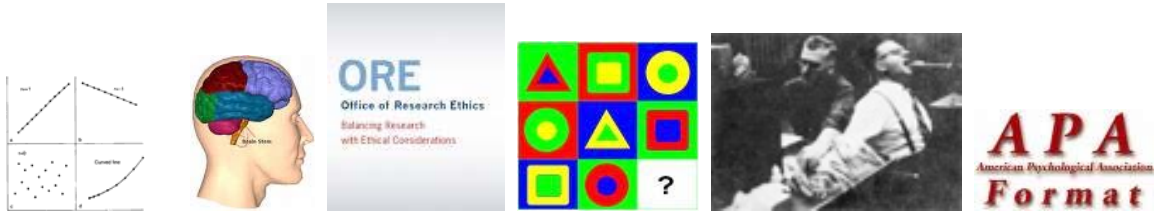


# Psychology 303: Research Methods



128 Chiles, Tuesday/Thursday 4:00 to dark! (5:20)

## Course Instructor:

Meredith Meyer

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Office Hours: Monday 1:15-2:15 & Wednesday 3:00-4:00, or by appointment

## Lab Instructors:

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Straub 327

T 12-2 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. The material you learn in this class will sharpen your ability to think critically and logically about important topics, both inside and outside of psychology. 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 complete an honor's thesis in your junior or senior year or go on to graduate study in psychology. Along the way, you will find answers to such questions as:

--How do I know that the studies I've participated in for 201 and 202 were ethical?

--Why is there little point in paying attention to polls reported in *Men's Health* or *Cosmopolitan*?

--How can statistics be misused?

--When is deceiving people beneficial?

--Why is it a good thing that I haven't forgotten all the statistics I learned last term? (because you do remember everything, right?!)

## 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. (2007). *Methods in Behavioral Research*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. Boston: McGraw Hill.

## Additional Resources

-American Psychological Association (2001). *Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Washington, D.C., American Psychological Association.

This style manual provides every formatting requirement for writing papers according to the style required by the American Psychological Association. It is a useful reference for anyone who plans on writing more APA-style papers in the future and an absolute must for anyone planning graduate education in psychology.

-Strunk & White's *Elements of Style* (2000) is a standard reference book for most writers. It will provide usage and grammar tips that will likely be helpful to you as you write your paper sections.

-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](http://www.mhhe.com/cozby9)

### ***Course Components and Requirements***

#### **Your final grade will be based on:**

**Lab attendance/participation, homework, and group project participation (10%) (see lab syllabus for point breakdown)**

**Drafts of APA-Style research paper sections (15%)**

**Final APA-Style research paper (15%)**

**In-class scheduled quizzes (60%)**

**Lab attendance, participation, homework, and group project participation:** 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 TA 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 cases where you can document the reason for your absence (e.g., doctor's note), credit will be given to students who are unable to attend their scheduled lab but make arrangements to attend a different section. Unless otherwise stated, assignments and draft sections are due at the *beginning* of lab. Late lab assignments will be penalized 10% every day past due, not including weekends. Assignments four days past their due date will not be graded.

\*\*\*Please also note that there is a mandatory group data collection night scheduled for **Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:50 in Willamette 100**. This activity will allow you access to research participants for your study in the form of your 303 classmates from the other section of 303. Your lab GTF and I will give you more information about how you will need to prepare for this as the date approaches.

If you are unable to attend this event, please let me know during the first week of class. Absence from this event will be permitted only with documentation (e.g., work schedule), and you will be required to complete a make-up assignment to receive credit.

**Research Paper:** Each student will complete a group-based research project and an individually-written paper during the course. The paper will be an APA-style manuscript describing the study you have chosen to complete. A schedule of due dates will be provided to you in lab. Drafts of some sections of the paper make up a large portion of your grade; it is very important that you stay on top of draft due dates and that you are responsive to the feedback provided to you by your TAs. The final paper is also a major component of your grade. Your final paper will demonstrate 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 Wednesday, 12/10 by 4 pm to the psychology office.**\*\*\*

Late papers will be penalized 10 points per day (out of 100) past due, not including weekends. Late papers will not be accepted for grading 4 days past the due date.

**In-class Scheduled Quizzes** Quizzes will be used to assess your mastery of the lecture and reading material. Quiz format will be multiple choice. There will be 4 quizzes in the course, and the lowest grade will be dropped. You can make up a quiz if you have documentation (e.g., doctor's note) **and** if you contact me within two days of missing the quiz. The make-up exam will be different from the exam administered to the rest of the class and may include short answer/essay style questions. There is no final exam in this course; the last quiz will be administered on the last day of class.

### **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](http://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.

Using blackboard for communicating with your group members and me is a good idea, because you can easily select email recipients without worrying about spelling email addresses wrong. On the green left-hand field on the 303 site, you will see a white box titled "Tools." Select "Communication" and then "Send Email."

### **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** (email 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 2%.

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, Adam Kramer, 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 this class, Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> in order to count as extra credit.***

**Course Grade:** Based on percentage of points earned out of 100 possible

A + 98-102% and at instructor's discretion  
A 94-98%  
A- 90-93%  
B+ 88-89%  
B 82-87%  
B- 80-81%  
C+ 78-79%  
C 72-77%  
C- 70-71%  
D+ 68-69%  
D 62-67%  
D- 60-61%  
F < 60%

### **Point Breakdown (100 total)**

**Lab: 10 points**

**Research Paper: 30 points**  
(drafts=15 points, final=15 points)

**Quizzes (best 3 out of 4): 60 points**

## Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Lecture Date</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Week's Lab Topic</u>
9/30	Introduction & Scientific Method		Project Group Selection
10/2	The Research Process	Ch. 1 & Ch. 2 and Reading 1	
10/7	Variables	Ch. 4	Research Design
10/9	Research Designs	Ch. 4	
10/14	<b>Quiz 1 (Ch. 1, 2, 4, Reading 1, and Lecture)</b>		References and Citation
<b>10/16</b>	Description & Correlation	Ch. 12, pp. 233-244	
10/21	Observation	Ch. 6	Introduction
10/23	Survey Research	Ch. 7	
10/28	Reliability and Validity	Ch. 5	Method
<b>***MANDATORY GROUP DATA COLLECTION NIGHT (Monday 4/28 7-9pm, Columbia 150)</b>			
10/30	<b>Quiz 2 (Ch. 5-7, 12 pp.233-244 &amp; Lecture)</b>		
11/4	Experimental Designs	Ch. 8	Data Analysis I
11/6	IVs and DVs	Ch. 9	
11/11	Complex Experimental Designs I	Ch. 10	Data Analysis II
11/13	Complex Experimental Designs II	Ch. 10	
<b>11/18</b>	<b>Quiz 3 (Ch. 8-10 &amp; Lecture)</b>		Data Analysis III, Discussion
11/20	Statistical Inference I	Ch. 12 pp. 225-233	
11/25	Statistical Inference II +Ethics 1	Ch. 13 & 14	No Lab, Thanksgiving
11/27	THANKSGIVING, NO CLASS!		
12/2	Ethics II	Ch. 3	Title Page, Abstract, Group Feedback
12/4	<b>Quiz 4 (Ch. 12 pp.225-233, Ch. 13, Ch.14, Ch. 3, &amp; Lecture)</b>		

EXAM WEEK: There is no final exam for this course. **FINAL PAPER IS DUE WEDNESDAY, Dec 10th by 4 pm to your GTF MAILBOX.**

## FOUR IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL NOTES:

**(1) 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 groupmates 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.

**(2) 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, all written assignments must be done independently including all draft sections and 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 without proper acknowledgment, you will be in danger of failing the course and reported to Student Judicial Affairs. Please also note that **using direct quotes (i.e., using the exact same words as someone else without rephrasing or summarizing) must ALWAYS be indicated by offsetting the directly quoted material in quotation marks.** Failure to follow this practice will be considered plagiarism. 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!

**(3) 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, 346-1155, 164 Oregon Hall, [sirois@uoregon.edu](mailto:sirois@uoregon.edu)

**(4) Students for Whom English is Not Their Native Language:** Foreign language dictionaries are permitted during quizzes. Quizzes will be designed to take approximately one hour to complete within an hour and twenty minute class period; therefore, it is unlikely that you will need additional time. However, if you find that you do need additional time to complete the quiz, please make arrangements to stay after class so that you can finish.