

Research Methods – Psychology 303, Summer 2007, CRN 41592

Monday - Thursday 11-11:50a.m. Esslinger 107

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 12-1pm, and by appt.

Teaching Assistants

Jennifer Tininenko

Lab Section(s)

Friday 11-11:50 &

(Straub 180)

12-12:50pm

Office Hours

Friday 1pm

Contact Info

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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

This course will introduce you to empirical (scientific) research and provide both theoretical as well as practical experience. We will cover in detail the use of library and bibliographic methods, handling of survey data, coding, interviews, standardized tests, and designing and conducting experiments. Class meetings will focus on theoretical issues of scientific methods, and lab meetings will provide valuable practical experience with designing experiments and, most importantly, writing a research paper. Apart from taking exams/quizzes, you will be required to write a scientific research paper to pass this class. In order to do well, you need to attend both class lectures and lab meetings.

TEXTBOOK (required)

Goodwin, James C. (2008). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (9th ed.). Boston: 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 Session (REQUIRED: held in Knight Library ITC Classroom (second floor).

Tuesday, July 3rd, 11am

Data Collection Day (*Required for EVERYONE*), Esslinger 107

THURSDAY, July 26st : 11-11:50am

TENTATIVE COURSE EVALUATION SUMMARY (subject to change!)

As of now, course grades will be based on 950 points:

In-lecture attendance/participation (40 points)

Group participation and presentations (150 points)

Lab Grade: participation, assignments, etc. (180 points)

Paper section drafts (80 points)

In-class quizzes (200 points)

Final research paper (300 points)

REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR COURSE EVALUATION

In-lecture Attendance/Participation

You are expected to participate in activities and discussions in lecture. Because we know that not everybody is 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 is mandatory and will be taken during the small group discussions. In order to receive credit you must be present in class. Short story: Come to lecture every session to ensure you get credit. If you miss more than a total of three classes and/or labs you will not be able to pass this class.***

Team Participation

Within your assigned lab section, you will be a member of one research team (focusing on one specific research question) for the term consisting of 3-4 students. 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 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 lab or course instructor if a solution cannot be achieved within the group.

Lab Grade

◆ Data collection– Required

During week 5 the entire class will participate in data collection, which is designed to create data for your research projects. As of now, this will take place on Thursday, July 26th, between 11-11:50am in Esslinger 107.

◆ Attendance of PsychINFO Session - Required

You must attend the PsychINFO Session; (if there is more than 1, 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, APA style write-ups), as well as several assignments. These assignments are all listed in the lab syllabus and will be discussed in greater detail in your lab section.

◆ 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)

You will be turning in a draft of each section of your final paper at different times during the term. These assignments are due either **in class or in your lab**, and are listed in the course schedule.

5 Quizzes

Five in-class quizzes (40 pts. each) will cover material from 1) the textbook, 2) lab Section, and 3) lectures. The focus of the quizzes will be material referenced in the syllabus for that quiz; however, essential basic concepts will be tested throughout the term.

Final Research Paper

You will be given suggestions on the drafts of your research paper and are expected to incorporate them into your final product, which is a full research paper using APA style for text and references. Guidelines for the paper will be given in lecture and in lab throughout the term.

CLASS POLICIES

1. I am very strict about deadlines and due dates. However, I am not without sympathy for real things that happen in the course of 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 me having sympathy also means being considerate of everyone. For that reason, all assignments are due at the **beginning of lecture or lab on the date noted in the lecture and lab schedules**. Assignments turned in after lecture 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 TAs. Accordingly, no assignments will be accepted if they are more than 2 days (48 hours) late.
 - a. Final papers are due **in lab** during week 7 (Friday, August 10th). Because grading is time consuming, we 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 during lab. Final research papers turned in after lab on August 10th will lose 30%. Papers turned in on Monday, August 13th will lose 40%. No papers will be accepted after 5 p.m., August 13th.
3. If you miss lecture or lab (for any reason) it is your responsibility to contact one of us ahead of time – Stephan for lecture, Jennifer 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, missing more than two quizzes, or more than three unexcused absences from lecture and/or lab will lead to automatic failure in the course.
5. Finally, a note about cheating and plagiarism: **Don't do it.** If you cheat or plagiarize, you will fail the course. This outcome 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.

To avoid plagiarism acknowledge indebtedness. Indebtedness must be acknowledged whenever:

1. You quote another person's actual words or replicate all or part of another's product
2. You use another person's ideas, opinions, work, data, or theories (even if they are completely paraphrased in your own words)
3. You borrow 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, SSIL, 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 finish 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 or T.A. **BEFORE** the deadline. Below are common problems and remedies you can enact to eliminate the possibility of a computer mishap resulting in a late assignment: (this is not an exhaustive list)

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), b) using a USB thumbdrive, or c) sending files to yourself as an email attachment.
2. ***“My printer jammed” or “I ran out of toner.”*** First, allow at least a half-day in advance to print your paper (while a computer lab is open) and 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 late night option for printing documents. Furthermore, we encourage you to make arrangements with a friend, family member, or neighbor for 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.” Barter if necessary. 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” or “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). Also, potential computer breakdowns underscore the necessity of backing up work on the web (e.g., e-mail) or on an external data storage drive (e.g., thumbdrives).

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 (346-1155) if you have a non-documented condition that prevents you from learning given typical teaching methods. With advance planning, adjustments are relatively easy. Adjustments at the last minute are problematic and sometimes not possible.

ACCESSING BLACKBOARD

Blackboard is an integral resource for this course. **You are required to have access to it.**

- **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://blackboard.uoregon.edu>
 - Username: your email address (e.g., llove303@uoregon.edu)
 - Password: your email password (Ireallydo)