	40 points each (2 total—lowest of 3 exam scores dropped)
In Class Activities:	5 pts. each (around 5-6 total)
Library Activity:	10 pts.
Lab Attendance & Assignments:	10 pts. each (9 total)
APA Style Research Paper:	100 pts.

Course Grade: Based on percentage of points earned out of the total points possible

A+ 100%	B- 79-81%	D 62-67%
A 92-99%	C+ 78%	D- 59-61%
A- 89-91%	C 72-77%	F < 59%
B+ 88%	C- 69-71%	
B 82-87%	D+ 68%	

Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Lecture Date</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Week's Lab Topic</u>
4/2	Introduction	Ch. 1	Data Collection
4/4	Scientific Method & Conducting Research	Ch. 2	
4/9	Ethics	Ch. 3	Institutional Review Boards: IRBs
4/11	Parts of an APA Paper Studying Behavior	App. A Ch. 4	
4/16	Studying Behavior	Ch. 4	Summarizing Articles
4/18	Studying Behavior	Ch. 4	
4/23	Exam 1 (Ch. 1-4, App. A & Lecture)		APA style citations & reference sections
4/25	Reliability & Validity	Ch. 5	
4/30	Observation	Ch. 6	Constructing Introduction Outlines
5/2	Survey Research	Ch. 7	
5/7	Experimental Designs	Ch. 8	Scoring and entering data
5/9	Conducting Experiments	Ch. 9	
5/14	Exam 2 (Ch. 5-9 & Lecture)		Choosing the Right Statistic
5/16	Complex Experimental Designs	Ch. 10	
5/21	Complex Experimental Designs	Ch. 10	Data Analysis
5/23	Description & Correlation	Ch. 12	
5/28	NO CLASS: MEMORIAL DAY		NO LABS ALL WEEK: MEMORIAL DAY
5/30	Statistical Inference	Ch. 13	
6/4	Quasi-Experimental Designs	Ch. 11	Single Case Design
6/6	Generalizability	Ch. 14	APA paper due in class!
6/15 (F)	Exam 3 (Ch. 10-14 & Lecture) 10:15-12:15		