

Winter 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:** Monday 10:00-11:00PM, Wednesday 3:30-4:30PM, and by appointment in Straub 375**Lecture:** Tuesday and Thursday 4:00-5:20PM in 302 Gerlinger**Lab Instructors:****Deniz Tahiroglu, M.S.****Office:** 329 Straub**Email:** dtahirog@uoregon.edu**Office Hours:** Wednesday 11:00-11:50AM

Friday 11:00-11:50AM and by appointment

Lab Sections:

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

Friday 2:00-3:20PM 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:

Friday 4:00-5:20PM 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-Requisite

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

5 Quizzes (50 points each, lowest score will be dropped): 200 points

5 Activity Assignments (10 points each): 50 points

Lab Homework: 50 points

APA paper drafts: 50 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, and short answer questions. There will be 5 quizzes in the course, and the lowest grade will be dropped. If you have to miss a quiz due to illness, a trip, a family emergency, etc., that should be the one that you drop. Makeup exams 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 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.

Activity Assignments

Five 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.

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 at least 7 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 sections on Data Collection Night, **Monday, February 8th from 6:00-8:00PM in Columbia 150.** Attendance will be taken on data collection night, which will be worth 5 points of your final APA paper. You must then analyze the data and write an APA style paper of your study (further instructions and guidelines will be provided in class). 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 **Friday, March 12th, 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, length), use of feedback (i.e., revising APA drafts based on GTF 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 me.

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 (or half-credit) studies will count as half a percentage point. This is meant to be educational, so you must also write a very short (1/2 - 1 page) description for each study in which you participate. If you do not turn in a description, you will not get credit. This description should identify the hypothesis of the study, the basic design (experimental, correlational, etc.), the independent and dependant variables (if any), and should also address what the real-world implications of the research are (if any). Make sure to format your papers in APA style. 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 a packet of research articles that I assign and write a paper based on research articles. The paper should be 3 pages (not including a title page and references) and must follow APA format. In the paper, you will 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 packet of research articles.

Extra credit papers must be turned in to Alison's mailbox in the Main Psychology Office (Straub 131) by 4:00PM on Wednesday, March 17 in order to count toward extra credit.

Grades will be assigned based on your total percentage points in the course:

A+ = 100%	B+ = 88-89%	C+ = 78-79%	D+ = 68-69%
A = 92-99%	B = 82-87%	C = 72-77%	D = 60-67%
A- = 90-91%	B- = 80-81%	C- = 70-71%	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 syllabus and schedule often to see when assignments are due.
2. 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).
3. 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.
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 group mates 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 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.

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 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!

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 the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations 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.

Student Accommodations

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me early in the term. Also, please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities, Molly Sirois, send me a letter verifying your disability. The phone number for disability services is 346-1155 and the email address is disabsrv@uoregon.edu.

Students for Whom English is Not Their Native Language

Foreign language dictionaries are permitted during exams (please show them to me first). Quizzes will be designed to take approximately one hour to complete within an hour and twenty minute 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 with me ahead of time.

Course Calendar for Lecture (subject to change)

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter Readings
1	Tuesday (U) ~ Jan. 5	Introduction; Course Overview	CH. 1
	Thursday (H) ~ Jan. 7	The Scientific Method	CH. 2
2	U ~ Jan. 12	Ethical Research	CH. 3
	H ~ Jan. 14	Studying Behavior	CH. 4
3	U ~ Jan. 19	QUIZ 1: Tuesday, 1/19 on Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4	
	H ~ Jan. 21	Reliability and Validity	CH. 5
4	U ~ Jan. 26	Observing Behavior; Case Studies	CH. 6
	H ~ Jan. 28	Conducting Surveys	CH. 7
5	U ~ Feb. 2	QUIZ 2: Tuesday, 2/2 on Chapters 5, 6 & 7	
	H ~ Feb. 4	Experimental Design; Internal Validity	CH. 8
6	Monday ~ Feb. 8 6:00-8:00	Data Collection Night (2/8) 6-8:00PM in Columbia 150	
	U ~ Feb. 9	Experimental Design; Internal Validity	CH. 8 & 9
	H ~ Feb. 11	Conducting Experiments	CH. 9
7	U ~ Feb. 16	QUIZ 3: Tuesday, 2/16 on Chapters 8 & 9	
	H ~ Feb. 18	Complex Experimental Designs	CH. 10
8	U ~ Feb. 23	Quasi-Experimental Designs and Developmental Research	CH. 11
	H ~ Feb. 25	Results; Description and Correlation	CH. 12
9	U ~ Mar. 2	QUIZ 4: Tuesday, 3/2 on Chapters 10, 11, & 12	
	H ~ Mar. 4	Statistical Inference	CH. 13
10	U ~ Mar. 9	Generalizing Results; External Validity	CH. 14
	H ~ Mar. 11	QUIZ 5: Thursday, 3/11 on Chapters 13 & 14	
	Friday ~ Mar. 12	Final Paper (and previous drafts with GTF comments) due by 4:00 on Friday, March 12th, 2010 to the main Psychology Office (Straub 131)	

Late assignments will be 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. NO WORK OF ANY KIND WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER FRIDAY, Mar. 19th OF FINALS WEEK.