

Spring 2010

University of Oregon

Research Methods
Psychology 303

Instructor: Alison Shawber Sachet, M.S.**Office:** Straub 375**Phone:** 346-2086**Email:** ashawber@uoregon.edu**Office Hours:** Tuesday 1:00-2:00PM, Thursday 10:00-11:00AM, and by appointment in Straub 375**Lecture:** Monday and Wednesday 10:00-11:20AM in 242 Gerlinger**Lab Instructors****Aliya Gamez****Office:** 337 Straub**Email:** aliya@uoregon.edu**Office Hours:** Wednesday 2:30-3:30PM
and by appointment**Lab Section:**

Monday 2:00-3:20PM in Straub 180

Cameo Konfrst**Office:** 323 Straub**Email:** ckonfrst@uoregon.edu**Office Hours:** Wednesday 12:00-1:00PM
and by appointment**Lab Section:**

Monday 12:00-1:20PM in Straub 180

Nora Medina**Office:** 323 Straub**Email:** nmedina@uoregon.edu**Office Hours:** Wednesday 1:00-2:00PM
and by appointment**Lab Section:**

Monday 4:00-5:20PM in Straub 180

Janet Ng, M.S.**Office:** 320 Straub**Email:** jng@uoregon.edu**Office Hours:** Thursday 9:00-9:50AM
and by appointment**Lab Section:**

Tuesday 10:00-11:20AM in Straub 180

Course Description

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. This class will help you understand psychological research, whether you decide to continue with a career in psychology or not. 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.

Course Pre-Requisites

In addition to WR 122 or 123 and PSY 201 or 202, successful completion of Psychology 302 (Statistics) is an absolute pre-requisite for this course. We will review important statistical concepts as they apply to conducting, analyzing, interpreting, and reporting research results, but this should not be 'new' material to you.

Required and Recommended Books

Required Book (1)

Cozby, P. (2008). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (10th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

A copy of this textbook is on reserve at the Knight Library.

The publisher of the text maintains an on-line learning center for students with quizzes, flashcards, chapter outlines, exercises, and additional links for relevant concepts. You are encouraged to use the site for supplemental material, studying, and exam preparation. The website can be found at: www.mhhe.com/cozby10e

Recommended books (2)

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
(Make sure to get a copy of the second printing of this book.)

Strunk, W., Jr., & White, E. B. (2000). *The elements of style* (4th ed.). New York: Longman.
(This book is a standard reference book for most writers. It may be useful to you as you write your paper sections.)

Course Components

Course Philosophy, Expectations, and Overview

The course includes traditional lecture meetings and a weekly lab meeting. Attendance and participation in lectures and labs will be an essential part of your success in this course. Small group discussions will be a component of class lectures, along with several class activities that make up part of your grade. In addition, lecture will often cover material from outside of the readings. You are responsible for all material.

The course blackboard site (<http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>.) will be a critical source of information throughout the term. Any changes to the lecture or course schedule will be posted on this site as well. In addition, lecture slides, grades, handouts, and other materials and information will be posted there. Note that lecture slides serve to outline the lecture and are by no means comprehensive. You should not rely on these slides for your course notes; rather, you should use them to organize the notes that you take during class. 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 can also reformat the slides to make them smaller (to fit on fewer #s of pages) before printing them. 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 your lab instructor or me during the first week of class.

Doing well in this class requires an active involvement with the course content; merely reading the material and showing up for class are not enough. It is important to *think* about what you are reading, watching, and discussing, and *relate* it to experiences in your own life, rather than just remembering facts. As a 4-credit class, you are expected to spend 12 hours per week *outside of class* working on relevant material.

It is expected that you will come prepared to class. This means having done the readings for the day *prior* to coming to class, as well as having spent some time reflecting on them. You will not do well on exams and in-class activities if you do not keep up with the reading and other assignments.

The lab sections and lab assignments are primarily aimed at helping you successfully conduct and write about the results of your research project. A lab schedule will be passed out during your first lab section. Be sure to bring paper, writing utensils, and some method of saving electronic work to each lab. See more info about the lab component of this course below and on your lab syllabus.

If you find yourself not doing as well as you would like in this class, contact me and/or your lab instructor *earlier* rather than later. We can help you solve many problems. If you wait until the end of term, it is usually too late for us to be of much help.

This course has been designed to comply with the psychology department's guidelines for teaching and learning. Please review these guidelines at <http://psychweb.uoregon.edu/guidelines/index.htm>

Course Points and Components

3 Quizzes (50 points each, lowest score will be dropped): 100 points

Final Exam: 100 points

6 Activity Assignments (10 points each, one will be dropped): 50 points

Lab Homework: 40 points

APA paper drafts: 60 points

Final APA paper: 100 points

Total Possible Points: 450

Quizzes

Quizzes will be used to assess your mastery of the lecture and reading material. These quizzes may combine multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blanks, true/false (with justification), and short answer questions. There will be 3 quizzes in the course (worth 50 points each), and your lowest grade will be dropped. If you have to miss a quiz due to illness, a trip, a family emergency, etc., that will be the one that you drop. Makeup quizzes will only be held in extreme circumstances when you must miss more than one quiz, with proper documentation (e.g., doctor's note, court order), **and** if you contact me within two days of missing the quiz. The make-up quiz will be different from the quiz administered to the rest of the class and may include short answer/essay style questions.

Final Exam

The final exam will be used to assess your mastery of the lecture, lab, and reading material throughout the term. It will be worth 100 points. The final exam will be given at the time listed in the UO final exam schedule (**Thursday, June 10, 2010 at 10:15AM**) in Gerlinger 242. Students will not be able to schedule the final for any other time. The final exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions and may include fill-in-the-blanks and/or true/false (with justification) questions. The final exam will be cumulative, but may be weighted more heavily toward the material covered after Quiz 3.

Activity Assignments

Six times throughout the term, an in-class activity will be assigned for you to complete. No preparation is required, and each Activity Assignment is due at the end of class that day and will be worth 10 points each. To get credit, you must actively participate, turn in relevant work, and be present in class the day of the activity. Activity Assignments cannot be made up. Five of these Activity Assignments will count toward your final grade - this means that you may miss one Activity Assignment without penalty.

Lab Homework and APA Term Paper (drafts and final paper)

The lab component of the course will give you hands-on experience in conducting your own research study. There will be several in-class lab activities and homework assignments for you to complete throughout the term, but the largest portion of your work in lab (and your lab grade) will consist of working on your research study and APA paper. Early in the term in lab, you will form small groups of 3-5 people and a research topic will be agreed upon. You must find peer-reviewed journal articles on your topic and formulate a research hypothesis. You will then create or obtain measures of your construct and administer them to the students in the other 303 section on Data Collection Night, **Monday, May 3rd from 6:00-8:00PM in Fenton 110**. Attendance will be taken on data collection night, which will be worth 5 points of your final APA paper. You must then analyze your data and write an APA style paper of your study (further instructions and guidelines will be provided in lab). The final paper must be formatted correctly in APA style (see the lab handouts, APA Publication manual, and your textbook). The term paper must be completed and turned in to your lab instructor's mailbox in the Main Psychology Office (Straub 131) by **Monday, June 7th, 2010 at 4:00**. Please see the lab syllabus for more information about the requirements for the lab portion of this course.

Grading

All written work in this class will be graded based on form (i.e., proper APA formatting, spelling, grammar, sentence structure), use of feedback (i.e., revising APA drafts based on your lab instructor's comments and corrections), and critical thinking (i.e., how well you display knowledge of the material, how well you have analyzed and evaluated the material, and how well you effectively communicate the information). If you have questions about how a specific assignment will be graded, do not hesitate to ask your lab instructor and/or Alison.

Extra Credit

Extra credit is available to improve your final grade by up to 2%. This 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 final grade as long as you assign your extra credit to Research Methods 303. Half-hour (i.e., half-credit) studies will count as half a percentage point. This is meant to be educational, so you must also write a paper based on the research studies in which you participate. The paper should be 2-3 pages (double spaced) and must follow APA format. In the paper, you will (1) summarize the studies in which you participate, including identifying the hypothesis of the study, the basic design (experimental, correlational, etc.), the independent and dependant variables (if any), and the real-world implications of the research (if any); and (2) compare and contrast the research methods of the different studies. If you only participate in one study, your paper should include a summary of that study (as described above) and you must put the research studies in which you participated in the context of what you have learned in class lectures, labs, and text reading. If you do not turn in the paper, you will not get credit. This paper will be graded on the level of thought put into your work and clarity of writing about your chosen topic. I am looking for a thoughtful, critical analysis of the research methods of current psychological research. If you are interested in doing this, you can gain information by going to the Human Subjects Pool website at <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~hscoord>. If you have additional questions, please contact the coordinator of the Human Subjects Pool, Ida Moadab (hscoord@uoregon.edu). 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 that class. If you do not have a Sona account, you may create one by requesting an account at <https://uopsych.sona-systems.com>.

If you would like to complete 2% extra credit, but do not wish to participate in research studies, you may read 2 research articles that I assign and write a paper based on those research articles. The paper should be 2-3 pages (double spaced) and must follow APA format. In the paper, you will (1) summarize the studies that you read, including identifying the hypothesis of the study and whether or not it was supported by the data, the basic design (experimental, correlational, etc.), the independent and dependant variables (if any), and the real-world implications of the research (if any); and (2) put the research articles you read in the context of what you have learned in class lectures, labs, and text reading and/or compare and contrast the research methods of the different articles. This paper will be graded on the level of thought put into your work and clarity of writing about your chosen topic. I am looking for a thoughtful, critical analysis of the research methods of current psychological research. If you are interested in this option, please email Alison for the research articles.

Extra credit papers are due on Thursday, June 10th by 10:15AM (this is the date and time of the final). Please a bring hard copy of your extra credit paper to the final exam or turn them in to Alison's mailbox in the Main Psychology Office (Straub 131).

Grades will be assigned based on your total percentage points in the course. A curve may be used on the final grades, depending on the class average (individual assignments and quizzes will NOT be curved). Final grades will be based on the following:

A+ = 99-100%	B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	D+ = 67-69%
A = 93-98%	B = 83-86%	C = 73-76%	D = 63-66%
A- = 90-92%	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%	D- = 60-62%
			F = 59% and Below

Tips for Success

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 lab instructor, and me to make sure that you are on top of responsibilities. If you are not already in the habit of checking your UO e-mail every day, start now! It is highly recommended that you use your UO account instead of another email account (e.g., gmail, yahoo) for the purposes of this class.

Some good ideas for staying productive and in touch with your class are:

1. Check the syllabi (for lecture and lab) and schedule often to see when assignments are due.
2. Participate in lecture AND lab every week.
3. Turn in your lab assignments, participate in Activity Assignments, and take the quizzes. Skipping lecture and/or lab and not turning in lab assignments (homeworks and drafts) are the easiest ways fall behind in this class!
4. 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. Save copies of sent e-mails, and be on the lookout for notices of “failed delivery.” Do not assume that your email was received until you hear a response from the person to whom you sent the email (this is especially relevant when emailing instructors regarding important matters).
5. Use blackboard as a means to communicate. On the left hand side of the class site, you will see an option for “Course Tools”; under that you can click “Send E-mail”, which will allow you to select single recipients from the class list. You will also have a group page on Blackboard where you will easily be able to stay in contact with your group mates.
6. Be an active and respectful group mate. When you arrange meeting times out of class, make your best effort to be on time or to contact your group mates as soon as possible if a conflict arises. Avoid “social loafing”!
7. 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 group mates. Dialogue with your group mates should be the first option for a solution, but if this fails, do not hesitate to bring your concerns to your lab instructor and to me.
8. If you encounter situations that affect your ability to complete work on time or that affects your success in this class (e.g., illness, personal issues, family emergency, learning or medical disability, travel for a University sport or other reason, non-native speaker of English, etc.), it is important to discuss it with your lab instructor and Alison when the situation is occurring (i.e., within 2 days). We can help you determine what you need to do to make up work or succeed in the class. Do NOT wait until the end of the term! If you wait until the end of term, it will be too late for us to be of much help.

Academic Honesty

Group discussion outside of class is encouraged. However, all work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. Copying or paraphrasing information or ideas from any source, print or electronic, without citation, is plagiarism. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must therefore be properly acknowledged and documented. Although some aspects of the research project require group work (in-lab exercises, design, experimental materials, data collection, and analysis), *group collaboration on written assignments (e.g., lab homework, drafts, extra credit papers, final paper) is absolutely prohibited—the work you turn in must be solely your own.* 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 or public sources without proper acknowledgment, you will be in danger of failing the assignment and the course and being reported to Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. 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!

In addition to turning in hard copies of your written assignments to your lab instructor in lab, you will be required to submit all of your individual written work to SafeAssign. This technology will be used to prevent plagiarism, protect the originality of student work, ensure a level playing field, and make you more aware of and knowledgeable about plagiarism. When you submit papers, they are checked against SafeAssign's comprehensive databases of source material (which includes published sources, websites, other students' papers, etc.). The papers are then delivered to us, along with reports about how original the papers statistically appear to be.

Likewise, cheating on quizzes will not be tolerated. If you cheat on a quiz, you will be in danger of failing the assignment and the course and being reported to Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

For more information about the University of Oregon's Student Conduct Code and the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly and the following website: <http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>. Violations of the Student Conduct Code will be taken seriously 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.

<h3>Student Accommodations</h3>

You are strongly encouraged to contact Disability Services (164 Oregon Hall; 346-1155; disabsrv@uoregon.edu) if you have a non-documented condition that creates difficulty for you as a student. If one of the following applies to you, please see the professor or teaching assistant as soon as possible to make adjustments:

- Documented learning or medical disability
- Non-documented need for adjustments to help you learn
- Member of a sports team that travels this quarter
- Non-native speaker of English

With advanced planning, adjustments are relatively straightforward. Adjustments at the last minute can be problematic and sometimes are not possible.

Course Calendar for Lecture (subject to change)

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter Readings
1	Monday (M) ~ March 29	Introduction; Course Overview	CH. 1
	Wednesday (W) ~ March 31	The Scientific Method	CH. 2
2	M ~ April 5	Ethical Research	CH. 3
	W ~ April 7	Studying Behavior	CH. 4
3	M ~ April 12	Conducting Surveys	CH. 7
	W ~ April 14	Reliability and Validity	CH. 5
4	M ~ April 19	QUIZ 1: Monday, 4/19 on Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, & 5	
	W ~ April 21	Experimental Design; Internal Validity	CH. 8
5	M ~ April 26	Experimental Design; Internal Validity	CH. 8 & 9
	W ~ April 28	Conducting Experiments	CH. 9
6	M ~ May 3 lecture	Complex Experimental Designs	CH. 10
	M ~ May 3 6:00-8:00	Data Collection Night (Monday, 5/3) 6:00-8:00PM in Fenton 110	
	W ~ May 5	QUIZ 2: Wednesday, 5/5 on Chapters 8, 9, & 10	
7	M ~ May 10	Results; Description and Correlation	CH. 12
	W ~ May 12	Statistical Inference	CH. 13
8	M ~ May 17	Statistics	CH. 12 & 13
	W ~ May 19	QUIZ 3: Wednesday, 5/19 on Chapters 12 & 13	
9	M ~ May 24	Observing Behavior; Case Studies	CH. 6
	W ~ May 26	Quasi-Experimental Designs and Developmental Research	CH. 11
10	M ~ May 31	Memorial Day – No school!	
	W ~ June 2	Generalizing Results; External Validity	CH. 14
Finals	M ~ June 7	Final Paper (and previous drafts with lab instructor's comments) due by 4:00 on Monday, June 7th to your lab instructor's mailbox in the main Psychology Office (Straub 131)	
	Thursday ~ June 10	*Final Exam (cumulative, but mostly covering Chapters 6, 11, & 14) Thursday, June 10th at 10:15 in Gerlinger 242 *Extra credit papers due by the time of the final exam (10:15 on Thursday, June 10th) – you may turn them in at the final exam or to Alison's mailbox in the main Psychology Office (Straub 131)	

***Late assignments will penalized 10% for every day they are late and will NOT be accepted for a grade after 4 days (including weekends) past their due date.**

***For every individual written assignment, you must turn in a hard copy AND submit it to SafeAssign on Blackboard.**

***NO WORK OF ANY KIND WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER FRIDAY OF FINALS WEEK (June 11th, 2010).**