

Psychology 303 – Research Methods

Fall 2015 (CRN # 15254)

Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursday 8:30-9:50 AM Straub Hall 145

Labs: Thursdays 10:00-11:20, 2:00-1:20, and 2:00-3:20 Straub Hall 006

Fridays 12:00-1:20 and 2:00-3:20 Straub Hall 008

Instructor: Jordan Pennefather, Ph.D.

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Office: Straub Hall 456

Office Hours: Wednesday 3:30-4:30 and Thursday 10:00-11:00

Lab Instructors:

Jason Isbell, isbell@uoregon.edu, Office hours: Thurs 11-12 and by appointment, LISB 232

Kathryn Iurino, kiurino@uoregon.edu, Office hours: Thurs 10-12, Straub 366

Rita Ludwig, rludwig@uoregon.edu, Office hours: Tues 11am- 1pm, LISB 229

Pablo Morales, pablom@uoregon.edu, Office hours: Tues 11-12, LISB 340

Alec Smidt, asmidt@uoregon.edu, Office hours: Mon 12-2, Straub 332

Exam and Lecture Assignment Grader: Lauren O'Neil, Office hours: Thurs 10-12, LISB 117 (Find room 102 and use doorbell)

Course Overview and Objectives - This course is to introduce you to how the science of psychology is done. You will learn the skills required to develop and test scientific hypotheses, design and run studies, collect and analyze data, and prepare papers to report your findings. While research is the foundation on which psychology is built, I recognize that many of you will not go on to become *producers* of research. However, understanding the principles of good research will prepare you to be good *consumers* of research, which is a requisite skillset for many careers. This course is designed with both *producers* and *consumers* of research in mind. The topics covered in this course along with what you learned in PSY 302 Statistical Methods will help prepare you to evaluate the research findings in your other university courses, jobs settings, and everyday life.

Course Prerequisites: In addition to WR 122 or 123, PSY 201, and PSY 202, successful completion of Psychology 302 is a 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 Textbook: Morling, B. (2011). Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of Information. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

This textbook has a website with supplemental materials that can be very helpful for studying and exam preparation. It can be found at: <http://wwnorton.com/college/psych/research-methods-in-psychology/>

Recommended Book: American Psychological Association. (2009). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

This book will be helpful for writing papers for psychology majors. Be sure to get the **second**

printing of the 6th edition.

COURSE COMPONENTS

Lectures and Readings – While much of the information in the textbook readings and the lecture will cover similar topics, frequently they will be independent. I will focus on what I see as the most interesting and engaging topics from the readings and cover those in lecture, thus much of the readings will not be covered in class. You will be tested on the readings, activities, and lectures. To do well in this class be sure read the required chapters before attending the lectures. Lectures slides and outlines will be posted on Blackboard. Note that these documents serve to outline the lecture and are by no means comprehensive. You should not rely on these posted documents for your course notes; rather, you should use them to organize the notes that you take during class.

Lecture Activities: In and out of class activities will be assigned throughout the term. For the in-class activities no preparation is required other than to be in class. There will be five in-class activities which cannot be made up, however you are allowed to miss one without it affecting your grade. Out of class activities will also be assigned over the term and will be both announced in class and via the course website.

Exams - There will be a midterm exam (covering material from the first half of the course) and a non-cumulative final exam (covering material from the second half of the course). The exams will be a combination of multiple-choice and short answer/essay questions.

Lab Assignments: Lab will focus on giving your hands-on practice being *producers* of research. In lab you will complete a number of smaller activities (article summaries, data collection, and data analysis) as well as three papers: a literature review, a correlational research paper, and an experimental research paper. Due dates are listed on the lab schedule below (and on Canvas). Papers cannot be re-written. However, you will be given 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.

Literature Review Paper: The purpose of this paper is to introduce you to the process of writing a literature review on an empirical topic within psychology. Based on the lab research topic, you will find background articles on your topic and write a literature review paper that reviews the research in this area, culminating in the proposal of a hypothesis. The literature review paper will also serve as the introduction section to the correlational study paper.

Correlational Study Paper: 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 use valid questionnaires to measure those

variables. You will each collect data from 5 individuals and as a lab, you will test your hypothesis by conducting a correlational analysis on the 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).

Experimental Study Paper: 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, we will choose two psychological variables (that are different from the variables in the correlational study). One will be a variable that we can manipulate (our independent variable), and the other will be one that we measure (our dependent variable). We will design a manipulation (e.g., two different types of surveys), focusing on preventing confounds and maximizing internal validity, and establish a measure of our dependent variable. As a lab, you will test your hypothesis by conducting statistical analyses (e.g., ANOVA). You will then write up an APA-style manuscript of the study (with two articles required for the literature review of the introduction section).

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

GRADE	PERCENTAGE		GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A+	99-100%		C	73-76.99%
A	93-98.99%		C-	70-72.99%
A-	90-92.99%		D+	67-69.99%
B+	87-89.99%		D	63-66.99%
B	83-86.99%		D-	60-62.99%
B-	80-82.99%		F	59.99% and below
C+	77-79.99%			

SUMMARY OF GRADED ACTIVITIES**Points Toward Final Grade**

Lecture Activities	= 50
Midterm	= 120
Final	= 120
Lab Activities (article summaries, data collection and analysis, etc)	= 60
Literature Review Paper	= 30
Correlation Paper	= 60
Experimental Paper	= 90
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Total	= 530

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Academic Honesty. Group work is an important part of the course and discussion of group work outside of class is encouraged. However, all written work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course by you. **Group collaboration on activities, worksheets, assignments, and papers is prohibited – the work you submit must be your own.** For activities that require collaboration (in-lab exercises, design discussions, data collection and analysis) group work is encouraged. 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 (e.g., an 'F' in the course and a report to the Office of Student Conduct) and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues, please come and speak with me or your lab instructor. For more information about plagiarism, see: <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/>

STUDENT ACCOMODATIONS

Students with Disabilities: Contact Jordan as soon as possible if you have a documented disability (confirmed by the Accessible Education Center 164 Oregon Hall, <http://aec.uoregon.edu/contact.html>) and anticipate needing accommodations.

Students for Whom English is a Second Language: If English is not your native language, and you think you may need to use a dictionary for in-class tests, please have your dictionary checked by Jordan prior to the test. If you believe that you will need additional time to complete the exams, please let Jordan know as soon as possible and we will make arrangements ahead of time.

COURSE SCHEDULE FOR LECTURE

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading
1	Tues, 9/29	Introduction; Course Overview	CH. 1
	Thurs, 10/1	Research - Theories and Hypotheses	CH. 2
2	Tues, 10/6	Being a Consumer of Research	CH. 3
	Thurs, 10/8	Good Measurement	CH. 5
3	Tues, 10/13	Research Ethics	CH. 4
	Thurs, 10/15	Surveys and Observations	CH. 6
4	Tues, 10/20	Sampling	CH. 7
	Thurs, 10/22	Bivariate Correlation	CH. 8
5	Tues, 10/27	Multivariate Correlation	CH. 9
	Thurs, 10/29	Catchup and Review	
6	Tues, 11/3	MIDTERM (Chapters 1-9)	
	Thurs, 11/5	Introduction to Simple Experiments	CH. 10
7	Tues, 11/10	Introduction to Simple Experiments	CH. 10
	Thurs, 11/12	Confounds and Obscuring Variables	CH. 11
8	Tues, 11/17	Experiments with More Than One IV	CH. 12
	Thurs, 11/19	Experiments with More Than One IV	CH. 12
9	Tues, 11/24	Quasi-Experimental Designs	CH. 13
	Thurs, 11/26	NO CLASS THANKSGIVING	CH. 13
10	Tues, 12/1	External Validity	CH. 14
	Thurs, 12/3	Catchup and Review	
Finals	Tues 12/8	FINAL EXAM (CH. 10-14) 8:00 in Straub 145	

COURSE SCHEDULE FOR LAB

Week	Lab Topic	Handouts	Due
1	Introduction; Searching for Articles, Discuss research topic	Article Summaries (2); Literature Review Paper	
2	Title Page; References; Citations; Literature Review		Article Summaries (2)
3	Correlational Study Guidelines; hypotheses	Data Collection 1 (5 participants)	
4	Abstract; Introduction; Method; Survey Discussion	Correlational Study Paper Guidelines	Literature Review Paper ; Data Collection 1 (5 participants)
5	Statistics and Analysis; Results and Discussion Sections	Data Collection 2 (5 participants)	
6	Introduction to Experimental Paper	Article Summaries (2); Experimental Paper Guidelines	Correlation Paper ; Data Collection 2 (5 participants)
7	Measurement Activity; Data Analysis		Article Summaries (2)
8	Writing up experimental method, results, and discussion sections		
9	NO LABS: THANKSGIVING		
10	Writing help day		Experimental Paper (due by Friday 12/4 at 4:00 PM)