

## **Psychology 303 Research Methods**

### **Lab Syllabus**

#### **Lab Description**

The lab will primarily entail helping you to design, implement, analyze, draw conclusions from, and *write about* original research projects you will create yourselves. Lab will go beyond what you learn in lecture, and will focus on developing hands-on practice for building the skills you need to conduct your own research and evaluate the research of others. You and your classmates will be working together as a lab to design, analyze, and discuss your research. In addition, you will be *individually* writing up your research throughout the term on three different papers: a literature review, a correlational research paper, and an experimental research paper.

#### **Learning Objectives in Lab**

- Learn how to conduct literature searches in psychology
- Practice summarizing articles and creating APA-style citations and references
- Write literature reviews on topics that interest you
- Get first-hand experience with developing hypotheses and designing research projects to test them
- Conduct your own original research in two forms: correlational and experimental
- Design your own questionnaires to measure variables
- Design your own experimental manipulation
- Collect data from participants and learn about sampling procedures
- Use what you learned from Statistics (Psy 302) to analyze your own data
- Learn APA-style by writing a literature review and two empirical papers
- Think critically about how to interpret and improve on the research of others

#### **Lab Components**

**Lab papers:** You will turn in three papers over the course of the term: one literature review paper, one correlational research paper, and one experimental research paper. Due dates are listed on the lab schedule below. Papers cannot be re-written. However, you will be given substantial feedback on earlier papers so that you may improve on the later ones. Grading will become increasingly strict as you get more practice with writing about research. Formatting instructions and grading criteria will be given when each paper is assigned. You are encouraged to meet with your lab instructors to go over drafts of your work during their office hours.

**The Literature Review Paper (25 points):** The purpose of this paper is to introduce you to the process of writing a literature review on an empirical topic within psychology. As a lab, you will select a topic of interest that pertains to the relationship between two variables. Using the collected background articles you find in lab, you will write a literature review paper, culminating in the proposal of a hypothesis. The literature review paper will also serve as the introduction section to the correlational study paper.

**The Correlational Study Paper (55 points):** The purpose of this paper is to allow you to experience research from the scientist's perspective. A correlational study examines the relationship between two or more variables. For this study, you will use the two psychological variables previously selected in the literature review paper and design valid questionnaires to measure those variables. Each person in lab will then find five participants to complete the questionnaires. As a class, you will test your hypothesis by conducting a correlational analysis on the collected data. You will learn how to write method, results, and discussion sections, and write up a full manuscript, from title page to references (with your literature review paper serving as the introduction section).

**The Experimental Study Paper (80 points):** The purpose of this paper is to give you more experience as a researcher. An experimental study examines the causal effect one variable has on another variable (that is, whether changes in variable X *cause* changes in variable Y). For this study, you will choose two psychological variables (that are different from the variables in your correlational study). One should be a variable that you can manipulate - this is your independent variable, or the 'cause' variable. The other should be one that you can measure - this is your dependent variable, or the 'effect' variable. You will design a manipulation (e.g., two different types of surveys), focusing on preventing confounds and maximizing internal validity, and develop a measure of your dependent variable. As a lab, you will test your hypothesis by conducting group-difference analyses (either a t-test or ANOVA, depending on how many conditions you have). You will again write up a full manuscript, from title page to references (with two articles required for the literature review of the introduction section).

**Lab homework, attendance, and participation:** On weeks when there is no paper due, there will be lab assignments and activities that reinforce the material learned that week, or assist in writing your paper. You are expected to attend lab, help out with the lab project, and complete group work or take-home assignments. Your participation and contributions to these activities, discussions, and assignments, along with your rate of attendance, will be evaluated by your lab instructor and will likely be reflected in the quality of your lab papers. The more effort you put in, the better your grade will be. If you repeatedly miss lab, spend time goofing off, put in minimal effort in your assignments or group work, or are disrespectful of your classmates or instructor, this will decrease your participation grade. You can check with your lab instructor at any point in the term to see how you are doing in these regards.

<b>Breakdown of Lab Points (200 points)</b>
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**Lab Participation (10 points)**

Data Collection (correlational study): 5 points

Data Collection (experimental study): 5 points

**Lab Homework and Activities (30 points)**

Article Summaries (for the literature review paper): 10 points

Questionnaire Activity (for the correlational study): 5 points

Measurement Activity (for the experimental study): 5 points

Article Summaries (for the experimental study paper): 10 points

**Lab Term Papers (160 points)**

Literature Review Paper: 25 points

Correlational Study Paper: 55 points

Experimental Study Paper: 80 points

<b>Lab Policies</b>
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**Registration and switching labs:** Because of the limited space and resources available in 271 FRNK, you *must* attend the lab you are registered for. If you absolutely cannot make the time you are scheduled for, you must find someone who will switch with you. There cannot be more than 18 people in any lab.

**Attendance:** It is very important that you attend every lab session. Important information is covered in lab that you will need to complete your homework assignments and drafts. Moreover, a significant portion of lab time is devoted to group work. Don't let everyone else down! If you must miss a class, get in touch with your lab instructor, preferably *before* the missed class, or as soon as possible afterwards. Make arrangements to get caught up on the missed work by contacting your lab instructor and/or other students in your lab.

**Submission of assignments and late policies:** Assignments/papers are due at the beginning of lab; they should be typed and double-spaced, turned in **as a soft copy via Safeassign on Blackboard**. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for every day they are late, and assignments will not be accepted for grades after 4 days past their due date, although you may submit them for feedback.

### 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. 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 term papers must be solely your own**. In other words, the writing portion of the lab is work that must be completed individually, NOT as a group or in collaboration with your group-mates. In addition, copying or paraphrasing information from any source, print or electronic, without citation, is plagiarism. The use of sources must therefore be properly acknowledged and documented. The consequences of academic dishonesty will be taken seriously and entail a report to the Student Misconduct Board. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues, please come and speak with your lab instructor BEFORE you turn in your assignment.

### Tips for Success

- Stay on schedule and in touch - Check your UO email account *at least* once a day!
- Consult the lab calendar to see when homework assignments and section drafts are due.
- Be a responsible group member - Come to lab and stay the entire time.
- Make frequent use of Blackboard. Your lab's handouts, materials, and other resources will be made available.

<b>Lab Schedule</b>
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Week	Lab Topic	Assignment Handout	Items Due
1	Lab Introduction; Using PsycINFO & Google Scholar; Selection of Research Topic	Article Summaries (2) Literature Review Paper	
2	Title Page, References, Citations, & Literature Reviews		Article Summaries (2)
3	Correlational Study Guidelines and Activity; Questionnaire Activity (5pts.)	Correlational Study Guidelines	<b>Literature Review Paper</b>
4	Writing APA style papers: Abstract and method sections	Data Collection (5 participants)	
5	Descriptive Statistics and Correlational Analysis; Writing APA style papers: results and discussion sections		Data Collection
6	Selection of Topic for Experimental Study; Article Summaries	Experimental Study Guidelines Article Summaries (2)	<b>Correlational Paper</b>
7	Measurement Activity (5 pts.); Writing APA style papers: introduction and method sections	Data Collection (5 participants)	Article Summaries (2)
8	Descriptive Stats and Group Differences Analysis; Results section		Data Collection
9		<b>THANKSGIVING: NO LAB</b>	
10	Writing help and last minute help with paper		

**The experimental study paper is due by 6:00PM on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> via Safeassign**