**PSY 303:  RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY**
**University of Oregon**
**Winter 2018**
http://canvas.uoregon.edu

**Instructor**: Dr. Kathleen Casto
**Email:** kcasto@uoregon.edu
**Office:**  STB 306
**Office Hours: Mon & Wed 10-11 AM & 3-4 PM; and by appointment if necessary**

**Course Meeting Times**
Mon/Wed 8:30 – 9:50 Section A (Mon: ED 117 ; Wed: STB 006)
Mon/Wed 4:00 – 5:20 Section B (Mon: STB 251; Wed: STB 006)

**Course Materials**

(1) **PDF files on Canvas (required)**
All required course materials (handouts, assignments) will be posted on the Canvas site.
(2) **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.

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 in 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 1% point per hour, rounded to the nearest hour.

Scientific 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, your results, a discussion of the significance of the results, and ideas for future research or improving upon your research study including hypotheses, proposed methods, and predictions.

Homework/Participation/Attendance

*(10 weeks – 3 points a week)*
- 1 point for showing up to class on both days (.5 for Mon, .5 for Wed)
- 1 point if you turned in the completed Homework for that week before class on Wed.
- 1 point if you turned in the completed in-class assignment by the end of class on Wed.
Total possible points = 30

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).

Homeworks *(subject to change)*:

HW1: Submit word doc with list and link 4-6 relevant articles:
-Having had read the articles and deemed them good, representative, and highly relevant of your study
-Include brief notes about studies as you read through them

HW2: Submit word doc with a complete outline and beginning draft of your introduction section for the correlation paper.  (See guidelines document on canvas)

HW3: Submit completed draft of introduction section and initial draft of methods section.  Bring two hard copies of this file to class for peer review.

HW4: SPSS Output of the correlation study data analysis, draft of results section, draft of table and figure

HW5: Completed Outline and Initial Draft of discussion section

HW6: Experimental study hypothesis & research article list (with links to related research articles)

HW7: Submit word doc with a complete outline and beginning draft of your introduction section for the experimental paper.

HW8: Submit word doc with a complete draft of methods section for the experimental paper.

HW9: Submit word doc with a complete draft of results section for the experimental paper

HW10: Submit word doc with completed poster presentation sections


**Grading**

Final grades in this course will be determined by the following:
 - ♦ Homework/Participation/Attendance Grade: 20%
 - ♦ Final Correlational Paper: 30%
 - ♦ Experimental Poster Presentation: 10%
 - ♦ 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/department-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

## 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 see the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary special arrangements.

## Course Schedule
*(Schedule is subject to change)*

| Date | In class | Outside of Class |
|---|---|---|
| Mon (1/8) Day 1 | - Syllabus & Class Overview<br>- Correlation vs. Experimental study<br>- Writing a scientific paper<br>- Using Google Scholar & research databases for literature searches<br>- Selecting a study topic | **Before next class: Submit HW1** |
| Wed (1/10) Day 2 | - APA Citations & References Guidelines<br>- write reference list for articles<br>- IRB Ethical Situations Activity<br>- IRB Informed Consent & Debrief Forms<br><br>**Class Assignment: APA Style Reference list** | **Read "introduction guidlines" materials; begin drafting your correlation paper introduction** |
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| Mon (1/15) Day 3 | MLK day<br><br>**No Class** | **Before next class: Submit HW2** |
| Wed (1/17) Day 4 | -Selecting Surveys, Survey item generation and validation<br>-Search for surveys related to your topic and of interest in relation to your topic<br>-Qualtrics<br><br>**Class Assignment: Surveys and New Survey items** | **Read IRB materials** |
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| Mon (1/22) Day 5 | Methods Sections<br>Protecting Human Subjects in Research: IRB forms and consent | **Before next class: Submit HW3 (bring 2 hard copies of your introduction & method sections to class)** |
| Wed (1/24) Day 6 | Peer Review of Introduction & Methods sections<br><br>**Class Assignment: Peer Edit Intro. & Method Sections (track-changes)** | |
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| Mon (1/29) Day 7 | Results Section Guidelines<br>Displaying research results using tables and figures<br>Correlational Data Analysis & Interpretation | **Before next class: Submit HW4** |

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| Wed (1/31) Day 8 | - Correlational Data Analysis & Results Peer review and edits<br>- Tables & Figures Peer review and edits<br><br>**Class Assignment: Edited results section (track-changes, table, and figure)** | |
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| Mon (2/5) Day 9 | - Discussion Section Guidelines<br>- Title Page, Abstract, & Appendix | **Before next class: Submit HW5** |
| Wed (2/7) Day 10 | - Discuss & Interpret Results with Other Groups<br>- Write and address remaining questions<br><br>**Class Assignment: Edited discussion section (track-changes)** | |
| | | **\*\*\*Correlational Paper Due Sunday (2/11) @ 9pm\*\*\*** |
| Mon (2/12) Day 11 | - Introduction to Experimental Design & Research Topic<br>- Choose a Research Question & Hypothesis | **Before next class: Submit HW6** |
| Wed (2/14) Day 12 | - Introduction & Method Section Guidelines<br>- Experimental Literature Search<br><br>**Class Assignment: TBD** | |
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| Mon (2/19) Day 13 | Return Correlational Paper Grades, discuss areas for improvement<br><br>Get acquainted with experimental paper data sets and variables of interest | **Before next class: Submit HW7** |
| Wed (2/21) Day 14 | Experimental Paper Data Analysis & Results<br><br>**Class Assignment: TBD** | **Before next class: Submit HW8** |
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| Mon (2/26) Day 15 | Experimental Paper Data Analysis & Results<br><br>**Class Assignment: TBD** | |

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| Wed (2/28) Day 16 | No Class | |
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| Mon (3/5) Day 17 | Discussion Section Guidelines<br><br>Poster Presentation Guidelines | **Before next class: Submit HW9** |
| Wed (3/7) Day 18 | Poster Presentation Workshop<br><br>**Class Assignment: TBD** | |
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| Mon (3/12) Day 19 | Presenting Scientific Research | **Before next class: Submit HW10** |
| Wed (3/14) Day 20 | **Last Day!**<br><br>Experimental Poster Presentations<br><br>**Class Assignment:  Peer Questions** | |
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| 3/19-3/23 | FINAL EXAMS WEEK | ***Final Experimental Paper Due on Wed 3/21 at 9 PM***<br><br>+ 2% points extra credit if turned in by Mon 3/19 at 9 PM;<br>+ 1% point extra credit if turned in by Tues 3/20 at 9 PM |