

PSY 303: RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY

University of Oregon

Spring 2018

<http://canvas.uoregon.edu>

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Office: STB 306

Office Hours: Mon & Wed 3-4 PM; and by appointment if necessary

Course Meeting Times

Mon/Wed 4:00 – 5:20 STB 006

Course Materials

Files on Canvas (required)

All required course materials (handouts, assignments) will be posted on the Canvas site.

Helpful resources (recommended)

“ American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: APA. (Available at Duckstore)

“ Strunk, W., Jr., & White, E. B. (2000). *The elements of style* (4th ed.). New York: Longman. (Available at Duckstore)

Course Description

This course is the final course in the 301-303 series. You will be building on the critical thinking skills that you practiced in PSY 301 and the data analysis skills that you gained in PSY 302 in order to design, implement, analyze, draw conclusions from, write up, and present scientific research in psychology.

You and your classmates will be working together to design, analyze, write about, and discuss your research. The main assignments will be two main research papers based on a correlational

research study and an experimental research study. You will also present your experimental study to the class to gain practice communicating research effectively.

This course may be repeated for credit a maximum of one time provided there is a change in topic.

Learning Objectives

- “ Review existing psychological literature: perform effective literature searches, identify key research questions and hypotheses in scientific articles, and critically evaluate the research design and quality of evidence presented
- “ Conduct your own original research: generate research questions and hypotheses, evaluate ethical considerations, design materials to measure variables, and collect data
- “ Analyze, interpret, and communicate your findings: choose appropriate basic statistical analysis techniques for specific research questions and specific data sets, perform basic data analyses, and summarize the results in an APA-style report and an oral presentation.

Student Workload

When you complete this course, you will earn 4 credits toward your degree. Four credits is the equivalent of 120 hours of work across the term, or 12 hours per week for 10 weeks. You will spend 3 hours in class each week. The other 9 hours will be spent completing assignments.

Assignments

Papers

Correlational Paper (1st half of course, see canvas for paper description and grading rubric)

Experimental Paper (2nd half of course, see canvas for paper description and grading rubric)

All writing assignments must be completed independently, however, receiving feedback on drafts from group members, friends, tutors, and instructors is encouraged and completely appropriate. In all cases you must not have the writing done for you.

Late Papers: Regardless of the reason, late papers will receive a loss of .5% point per hour, rounded to the nearest hour.

Future Directions Poster Presentation

During the last week of classes, your group will present a future directions poster based on the results of the experimental paper. Future Directions Poster Presentation: Your presentation

should include relevant background information, details about the methods, predictions, and a discussion of the significance and broader impact of the anticipated results.

Homework/Class Assignments/Attendance

Homeworks and class assignments are listed on the [Course Schedule](#) and uploaded on canvas. Attendance is recorded at the beginning of each class (If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to check with the professor to make sure you are recorded as present. You must be in class for at least 50% of class time to be counted as present).

Grading:

- 1 point for showing up for class on Mon and Wed (2 points total per week for the 10 weeks)
- 4 total Homework Assignments worth 5 points each, rated on a 5-point Likert scale for completeness and quality.
- 6 total Class Assignments worth 1 each, point given if you turned in the completed in-class assignment by the end of class.

Total possible points (20+20+6) = 46 points

Extra credit: 2 extra credit points are possible to earn throughout the term, opportunities will be announced when available. (This is intended to make up for any unforeseen circumstances that result in a missed class or missed assignment here and there).

Overall Grading

Final grades in this course will be determined by the following:

- Homework/Class Assignments/Attendance Grade: 15%
- Final Correlational Paper: 30%
- Future Directions/Experimental Design Poster: 15%
- Final Experimental Paper: 40%

Grades will be distributed as follows:

A+	97-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	0-59%
A	93-97%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%		
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

Please see the psychology department guidelines for a description of the type of achievement that each grade signifies: <http://psychology.uoregon.edu/courses/departement-grading-standards/>

Academic Honesty

All work submitted in this course must be your own. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade on any assignment. Violations will be taken very seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please ask me. For more information, see the UO website regarding academic honesty at: <http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct.aspx>

Academic Misconduct

The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas) and use only the sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students' obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism.

Special Accommodations

Accessible Education Center (AEC)

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor as soon as possible. Also, please request that a counselor at the Accessible Education Center (uoaec@uoregon.edu, tel. 541-346-1155) send a letter verifying your disability. For a list of resources provided by the Accessible Education Center, please see <http://aec.uoregon.edu>.

Students for Whom English is a Second Language

If you are a non-native English speaker and think you may have trouble in this course due to language difficulties, please connect with and seek resources offered by the Office of International Affairs, International Student Academic Support and Tutoring Services (<https://blogs.uoregon.edu/academicsupport/2016/04/08/tutoring/>).

Schedule

Date	In Class	Outside of Class
	WEEK 1	
Mon (4/2) Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Syllabus & Class Overview - Correlation vs. Experimental study - Writing a Scientific Paper - Using Google Scholar & research databases for literature searches - Selecting a study topic 	Work on literature search
Wed (4/4) Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue Literature Search -APA Citations & References Guidelines -Introduction Section Guidelines <p>Class Assignment #1: APA Style Reference list</p>	Start literature review
	WEEK 2	
Mon (4/9) Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IRB Ethical Situations Activity - IRB Informed Consent & Debrief Forms -Work on Introduction 	Work on Introduction
Wed (4/11) Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Work in groups on justifying study and making a clear hypothesis (share knowledge) Selecting Surveys, Survey item generation and validation -Assessing Reliability and Validity 	Work on Introduction

	WEEK 3	
Mon (4/16) Day 5	Methods Section Guidelines	Due by 9 PM: HW#1 (Introduction Draft)
Wed (4/18) Day 6	Correlational Study Data Analysis Class Assignment#2: SPSS Output	Work on Methods section
	WEEK 4	
Mon (4/23) Day 7	Results Section Guidelines Tables & Figures	Work on Results section
Wed (4/25) Day 8	Discussion Section Guidelines Class Assignment#3: Discussion Section Worksheet	Work on Discussion section
	WEEK 5	
Mon (4/30) Day 9	Title Page & Abstract	Due by 9 PM: HW#2 (Method section draft)

Wed (5/2) Day 10	Finalizing your paper Peer editing	Work on Finalizing Correlational Paper
Fri (5/4)	Optional Writing Workshop 10-11 AM (Straub 006) (Attendance & Participation: .5 Extra Credit)	
		Correlational Paper Due Sunday (5/6) @ 9pm
	WEEK 6	
Mon (5/7) Day 11	Introduction to Experimental Design & Experimental Project Topic	Work on Exp Paper Readings/Lit Review
Wed (5/9) Day 12	Study Design for Experimental Project Class Assignment#4: Experimental Study Methods Worksheet	Work on Exp Paper Readings/Lit Review
	WEEK 7	
Mon (5/14) Day 13	Get acquainted with experimental paper data sets and variables of interest Refresher on Regression; Moderation & Mediation statistical analyses	Due by 9 PM: HW#3 (Exp Paper Lit Review)

Wed (5/16) Day 14	Experimental Paper Data Analysis & Results Class Assignment#5: SPSS output	Work on Exp Paper Introduction Section
	WEEK 8	
Mon (5/21) Day 15	Experimental Paper Data Analysis & Results Tables and Figures for Experimental paper	Work on Exp Paper Results Section
Wed (5/23) Day 16	Experimental Paper Discussion Class Assignment #6: Exp Paper Discussion Worksheet	Work on Exp Paper Discussion Section
	WEEK 9	
Mon (5/28) Day 17	Memorial Day: No Class	Work on Exp Paper
Wed (5/30) Day 18	Presenting Scientific Research Poster Presentation Guidelines Experimental Design review Poster Groups	Due by 9 PM: HW#4 (Exp Paper Results section draft)

	WEEK 10	
Mon (6/4) Day 19	Poster Workshop	Work on Future Directions Poster
Wed (6/6) Day 20	Last Day! Experimental Poster Presentations	Due by 3 PM: Future Directions Poster
	EXAM WEEK	
6/11- 6/15	FINAL EXAMS WEEK	***Final Experimental Paper Due on Tues 6/12 at 9 PM*** + 1% point extra credit if turned in by Tues 3/20 at 9 PM