

**Research Methods**  
Psychology 303; CRN 37669

<b>Lecture</b>
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**Instructor:** Jason Isbell  
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**Office Hours:** After class or by appointment, in LISB 232  
**Lecture:** MTWR, 12:00-12:50pm in 162 LIL

**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 is much more important, for it 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. 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 the correct way to pursue it.

**Course Prerequisites:**

In addition to WR 122 or 123, PSY 201, and PSY 202, successful completion of Psychology 302 (Statistics) 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 and Recommended Books:****Required Books (1):**

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

The textbook, *Methods of Behavioral Research*, is an excellent book that is very user-friendly. 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](http://www.mhhe.com/cozby11e)

### **Recommended books (1):**

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

### **Blackboard:**

Blackboard will be used in this course as an online resource for the syllabus, lecture slides, activity assignments, study guides, lab materials (i.e. handouts, homework assignments, online surveys), and APA formatting resources. It is recommended that you frequently check Blackboard in order to stay up to date on the course materials that are posted from week to week. 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>.

### **Grading:**

In general, written work in this course will be graded based on form (i.e., proper APA formatting, spelling, grammar, sentence structure), 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). Note that no extra credit is offered in the course.

Grades will be assigned based on your total percentage points in the course (i.e., your point total/450):

GRADE	PERCENTAGE		GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A+	97-100%		C	73.1-76.9%
A	93.1-96.9%		C-	70-73%
A-	90-93%		D+	67-69.9%
B+	87-89.9%		D	63.1-66.9%
B	83.1-86.9%		D-	60-63%
B-	80-83%		F	59.9% and Below
C+	77-79.9%			

### **Course Points:**

#### **Lecture (250 points)**

Quizzes: 50 points  
Midterm Exam: 100 points  
Final Exam: 100 points

#### **Lab (200 points)**

Lab Participation: 10 points  
Lab Homework: 30 points  
Literature Review Paper: 25 points  
Correlational Study Paper: 55 points  
Experimental Study Paper: 80 points

**Total Points: 450**

## **Course Components:**

### **Quizzes (50 points):**

There will be 5 quizzes throughout the term worth 10 points each. They will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions (worth 1 point each) and will be based on both lecture and textbook material. Note that if you are absent, quizzes cannot be made up. Be sure to keep the quizzes for later study materials, as some of the quiz questions may appear on exams.

### **Exams (200 points):**

There will be two exams throughout the term, 1 midterm and 1 final (see Course Calendar for specific dates). Each exam will cover the textbook chapters listed in the course calendar in addition to the lecture material we covered in class. The exams will consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions. Each exam will be worth 100 points and the final exam will not be comprehensive. Study guides will be handed out one week prior to the exam date. You will not need to bring scantron forms.

### **Lab Work (200 points):**

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 literature review 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 experimental study 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 Expectations:**

### **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. 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.

### **Academic Responsibility:**

Attendance is critical to earning a good grade for the course. I do not take roll, however, it is very important that you show up to class to participate. This class will be guided by University Policies that entails a standard of responsibility, honesty, and integrity for me, your classmates, and the work that you do. This also means that you should do your absolute best to attend every class meeting, and to come to class prepared and ready to participate in our discussions. There will be topics in lecture that may not be in the textbook, and there will be exam questions based on lecture material. In addition, there will be certain things we shall do in class (demonstrations, videos, etc.) to which exam questions will apply, and

therefore, you must show up if you wish to do well on the exams. Finally, the quizzes will also be an indirect measure of your attendance and participation, and once again, these cannot be made up. 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/guidelines/index.htm>

## **Student Accommodations:**

### **Students with Disabilities:**

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me. Also, please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities, Molly Sirois, send me a letter verifying your disability. The phone number for disability services is 346-1155 and the email address is [disabsrv@uoregon.edu](mailto:disabsrv@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 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 me ahead of time.

## **Learning Objectives, Activities, and Assessment:**

<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
To gain an understanding of how to conduct research in psychology and how to write APA style papers.	Lectures, readings, lab activities, group discussions, lab research projects.	Exams, quizzes, lab homework, term papers.
To learn how to formulate and test scientific hypotheses.	Lectures, readings, group discussions, lab research projects.	Exams, short answer essays, quizzes, term papers.
To learn the basic principles of different research designs, and what conclusions can be drawn from them.	Lectures, group discussions, readings, lab research projects.	Exams, short answer essays, quizzes, term papers.
To understand the concepts of reliability and validity and why they are essential to psychological measures and scientific conclusions.	Lectures, readings, group discussions.	Exams, short answer essays, quizzes, lab activities.
To understand some basic principles of statistical analyses, statistical results, and how to code data.	Lectures, readings, group discussions, lab activities and term papers.	Exams, quizzes, term papers.
To learn the ethical responsibilities of conducting psychological research.	Lectures, readings, group discussions.	Exams, short answer essays, quizzes
To understand the limitations and implications in generalizing research results to larger populations.	Lectures, readings, group discussions.	Exams, quizzes