

Psychology 303: Research Methods in Psychology

Summer 2012

Lecture

Instructor: Kim Martin, MS
Email: kimm@uoregon.edu
Office Hours: M/W 10:00-11:00am and by appt. in 344 Straub
Lecture: MTWR 11-11:50am (Straub 142)

Lab

Brianna Hailey
Email: bhailey@uoregon.edu
Office: 498 Straub
Office hours: T/R 10-11am
Labs: F 11-11:50am (Straub 180); F 12-12:50pm (Straub 180)

Course Description

This class is a foundation course for the scientific study of psychology. Throughout the term, you will learn how to test scientific hypotheses, design experiments, evaluate research conclusions, and conduct your own research studies. In many psychology courses, you learn *what* human behavior is or *why* it occurs, but this class teaches *how* to study human behavior and arrive at those conclusions, and how to think like a psychologist. The material we will cover in this course will provide you with the ability to design research studies, conduct proper analyses to test the predictions of a study, and to critically infer what conclusions can be made based on the design and analyses of a study.

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. In addition, this course will teach you how to evaluate the validity of others' research, which if not properly understood, can often be misleading. Science is often concerned with the pursuit of truth, and in the study of psychology, it is this course that teaches you how to pursue it regardless of whether you pursue a career in psychology.

Course Pre-Requisites

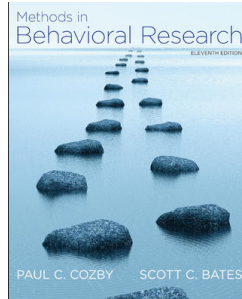
- ☐ *Psy 201 and/or 202*: Familiarity with basic psychological concepts is essential.
- ☐ *WR 122 or 123*: To focus on APA style writing we expect that you have passed the introductory writing requirement
- ☐ *Psy 302*: Successful completion of Psychology 302 (Statistics) is an absolute pre-requisite for this course. We assume 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.

*Homework Policy: 25% deduction for up to 1 day late, 50% reduction for up to 2 days late, not accepted thereafter.

Course Books

Required Book (1):

Cozby, P., & Bates, S. (2012). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (11th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.



The textbook, *Methods in Behavioral Research*, is an excellent book that is very user-friendly. We shall refer to it often in class and the readings will make a thorough supplement to what we discuss in both lecture and lab. We shall set a very steady pace throughout the term, often covering multiple chapters a week, so please keep up with the readings as they will make our discussions in class much more lively and informed. In addition, 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/cozby11e

Recommended Book (1):

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.

- ☐ Recommended for psych majors, especially those interested in graduate school
- ☐ Make sure to get the second printing of the 6th edition

Blackboard

Blackboard will be used in this course as an online resource for the syllabus, powerpoint lectures, lab materials, handouts, assignments, and APA formatting resources. Please note that while you may have access to the lecture slides ahead of time, attending both lecture and lab will be crucial to doing well in the course. The blackboard site for this course can be found at: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>.

Course Expectations and Overview

Attendance and Participation: The course includes lecture meetings and a weekly lab. 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 may cover material from outside of the readings. You are responsible for all material.

*Homework Policy: 25% deduction for up to 1 day late, 50% reduction for up to 2 days late, not accepted thereafter.

Work: 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.

Preparation: It is expected that you will come prepared to class. This means keeping up with the readings, as well as having spent time reflecting on them. You will not do well on exams and in-class activities if you do not keep up with the reading. We also require that you check your UO email and the Blackboard website often (a minimum of once a day during the week), as we will post important class information. This course has been designed to comply with the psychology department's guidelines for teaching and learning: <http://psychweb.uoregon.edu/undergraduates/guidelines>.

Organization and communication: Your success in this course will rely in large part on your ability to stay organized and on top of due dates. Check the syllabus often for important due dates. You will receive numerous handouts that you must keep track of, so create a system to organize lab and lecture materials. You should expect to be in frequent communication with your class and lab instructors, as well as with your classmates. If you are not already in the habit of checking e-mail every day, start now!

Course Components & Requirements

Lecture: The lecture sessions will include review of selected textbook material, information relevant to the research projects and papers, elaboration of some topics with information not provided in the textbook, and in-class small group activities. You are expected to take responsibility for what is covered in class. The most important way to do this is to show up and be an active participant in lecture. Lectures slides will be posted on Blackboard. Note that these 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.

Activity Assignments: 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. Activity assignments cannot be made up.

Exams: Exams will be used to assess your mastery of the lecture and reading material. Exam format will be a mixture of multiple-choice, short answer, and short essay questions. Scantrons will be provided.

There will be 3 non-cumulative exams in the course. In addition, there will be a comprehensive final exam during finals week. Your final exam grade may replace your lowest grade of all four exams. There will be no makeup exams in case of illness or travel. If you are sick or out of town and miss one of the exams, the final exam will replace the zero earned for the missed exam.

*Homework Policy: 25% deduction for up to 1 day late, 50% reduction for up to 2 days late, not accepted thereafter.

Lab Work: The lab component of the course will give you hands-on experience in conducting, analyzing, and writing up your own research studies. The majority of lab points will be based on successful completion of homework assignments and papers that are conducted through the term in lab. The first is a theoretical paper in which you will review the past research on a topic in psychology, and make correlational predictions about the relevant variables based on your review.

The second paper will be based on an experiment that each lab will conduct using similar means of data collection. Each student will administer these measures to five people (e.g., friends and family members) and the results will be analyzed and written up in an APA style paper. Please see the lab syllabus for further details.

Course Points & Grading

In general, written work in this course will be graded based on form (i.e., proper APA formatting, spelling, grammar, sentence structure, length), 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), and the assignment criteria that are outlined in each assignment (i.e., completing all aspects of the work assigned based on the instructions and guidelines of the assignment).

The final grade assigned for the course should reflect the student's overall performance in the course, as a percentage of total possible points earned and assigned a letter grade:

Day 1 Pretest	15	*Homework Policy: 75% max up to 1 day late; 50% up to 2days late; <u>Not accepted after 2 days</u>
Lecture & Lab Participation	15	
Peer Review	15	
Paper 1 - Theoretical Correlation	45	
Article Summary Outline 1	15	
Online Survey Completion	15	
Correlational Results Write Up	15	
Paper 2: Experimental	60	
Article Summary Outline 2	15	
Data Collection	15	
Experimental Methods/Results/Figures	15	
Experimental Abstract/Discussion	15	
Exam 1	60	
Exam 2	60	
Exam 3	90	
Final	60	

Grade	Percent
A	93-100
A-	90-92.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	73-76.9
C-	70-72.9
D+	67-69.9
D	63-66.9
D-	60-62.9
If taking Pass/Fail	
NP	< 70

Total Points: 525

*Homework Policy: 25% deduction for up to 1 day late, 50% reduction for up to 2 days late, not accepted thereafter.

Course Policies

Email Communication: All emails from your instructors will be made to your @uoregon.edu webmail account, so make sure to check this email account often (once a day on weekdays). You are encouraged to communicate with your instructors via email. Please communicate respectfully, as if you were speaking in person to the person whom you are contacting, and allow a minimum of 24 hours before expecting a response. Instructors may not respond to emails on weekends or weekdays between 7pm and 8am.

Academic Honesty: Group activities will be a big part of lab, and discussion outside of class is encouraged. However, all written work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. Although some aspects of the research projects require group work (in-lab exercises, design, data collection and analysis), *group collaboration on the worksheets and research papers is absolutely prohibited—the work you turn in on homework and papers must be solely your own.* Otherwise, you will not adequately learn the material.

We will not tolerate cheating or plagiarism. Cheating is defined as providing information to, or receiving information from, another person on an exam or other assignment. Plagiarism is defined as passing off the work of another as your own, without properly giving credit. This includes, but is not limited to, directly copying others' writing (in whole or in part) or paraphrasing others' writing or ideas without citing properly. In these cases "others" can include other students in the class, other students or non-students not in the class, and authors of scholarly or mass media work (journal articles, chapters, newspaper articles, blogs, Wikipedia). The UO library has a helpful page describing when to cite a source: <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students>. All instances of cheating and plagiarism will have serious consequences and may result in your failure of the class.

Student Accommodations

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please let me know. Also, please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities, send me a letter verifying your disability and needs for this course. 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. Exams will take approximately 40 minutes. However, if you find that you need additional time to complete the exam, please make arrangements with me ahead of time.

Other Students: If you are repeating this class, or have other circumstances that might affect your ability to devote time to the class, please let me know so we can discuss strategies to promote your success.

*Homework Policy: 25% deduction for up to 1 day late, 50% reduction for up to 2 days late, not accepted thereafter.

Course Calendar for Lecture & Lab (subject to change)

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter Readings
1	M ~ June 25 T ~ June 26 W ~ June 27 R ~ June 28	Introduction; Course Overview; Pretest A Scientific Understanding of Behavior Hypotheses / Theories Introduction to psychINFO; Articles (Selection of Research Topic)	CH. 1 CH. 2
	F ~ June 29 Lab 1: PsycINFO & Google Scholar - Lit Reviews & Citations/References - Find 3 articles Homework: Article Summary Outline (due via SafeAssign: Tues 7/3/12 by noon)		
2	M ~ July 2 T ~ July 3 W ~ July 4 R ~ July 5	Ethical Research EXAM 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3 NO CLASS NO CLASS – (Online Activities)	CH. 3
	F ~ July 6 Lab 2: Writing APA style papers – (bring articles to class) -Title page -Introduction - References Homework: Paper 1 (due via SafeAssign: Tues 7/10/12 by noon)		
3	M ~ July 9 T ~ July 10 W ~ July 11 R ~ July 12	Studying Behavior Studying Behavior Reliability & Validity Reliability & Validity	CH. 4 CH. 5
	F ~ July 13 Lab 3: Internal Validity & Correlational Analysis Results Write Up Homework: Correlational Results Write Up (due via SafeAssign: Tues 7/17/12 by noon)		
4	M ~ July 16 T ~ July 17 W ~ July 18 R ~ July 19	Survey Research Survey Research Experimental Design/Conducting Experiments EXAM 2: Chapters 4, 5, 7 (Choose Experimental Topic)	CH. 7 CH. 7 CH. 8/9
	F ~ July 20 Lab 4: Experimental Study Design - Measurement Activity – Hypotheses – Data Collection Homework: Article Summary Outline (due via SafeAssign: Tues 7/24/12 by noon) Data Collection (5 participants) due Wed 7/25/12 by 11:59pm		

*Homework Policy: 25% deduction for up to 1 day late, 50% reduction for up to 2 days late, not accepted thereafter.

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter Readings
5	M ~ July 23 T ~ July 24 W ~ July 25 R ~ July 26	Experimental Design/Conducting Experiments Experimental Design/Conducting Experiments Complex Experimental Designs Statistics 1	CH. 8/9 CH. 10 CH. 12
	F ~ July 27 Lab 5: Data Analysis – Descriptives & Group Differences Analysis Writing APA style papers: Results & Appendices Homework: Experimental Methods, Results & Appendices Write Up (due via SafeAssign: Tues 7/31/12 by noon)		
6	M ~ July 30 T ~ July 31 W ~ Aug 1 R ~ Aug 2	Statistics 2 Review Day EXAM 3- Part 1: Chapters 8, 9, 10 EXAM 3- Part 2: Chapters 12, 13	CH. 13
	F ~ Aug 3 Lab 6: Writing APA style papers: Abstract & Discussion sections Homework: Experimental Abstract & Discussion Sections (due via SafeAssign: Tues 8/7/12 by noon)		
7	M ~ Aug 6 T ~ Aug 7 W ~ Aug 8 R ~ Aug 9	Generalizing Results; External Validity Generalizing Results; External Validity Help on Paper / Peer Review Quasi, Single Case & Developmental Designs	CH. 14 CH. 11
	F ~ Aug 10 Last Lab: Help on Paper / Peer Review Homework: (Experimental Paper Due by Sunday Aug 12, 11:59pm)		
8	M ~ Aug 13 T ~ Aug 14 W ~ Aug 15	Quasi, Single Case & Developmental Designs Observing Behavior REVIEW DAY	CH. 11 CH. 6
FINALS	R ~ Aug 16	FINAL EXAM ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 16th at 08:00 AM in 142 STB	

****No work of any kind will be accepted after the Final Exam on 08/16/12****

*Homework Policy: 25% deduction for up to 1 day late, 50% reduction for up to 2 days late, not accepted thereafter.