

PSYCH 300: Experimental Psychology

Lecture: MW 9-9:50am -- Section 002; Class Number 3195

Lab: MW 10-10:50am -- Section 02L; Class Number 3197

Spring 2008 – WH 321

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Office hours: Mondays 1pm-4pm, Wednesdays 12pm-3pm, & by appointment

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Required text: Martin, D. W. (2008). *Doing Psychology Experiments*. 7th Edition. Wadsworth.

Course description: The purpose of this course is to provide you with an introduction to research methods used in psychology. Regardless of your career goals, the knowledge and skills you will gain in this course will be widely applicable in any scientific field. You will learn about the process of experimentation and scientific thought in psychological research, and how to apply this process to your own psychological research questions. 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. The goal is that you will gain an understanding of research methodology so that you will be better prepared to pursue advanced studies in any scientific discipline.

Psychology Student Learning Outcomes covered in this course:

- 1) Can identify the assumptions and characteristics of experimental and nonexperimental research in psychology, and the constraints on the inferences that can be made from the results of research.
- 2) Can access the professional resources in psychology (e.g., Psychological Abstracts, PsychInfo (electronic database), and other professional journals, Annual Reviews of Psychology, etc.)
- 3) Can understand and critically evaluate published research in psychology and recognize its implications.
- 4) Can communicate clearly in writing about issues and topics in psychology.
- 5) Can design, conduct and statistically analyze basic research, and can report research according to the format adopted by the American Psychological Association (APA).
- 6) Understands and can apply the APA guidelines for the ethical treatment of subjects (human or animal).
- 7) Corresponding to the team approach taken in work place, graduate school, and learning environments, students will be encouraged to 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.

Attendance: Attendance is highly recommended. Information will be covered in class that is not covered in the book. You will be responsible for information that is discussed in class, regardless of whether or not it is included in the readings. Also, you will be working on collaborative research projects and each week everyone's input will be required in the lab portion of the course. Additionally, there may be the possibility of a few extra credit points over the course of the semester through in-class activities. Remember, you are encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions.

Class Expectations: 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 classroom 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. When we are not using the computers (i.e. during lecture) I expect you to have all programs on the computer closed. If I find this not to be the case, points will be deducted for each offense.

Readings: Please complete the assigned readings prior to class. The instructor will not simply review the material presented in the readings, but instead will build on the concepts introduced through the readings. Keeping up with the reading will help you both get more out of class discussions and aid in your retention of the material.

Self-Tests: In order to facilitate the reading of the material prior to class, you will be required to submit a self-test via D2L for each chapter **before class begins on the day they are due**. The problems (all multiple choice) in the self-tests will provide you with an opportunity to test whether or not you really understand the material you have read.

One unique aspect about the self-tests is that you may take each one twice. When you feel you have a solid understanding of the chapter, you should take the self-test the first time. Then, go back over the quiz and note the items that you answered incorrectly. Go back to your course textbook and figure out where you went wrong. After reviewing your problems areas, you should take the self-test again. Taking each chapter self-test once is REQUIRED; taking each chapter self-test twice is OPTIONAL. Do note, however, that I will record the average of the two grades if two attempts are completed.

Homework: Homework is outlined in the attached schedule. Note some of these assignments are group assignments and some are individual assignments. More information on each assignment will be either handed out in class or posted on D2L.

Please note: The questions must be answered in your own words. If you copy from the text, a website, a classmate, or in any way turn in an assignment that is not written in your own words, you will receive a failing grade on that assignment.

From the University: As required by federal law and UW-Green Bay policy for Individuals with Disabilities, students with a documented disability who need accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at 465-2841. Reasonable accommodations can be made unless they alter the essential components of the class. Contact should be made with the Disability Services Office and the instructor during the first week of class.

Grading:

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 12 Self-tests @ 15 points each | 180 points |
| Final Paper | 100 points |
| Homework | (approximately) 310 points |
| Mainstream Media | 20 |
| Literature Search | 25 |
| Research Ideas | 5 |
| IRB Proposal | 25 |
| Creating an Experiment | 25 |
| Researcher Training | 10 |
| Introduction/Methods | 30 |
| Graphing Practice | 20 |
| Results/Discussion | 30 |
| Group Presentation | 40 |
| Group Evaluations | 80 (approximately) |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>310 (approximately)</u> |

Grades will be assigned in the following manner:

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|-----|---------|-----|--------|-----|--------|---|--------|
| A | 93-100% | B | 83-87% | C | 73-77% | D | 60-67% |
| A/B | 88-92% | B/C | 78-82% | C/D | 68-72% | F | <60% |

| Day | Date | Topic | Reading/ Self-Test Due | Assigned | Due |
|-----|------|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| W | 1/23 | Introduction to Course | | Mainstream Media 20 pts | |
| M | 1/28 | How to Make Orderly Observations | Chapter 1 Self-Test | Researcher Training Test 10 pts | Mainstream Media |
| W | 1/30 | How to Get an Experimental Idea | Chapter 3 Self-Test | | |
| M | 2/4 | How to Find Out What Has Already Been Done | Chapter 6 Self-Test | | |
| W | 2/6 | Searching Through the Literature | | Literature Search 25 pts | |
| M | 2/11 | How to Do Experiments | Chapter 2 Self-Test | | Literature Search |
| W | 2/13 | Experimental Groups **This is a very important day as groups will be created. | | Research Ideas 5 pts | Researcher Training Test |
| M | 2/18 | Institutional Review Board | | IRB Proposal 25 points | Research Ideas |
| W | 2/20 | Research Design I: Independent and Dependent Variables | Chapter 7 Self-Test | Creating an Experiment 25 points | |
| M | 2/25 | Research Design II: Between-subjects vs. Within-subjects | Chapter 8 Self-Test | | |
| W | 2/27 | Research Design III: Single-Variable, Multiple- Variable & Converging-Series Experiments | Chapter 9 Self-Test | | IRB Proposal |
| M | 3/3 | How to Tell When You Are Ready To Begin | Chapter 11 Self-Test | | Creating an Experiment |
| W | 3/5 | PILOT STUDIES | | | |
| M | 3/10 | PILOT STUDIES | | | |
| W | 3/12 | PILOT STUDIES | | | |
| M | 3/17 | Spring Break | | | |
| W | 3/19 | Spring Break | | | |
| M | 3/24 | Anatomy of a Research Article & APA Overview of Introduction/Methods | Handout & Chapter 13 Self-Test | Begin Running Experiment & Introduction/Methods Draft 30 pts | |

*Self-tests are due before class begins on the date indicated in the schedule.

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| W | 3/26 | How to Be Fair With Participants | Chapter 4 Self-Test | | |
| M | 3/31 | Stanford Prison Experiment | | | |
| W | 4/2 | How to Be Fair With Science | Chapter 5 Self-Test | | |
| M | 4/7 | How to Interpret Experimental Results | Chapter 12 Self-Test | Graphing Practice 20 pts | End Running Experiment *bring data to class on Monday |
| W | 4/9 | Data Analysis (graphing & SPSS data setup) | Appendix A will be used as necessary | | Introduction/Methods Draft |
| M | 4/14 | Data Analysis (SPSS) | Appendix A will be used as necessary | | Graphing Practice |
| W | 4/16 | Anatomy of a Research Article & APA Overview of Results/Discussion | Handout & Chapter 13 | Results/Discussion Draft 30 pts | |
| M | 4/21 | Group work: Abstract/Results | Chapter 13 | | |
| W | 4/23 | Public presentation of results | | Group Presentation 40 pts | |
| M | 4/28 | Work on presentation *Intro/Methods drafts returned | | | |
| W | 4/30 | Group Presentations | | Group Evaluations 10 pts each | Group Presentations Group Evaluations Results/Discussion Draft |
| M | 5/5 | Group Presentations | | Group Evaluations 10 pts each | Group Presentations Group Evaluations |
| W | 5/7 | Group Presentations | | Group Evaluations 10 pts each | Group Presentations Group Evaluations |
| M | 5/12 | Review of Presentations Final Paper Questions Final Exam Review *Results/Discussion drafts returned | | | |
| M | 5/19 | FINAL PAPER DUE 100 pts Includes: Title Page Abstract Main Text References Submitted via D2L dropbox which will close at 10:00am | | | |

*Self-tests are due before class begins on the date indicated in the schedule.