

**Psychology 303  
Research Methods  
Fall 2015**

Mondays & Wednesdays 4:00-5:20 pm  
STB 245

**Course instructor:**

**Elif Isbell, Ph.D.**

Email: elif@uoregon.edu

Office hours: Fridays 11:00 am - 12:00 pm in STB 331 or by appointment

**Lab instructors:**

**Smrithi Prasad**

Lab section: Thursdays, 10:00-11:20 am, STB 008

Email: smrithi@uoregon.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays, 10:00-12:00 pm

Office: STB 461

**Alex Bies**

Lab section: Thursdays, 12:00-1:20 pm, STB 008

Email: bies@uoregon.edu

Office hours: Mondays, 1:00-3:00pm

Office: LISB 229

**Ariel Carter-Rodriguez**

Lab Section: Thursdays, 2:00-3:20 pm, STB 008

Email: acarterr@uoregon.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Office: STB 365

**Kristen Reinhardt**

Lab section: Thursdays, 4:00-5:20 pm, STB 008

Email: kreinha5@uoregon.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 am

Office: STB 364

**Course Description:**

This class is a foundation course for the scientific study of psychology. Throughout the term, you will learn:

- how to conduct research in psychology and write APA style papers.
- the ethical responsibilities of conducting psychological research.
- how to formulate and test scientific hypotheses.
- the basic principles of different research designs, and what conclusions can be drawn from them.
- the concepts of reliability and validity and why they are essential to psychological measures and scientific conclusions.
- some basic principles of statistical analyses, statistical results, and how to code data.
- the limitations and implications in generalizing research results to larger populations.

For an extended description of learning objectives, please see: <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/psychology/files/2014/09/PSY303-Extended-Description-18lspmi.pdf>

**Required and Recommended Materials:****Required book:**

Morling, Beth (2015). *Research Methods in Psychology* (2nd ed.). New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

\* Other required reading materials will be posted on Canvas.

**Recommended books:**

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

**Canvas:** Canvas will be used in this course as an online resource for the syllabus, lecture slides, required readings, study guides, lab materials, and APA formatting resources. It is recommended that you frequently check Canvas in order to stay up to date on the course materials that are posted from week to week. Please note that lecture slides will be posted after each lecture. Important announcements will also be sent via email, so it is best to get into the habit of checking your email daily. If you send an email to the instructor, expect to receive a reply within 24 hours.

**IClickers:** Please register your iClicker on the Canvas site, and bring your iClicker with you to every class. To register your iClicker in Canvas:

i>clicker —> i>clicker Registration

Also see: [https://canvas.uoregon.edu/courses/26168/pages/enabling-browser-cookies-and-registering-i%3Eclickers?module\\_item\\_id=108448](https://canvas.uoregon.edu/courses/26168/pages/enabling-browser-cookies-and-registering-i%3Eclickers?module_item_id=108448)

**Grading:****Lecture: 55% of final grade**

Course work	% of final grade
In-class activities	15
Exam 1	10
Exam 2	15
Exam 3	15
Total	55

**Lab: 45% of final grade**

Course work	% of final grade
Lab participation	5
Homework	5
Literature Review Paper	8
Correlational Study Paper	12
Experimental Study Paper	15

Final letter grades:

Letter grade	% earned	Letter grade	% earned
A+	top two scores	C+	73-76
A	93-100	C-	70-72
A-	90-92	D+	67-69
B+	87-89	D	63-66
B	83-86	D-	60-62
B-	80-82	N	< 70
C+	77-70	P	70 or higher

Also see: <http://psychology.uoregon.edu/courses/department-grading-standards/>

**Lecture coursework include the following:**

**In-class activities (15%):**

You will have a total of 16 in-class activities, administered during lectures. Each one will be worth 1% of your final grade points. Your top 15 scores will be used for your final score. This means you can miss or drop 1 in-class activity without losing any points. The activities will include material from the assigned readings and lecture of the day. The goal of these activities is to promote critical thinking of the materials covered in class and readings. There will be no make-up for any of the activities, so if you miss one for any reason, your score will be 0 for that activity.

**Exams (45%):**

Exams will cover material from the assigned readings and lectures. You will have 3 exams (please see the class schedule for the days each exam will be administered). The first exam will be worth 10% of the final grade. The second and third exams will each be worth 15% of the final grade. Due to the nature of the course, exams will inevitably be somewhat comprehensive, but the majority of the questions will be on the more recent topics covered up to that exam.

At the end of each lecture, you will receive a study guide on the topics covered in the readings and the lecture. These guides will be available at the end of lectures to ensure that students have plenty of time to go over each topic and be prepared to answer all the questions, hopefully without cramming all the information right before the exams. Not all the questions included in the study guides will appear on the tests, but even if they appear in a different format, all the questions will eventually come from the study guides. There will not be any review sessions. However, all students are encouraged to visit the instructor during office hours to discuss any questions. If the office hours do not work around your schedule, email the instructor to set up an appointment.

**Make-up exam:**

There will be a comprehensive make-up exam in case you miss an exam or would like to drop one of the exams you took during the term. The make-up exam will take place during the finals week, **14:45 p.m. Monday December 7th in class**. If you are content with your exam scores, you are not expected to take this make-up exam.

**Extra credit:**

You may choose ONE of the following extra credit options:

**Option 1:** You can be a participant for research through the Human Subjects Pool. For each credit of participation, you will earn 1 point (1% of final grade). You can earn up to 2 points. For more information, please visit:

**<http://psychology.uoregon.edu/research/human-subjects-pool/>**

Option 2: If you prefer not to participate in the Human Subjects Pool, you can earn up to 2 points (2% of final grade) by writing a short paper. If this is your preference, please contact Dr. Isbell to discuss the details.

**Lab Work (45%):**

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. Please see the lab syllabus for further details.

**Important Additional Notes**

**Accessible education:** If you have a documented need for accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor soon. Furthermore, please contact Accessible Education Center. They are located in 164 Oregon Hall and can be reached at 346-1155. Also please request that the Accessible Education Center send a letter verifying your documented needs for accommodations.

<http://aec.uoregon.edu>

**Study skills resources:** Teaching and Learning Center offers various programs and workshops throughout the term.

<http://tlc.uoregon.edu>

**Students for whom English is a Second Language:** If you are a non-native English speaker and need to use a dictionary during the exams, please see the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary special arrangements.

**If you are ill:** Please contact the instructor as soon as possible. PLEASE STAY AT HOME and away from class for at least 24 hours after your symptoms are gone.

## **Academic Misconduct at the University of Oregon**

Upon the discovery of suspected Academic Misconduct as detailed below, the instructor will follow the Academic Misconduct Procedures detailed by the Office of the Dean of Students.

The text below is adopted verbatim from the following link:

<https://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode.aspx>

(1) "Academic Misconduct" means the violation of university policies involving academic integrity. Examples include, but are not limited to:

(a) Intentional tampering with grades, resubmitting assignments for more than one class without the permission of the professor; and

(b) Intentionally taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a test that has not been administered;

(c) Cheating, as defined in 571-021-0105(3);

(d) Plagiarism, as defined in 571-021-0105(26);

(e) Knowing furnishing false information to a University Official; and

(f) Fabrication, as defined in 571-021-0105(14).

(3) "Cheating" means any act of deception by which a student misrepresents or misleadingly demonstrates that he or she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he or she has not mastered. Examples include but are not limited to:

(a) Giving or receiving unauthorized help in an academic exercise;

(b) Use of sources or resources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;

(c) Acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff; and

(d) Engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion.

(14) "Fabrication" means the intentional use of information that the author has invented when he or she states or implies otherwise, or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive.

(26) "Plagiarism" means using the ideas or writings of another as one's own. It includes, but is not limited to:

(a) The use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement; and

(b) The unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

**Please visit the following webpage for further details on the student conduct code at the University of Oregon:**

<https://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode.aspx>

### **Weekly Schedule of Topics and Assignments**

Please note that this is only a working draft of the course outline. It may be revised as the term progresses.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter #</b>
Week 1	9/28	Introduction	
	9/30	Scientific reasoning	<b>1, 2</b>
Week 2	10/5	Scientific reasoning	<b>1, 2</b>
	10/7	Ethical guidelines	<b>4</b>
Week 3	10/12	Three claims, four validities	<b>3</b>
	10/14	Three claims, four validities	<b>3</b>
Week 4	10/19	<b>Exam 1</b>	
	10/21	Measurement reliability and validity	<b>5</b>
Week 5	10/26	Surveys and observations	<b>6</b>
	10/28	Sampling	<b>7</b>
Week 6	11/2	Bivariate correlation	<b>8</b>
	11/4	Multivariate correlation	<b>9</b>
Week 7	11/9	<b>Exam 2</b>	
	11/11	Intro to experimental designs	<b>10</b>
Week 8	11/16	Complex experimental designs	<b>11, 12</b>
	11/18	Complex experimental designs	<b>11, 12</b>
Week 9	11/23	Quasi experimental designs	<b>13</b>
	11/25	<b>No class</b>	
Week 10	11/30	Generalizing results	<b>14</b>
	12/2	<b>Exam 3</b>	
Finals week	12/7	Make-up exam Monday 14:45 pm	

\* Other reading assignments will be posted on Canvas and announced in class.

\* Please refer to your lab syllabus for the lab schedule and assignment due dates.

**\* No work of any kind will be accepted after Friday, December 11th of Finals Week.**