

**Experimental Psychology**  
Psychology 300, Section 003  
Fall 2009, Wood 324  
Lecture: TR 12:30-1:50  
Lab 03L: Wood 321, Tuesdays 2-2:55

Instructor: Dr. Kate Burns

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Office: MAC C316

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Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 2-3; Tuesdays 3-4; Thursdays 2:30-4:30, or by appointment

**Course objectives:**

This course is designed to provide an overview of the methods used in psychological research, with the primary focus being on experimental methods. You will design and conduct an experimental research project that you will analyze and present in written and oral formats. This class will lay the foundation for the rest of your psychology coursework and will give you hands-on research experience.

Consistent with the psychology department's (and APA's) learning outcomes, this course will allow you to increase your knowledge base of psychology, better understand research methods, develop critical thinking skills, be an ethical researcher, use technology, and communicate effectively in a variety of formats.

**Required Course Materials (Available at the bookstore):**

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American psychological association*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Stangor, C. (2007). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin.

**Course requirements:**

*Exams.* There will be a midterm and final exam (50 points each). The midterm will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. The final exam will be a combination of short answer and essay questions. Both the material discussed in class and the assigned reading will be included on the exams. You are responsible for the material in the assigned readings even if it is not covered in class.

*Makeup exam policy.* There will be no make-up exams. Exceptions for catastrophic cases will be reviewed individually and will require proper documentation. If you have a conflict with a scheduled exam, please see me well before that time.

*Homework Assignments.* There will be multiple homework assignments due throughout the semester on the days noted in the course schedule (varying points; 100 points total). These assignments will help you progress on your research project as well as allow you to develop your research skills.

*Research Project.* You will be designing and carrying out an experiment in small groups. You will present your results in an APA style scientific paper (50 points) at the end of the semester, as well as receive feedback along the way with drafts of your introduction and results sections (20 points each). Your draft of your discussion section is not due to me, but I will be happy to review this individually if you so request it. If you choose this option, you must turn in a draft by 12/8. I will not review drafts after this date.

Oral Defense: During the last week of class, you will answer a randomly drawn question in front of the class about your project (20 points). You will be given the list of questions ahead of time in order to prepare.

Poster Session: As a group, you will be creating a poster and presenting your project results (30 points) on 12/11 from 3-5 p.m. Other faculty and students will be invited to attend this session.

Group Participation/Evaluation: My expectation is that you will contribute equally to this project. As such, each group member's contributions will be evaluated by the group (and the professor) (20 points).

*Attendance.* Attendance is highly recommended. A significant portion of your grade for this class is the group research project and other work that will be conducted or announced in class. For labs, you will lose 5 points from your final grade for any unexcused absences. To have an absence be excused, you will need to have an

appropriate reason for missing class and have it approved by me before lab. If something happens on your way to lab that prevents you from attending, I expect you to call me as soon as possible.

**Late Policy:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class. If you turn in your assignment the day it is due, but after class, there will be a 5% point deduction. There will be a 10% point deduction for each day an assignment is late (I count weekend days too).

Please read the assigned reading before class. It will make the class easier to understand and you will get more out of it. Class participation is encouraged. If you have questions about something, other people probably do too. Please ask me in class, or if you prefer, come talk to me during my office hours.

I reserve the right to modify the course requirements and/or schedule as deemed appropriate and with reasonable notice of such revisions.

### CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: September 4  
Introduction

Week 2: September 7-11  
Introduction to Research Chapter 1  
Lab: Generating Research Ideas  
Developing Research Hypotheses Chapter 2  
**Idea Generation Exercise (5 points) Due 9/10**

Week 3: September 14-18  
Continue Developing Research Hypotheses Chapter 2  
Lab: Ethical Problems  
Ethics Chapter 3  
**IRB Certification (10 points) Due 9/17**

Week 4: September 21-25  
Measures Chapter 4  
Lab: Literature Searches  
**Library Assignment (10 points) Due 9/24**

Week 5: September 28-October 2  
Reliability and Validity Chapter 5  
Lab: Work on individual research proposals  
Surveys and Sampling Chapter 6  
**Individual Research Proposal (10 points) Due 10/1**

Week 6: October 5-9  
Continue Surveys and Sampling Chapter 6  
Lab: Get into Groups and Work on References/IRB Proposal  
**MIDTERM EXAM October 8th**  
**References (10 points) Due 10/8**

Week 7: October 12-16  
Correlational Research Chapter 9  
Lab: Writing (Introduction, APA style)  
Experimental Research Chapter 10  
**Group IRB Proposal (20 points) Due 10/15**

Week 8: October 19-23  
Continue Experimental Research Chapter 10  
**APA Style Practice Handout (10 points) Due 10/20**

<p>Lab: Group Work  Factorial Designs  <b>Rough draft of experimental materials (10 points) Due 10/22</b></p>	Chapter 11
<p>Week 9: October 26-30  Continue Factorial Designs  Lab: Reviewing Data Entry and Analysis  External Validity  <b>Data Analysis/Interpretation Worksheet (10 points) Due 10/29</b></p>	Chapter 11 Chapter 13
<p>Week 10: November 2-6  <b>Data Collection 12:30-2:30 November 3rd &amp; 5<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Introduction Due 11/3</b>  Lab: Data Collection</p>	
<p>Week 11: November 9-13  Internal Validity  <b>Data (5 points) Due 11/10 (Bring to lab)</b>  Lab: Data Entry and Analysis</p>	Chapter 12
<p>Week 12: November 16-20  Hypothesis Testing  Lab: Reporting Research Results</p>	Chapter 8
<p>Week 13: November 23-27  Quasi-Experimental Designs  <b>Results Section Due 11/24</b>  Lab: Work on group project  No class 11/26—Happy Thanksgiving!</p>	Chapter 14
<p>Week 14: November 30-December 4  Writing Discussion Sections  Lab: Work on group project  How to do a poster</p>	
<p>Week 15: December 7-11  <b>Oral Defense</b>  Lab: Work on group project  <b>Poster Session 12/11 3-5 p.m. MAC Hall Winter Garden</b></p>	
<p>Finals Week: December 14-18  <b>Final Research Paper Due by Noon 12/14 to D2L Dropbox</b>  <b>Final Exam: December 17 (Thursday) 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</b></p>	

**Please block off the following times, outside of class, for class activities:**

Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 1:50-2:30 p.m. for data collection (the remainder will be in class/lab)  
Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 3-5 p.m. for the poster presentation

<b>Grading:</b>	Homework Assignments*:	100
	Rough Draft of Intro and Results (20 points each):	40
	Group Participation/Evaluation:	20
	Oral Defense:	20
	Poster:	30
	Final Research Paper:	50
	Two exams worth 50 points each:	<u>100</u>
	<b>Total points</b>	<b>360</b>

\*Points breakdown for homework assignments specified in course schedule.

A	93.0-100%	BC	78.0-82.9%	D	63.0-67.9%
AB	88.0-92.9%	C	73.0-77.9%	F	below 63.0%
B	83.0-87.9%	CD	68.0-72.9%		

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Consistent with the federal law and the policies of the University of Wisconsin, it is the policy of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay to provide appropriate and necessary accommodations to students with documented physical and learning disabilities. If you anticipate requiring any auxiliary aids or services, you should contact me or the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities at 465-2849 as soon as possible to discuss your needs and arrange for the provision of services.

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Academic Honesty: Cheating is not fair to honest students, is counter to the purpose of the university, and is not in your best interest. This policy is especially important given your research project and its demands. When you are using the references to construct your introduction, you will need to properly cite others' ideas and make sure you properly paraphrase. You will collect group data, but will write the abstract, introduction, results, and discussion sections yourself. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated—if you copy from a text, a website, a classmate, or in any way turn in an assignment that is not written in your own words, you will receive 0 points on that assignment.