

Psychology 303: Research Methods in Psychology

Winter 2012

Monday/Wednesday 10:00-11:20

146 Straub Hall

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Office Hours: Monday 1:00-2:00PM, Wednesday 2:00-3:00PM, and by appointment

Lab Instructors:

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Office hours: TBA

Texts:

Required Book:

Cozby, P. (2009). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (10th 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/cozby10e

Recommended Book:

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

- *Recommended for psychology majors, especially those who plan to go to graduate school*
- *Make sure to get the second printing of the 6th edition*

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:

- *Psy 201 and/or 202*: Lecture examples and readings draw on basic psychological concepts introduced in Psy 201 and 202, and you are expected to have some degree of familiarity with them.
- *WR 122 or 123*: Because learning APA style is critical in the lab sections, 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.

Course Philosophy, Expectations, and Overview

Attendance and Participation: 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.

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 also expected that you will come prepared to class. This means keeping up with the readings, 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. 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. Please review these guidelines at <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 will have to 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 and 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: 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. Activity assignments cannot be made up. Four of these Activity Assignments will count toward your final grade - this means that you may miss one Activity Assignment without penalty.

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. There will be 3 mandatory exams in the course. In addition, there will be an optional comprehensive final exam during finals week. If you take the final exam, your lowest grade of all four exams will be dropped. 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, you must take the final exam to make up for the missed exam. If you are traveling on a university-sanctioned trip (e.g., for athletics), documentation will be required for alternative arrangements.

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 three 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 predictions about the relevant variables based on your review. The second paper will be based on a correlational study that each lab will conduct using measures of the relevant variables from the first paper. Each student will administer these measures to five people (e.g., friends and family members) and, as a lab, the results will be analyzed and written up in an APA style paper. The third paper will be based on an experiment that each lab will conduct using similar means of data collection. Again, the results of the experimental data will be analyzed and written up in an APA style paper. In addition to these three papers, points in lab will also be based on attendance and homework assignments. Please see the lab syllabus for further details.

Course Points

Lecture (360 points):

5 Activity Assignments (15 points each; one will be dropped): 60 points

3 Exams (100 points each): 300 points*

*Optional comprehensive final exam can replace the lowest grade

Lab (240 points):

Lab Participation: 20 points

Lab Homework: 40 points

Theoretical Paper: 30 points

Correlational Paper: 60 points

Experimental Paper: 90 points

Total Points: 600

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 described by the following guidelines:

- A *excellent* work, complete mastery of course material
- B *good* work, grasps most of the important concepts
- C *average* work, grasps many but not all aspects of course material
- D *poor* work, insufficient understanding of material
- F failing

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

Posting of Grades: Scores for lab activities and exams 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 lab instructor.

Course Policies

Email Communication: All emails from your instructors will be made to your @uoregon.edu web-mail 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 reasonable period before expecting a response. Instructors may not respond to emails between the hours of 9 PM and 9 AM.

Blackboard and Document Availability: 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. In addition, slides to accompany lectures, scores on assignments, and non-textbook readings will be posted there. You should already have a log-in 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.

Slides, handouts, and other resources will be posted as .ppt/.pptx, .doc/.docx, or .pdf. Please make sure you are able to view these kinds of files. You may need to download a Powerpoint viewer, available free from many sites, including www.microsoft.com/downloads. Adobe Acrobat provides a free down-loadable reader that will allow you to open and view pdfs. Also make sure that you can access .docx and .pptx files. If you have an older version of Windows and can only open .doc and .ppt, you can download a free patch from the Microsoft website. Alternatively, you can download slides and .pdf documents using public computers at the university.

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 take academic integrity seriously, and will not tolerate any instance of 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). Rely mostly on your own ideas and words, and support them with properly cited scholarly sources (journal articles, textbooks, book chapters) or popular press media (websites, newspapers). If you are unsure about what is appropriate or allowed, please ask! The UO library website has a helpful page that de-scribes when you need to give credit:
<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students>

All instances of cheating and plagiarism will have serious consequences. At a minimum, you will receive a zero on the assignment and be reported to the university's student conduct coordinator, even if it is your first offense. If the offense is serious, you may also receive an "F" in the course. Repeat offenders will fail the course. Turning in work that is not your own—unless it is specifically described as a group activity—is not acceptable.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and will need accommodations in this course, please make arrangements with your instructors as soon as possible. Please request that the counselor for students with disabilities send a letter indicating what accommodations you will need. Further information is available online at <http://aec.uoregon.edu/>.

Students for Whom English is Not Their Native Language:

Foreign language dictionaries are permitted during exams. Exams 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 exam, please make arrangements with your instructor ahead of time to stay after class so that you can finish.

Snow Policy:

If snow and/or ice are expected to make travel to campus dangerous, class may be cancelled and alternative assignments that can be completed at home will be made available on Blackboard. Any announcements will be made regarding cancellation of class via Blackboard and email to your @uoregon account.

Course Calendar for Lecture (subject to change)

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter Readings
1	Monday (M) ~ Jan 9	Introduction; Course Overview; Scientific Method	CH. 1
	Wednesday (W) ~ Jan 11	Theories and Hypotheses	CH. 2
2	M ~ Jan 16	OBSERVED HOLIDAY: NO CLASS	
	W ~ Jan 18	Ethical Research	CH. 3
3	M ~ Jan 23	Studying Behavior	CH. 4
	W ~ Jan 25	Reliability and Validity	CH. 5
4	M ~ Jan 30	EXAM 1	
	W ~ Feb 1	Survey Research 1	CH. 7
5	M ~ Feb 6	Survey Research 2	CH. 7
	W ~ Feb 8	Statistics 1	CH. 12
6	M ~ Feb 13	Statistics 2	CH. 13
	W ~ Feb 15	EXAM 2	
7	M ~ Feb 20	Experimental Designs	CH. 8
	W ~ Feb 22	Conducting Experiments	CH. 9
8	M ~ Feb 27	Complex Experimental Designs	CH. 10
	W ~ Feb 29	Quasi-Experimental Designs and Developmental Research	CH. 11
9	M ~ March 5	Experimental Design Review & Wrap-up	
	W ~ March 7	EXAM 3	
10	M ~ March 12	Additional Designs	
	W ~ March 14	Generalizing Results; External Validity	CH. 14
Finals Week	M ~ March 19	Final Paper due by 4:00 on Monday, March 19th on BlackBoard via SafeAssign	
	Friday ~ March 23	Final Exam (Optional) Friday, March 23rd at 10:15	

***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.**

***NO WORK OF ANY KIND WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER FRIDAY OF FINALS WEEK (March 23rd, 2012).**