

Experimental Psychology (PSYCH 300)

Syllabus Spring 2008

MWF 12-12:50 MAC 219
Lab W 11-11:50 IS1129A

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Office Hours:	Mondays, Tuesdays, & Fridays 10 – 12 or by appt.

Course Description: This course will provide you with knowledge about and hands-on practice with research methods in psychology. It is my hope that the knowledge and skills that you gain from this class will help you to apply and critique the scientific method in your course work at UWGB and your future career. You will learn how to plan, conduct, and analyze your own experimental research, and how to communicate the results of your research to others. Each major stage of research (formulating a research idea and design, collecting and analyzing data, and reporting the results) will take us through the course so that at the end of the semester each of you will have completed an entire experiment – from beginning to end. You will learn how to critically examine published research, and will complete this course with the knowledge and skills to make a good consumer of psychological research as well as research in any discipline.

This course meets the following **Psychology Department Learning Outcomes:**

- Be able to identify the assumptions and characteristics of experimental and non-experimental research in psychology, and the constraints on the inferences that can be made from the results of research.
- Be able to access the professional resources in psychology and other professional journals.
- Be able to understand and critically evaluate published research in psychology and recognize its implications.
- Be able to design, conduct and statistically analyze basic research, and can report research according to the format adopted by the American Psychological Association (APA).
- Be able to understand and apply the APA guidelines for the ethical treatment of research participants.
- Corresponding to the team approach taken in the work place, graduate school, and learning environments, students will collaborate in the design and execution of research projects.

Course website: Course announcements, grades, the syllabus, homework assignments, and other information relevant to the course will be posted on D2L: <https://uwgb.courses.wisconsin.edu>
Please look at the site regularly as ALL dates are tentative and are subject to change.

Required Text:

Milinki, A. K. 2006. *A Cross Section of Psychological Research, 2/e.* Glendale, CA: Pyczak Publishing. ISBN: 1-884585-69-8

Recommended Texts (but not required):

Cozby, P.C. 2006. *Methods in Behavioral Research, 9/e.* Boston: McGraw Hill Higher Education. ISBN-13: 978-0-07-353181-6

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 5/e. 2001. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. ISBN 1-55798-790-4

Research Journal: You will need a small notebook to keep as a journal that you will bring with you to class and lab to make notes on, reflect in, and use as a record of your journey through the research process.

Grading:

Grades will be based on the following:

Q1-Q12 online multiple choice quizzes (10 points each)	120
IWS1 (Individual Worksheet 1): Mainstream Media	10
IWS2: IRB Ethics Training	10
IWS3: Literature Search and Research Proposal	25
IWS4: Formation of the Research Idea for Final Project	15
GWS1: (Group Worksheet 1): Research Idea for Final Project	10
IWS5: IRB Proposal	25
GWS2: Submission of the final IRB Proposal	10
IWS6: Literature Review 2 nd article	15
IWS7: Graphing and Statistical Reporting	15
Class presentation (group)	30
Group Evaluations	20
Final Research Paper	50

Total points = 355

Letter grades will not be more stringent than the following:

≥ 326	A
312-326	AB
291-312	B
277-291	BC
255-277	C
241 – 255	CD
213-241	D
< 213	F

Quizzes: There will be twelve timed, multiple choice, online D2L quizzes that will cover material presented in class, *A Cross Section of Psychological Research*, homework, and labs. These are open-note quizzes with a 10 minute time limit once you begin taking the quiz (5 questions per quiz for 2 points each). I will post the quiz each Monday at 8:00 am on D2L as specified in the Class Schedule below and you will need to complete the quiz (and re-take) before noon on that Friday. You will have the ability to re-take the quiz once. I will record the average of your 2 attempts as the score for each quiz. If you get a 100% the first time around then, of course, you don't have to take the quiz again. You should be working on the weekly class-work and labs as a way to study for and learn the material for the quizzes.

Class Expectations:

1. I expect that you will attend all classes and labs and come prepared to each class. I expect that during class you will use common courtesy by not text messaging or accessing online sites not pertinent to the current class work, etc. We will have computers in our lab class and I expect that you will use these computers only to accomplish class work and not to check your email or surf the web, etc.
2. I expect that you will hand in assignments **on time** that show **pride** in the product and I will take off points if homework is late (2 points per day). If you are ill and cannot hand in your homework you must call or email before class-time to avoid losing points. **All assignments must be typed.**

3. Honor Code: There are many opportunities to work with others in this course, however, it is my expectation, unless otherwise instructed, that you will each complete your own individual work. That means that you will, as an individual, complete all online quizzes, individual homework assignments, and the final paper. 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.

On plagiarism:

Using someone else's ideas or phrasing and representing those ideas or phrasing as our own, either on purpose or through carelessness, is a serious offense known as plagiarism. "Ideas or phrasing" includes written or spoken material, of course — from whole papers and paragraphs to sentences, and, indeed, phrases — but it also includes statistics, lab results, art work, etc. "Someone else" can mean a professional source, such as a published writer or critic in a book, magazine, encyclopedia, or journal; an electronic resource such as material we discover on the World Wide Web; another student at our school or anywhere else; a paper-writing "service" (online or otherwise) which offers to sell written papers for a fee.

More info for students at: <http://webster.comnet.edu/mla/plagiarism.shtml>

****Note:** 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.

Class Schedule

Week: Date	Topics covered in lecture (info covered in weekly quiz)	Lab	Assigned	Due dates (all quizzes by noon on date)
Week 1: 1/23	Scientific Understanding of Behavior Theory and Research: find and read journal articles Article: Appendix A	Scientific vs. other types of info – magazine exercise	No Quiz IWS1: Media “research”	IWS1 1/25
Week 2: 1/28	Ethics in Research Film: <i>Quiet Rage</i>	So you want to be an IRB member?	Quiz 1 IWS2: IRB Certification	Q1 2/1
Week 3: 2/4	Research Design, Variables, Operational Definitions Article: 33	Lit Searches Dave Dettman	Quiz 2 IWS3: Literature Searches	Q2 2/8 IWS2 2/6
Week 4: 2/11 *No class 2/15	Reliability and Validity Articles: 30, 31, 33	*Get into groups! Work on group article/ research idea	Quiz 3 IWS4: Formation of Research Idea	Q3 2/15 IWS3 2/11
Week 5: 2/18	Indexes and Scales Sampling	Research Idea for Final Project	Quiz 4 GWS1: Research Idea for Final Project	Q4 2/22 IWS4 2/18 GWS1 2/20
Week 6: 2/25	Experimental Design Articles: 8, 20, 21	Design Experiment and start IRB Proposal	Quiz 5 IWS5: IRB Individual Proposal	Q5 2/29
Week 7: 3/3	Experimental Design, cont. Internal and External Validity Articles: 17, 18	Work on GWS2: IRB Group Proposal Draft	Quiz 6 GWS2: IRB Group Proposal Draft	Q6 3/7 IWS5 3/3
Week 8: 3/10	Survey Research Articles: 1, 2	Submit GWS2 IRB Group Proposal Final (revised) Schedule Data Collection	Quiz 7 IWS6: Literature Review – another article	Q7 3/14 GWS2 3/12
3/17	SPRING BREAK	*****	*****	*****
Week 9: 3/24	Survey Research continued Article: 3	Start Data Collection	Quiz 8	Q8 3/28 IWS6 3/28
Week 10: 3/31	Observing Behavior: Quantitative/Qualitative approaches	Data Collection continued Set up SPSS file	Quiz 9	Q9 4/4

	Articles: 15, 16, 17, 38			
Week 11: 4/7	Physical Trace, Content Analysis, Focus Groups, etc. Article : 41	Data Entry Graphing/ Stats	Quiz 10 IWS7 : Graphing and Stats	Q10 4/11
Week 12: 4/14	Statistical Analyses – reporting stats in APA style	Data Analysis	Quiz 11	Q11 4/18 IWS7 4/16
Week 13: 4/21	Writing in APA style Class Presentation Preparation	Work on presentations – Power Point	Quiz 12 – last!	Q12 4/25
Week 14: 4/28	Class Presentations	Work on papers – APA Style		
Week 15: 5/5	Class Presentations	Work on papers – APA Style		
Week 16: 5/12	Review Turn in personal research journals			Final Paper due by 1:00 pm 5/19