

**PSY 3001W (010) Introduction to Research Methods
Fall, 2009**

Class meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 – 8:00 pm in Elliott Hall S150

Instructor:

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Office hours: By appointment – email me at the address above

Course Description: PSY 3001W (3 cr) is an introduction to the basic concepts and procedures used to conduct and evaluate research in Psychology. Emphasis is placed on understanding traditional research methods, applying sound experimental techniques in order to produce interpretable results, and evaluating scientific claims. PSY 3001W is a writing intensive (WI) course and satisfies a Liberal Education social science requirement. As such, students will complete a number of writing assignments, culminating in an APA style research report. This course meets the writing intensive requirement stating that at least 33% of the student's final grade must be based upon student writing. Prerequisites: PSY 1001 (Intro Psychology), PSY 2801 (Intro to Psychological Measurement and Data Analysis), and at least sophomore standing.

Course Goals:

1. To develop your skills in critically evaluating evidence and claims arising in the behavioral sciences and the popular press.
2. To provide you with an understanding of the fundamental concepts and procedures characterizing scientific investigation in psychology.
3. To provide experience in applying data analysis techniques to data gathered in the conduct of behavioral research.
4. To develop your skills in scientific communication.

Textbook: Cozby, P. C. (2007). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (10th ed.). Boston, MA: McGraw Hill.

Website: WebVista site (NOTE: You may need to set up your internet browser; see <http://webct.umn.edu/browser/>) Access by clicking on the MyU links on either the school website (<http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/index.php>) or Onestop (<http://onestop.umn.edu/onestop/index.html>). Select the “My Courses” tab, then click on the WebVista C link under PSY 3001W. Click “Log In” then click on 3001W.

You will need to access the website frequently as it will contain: (1) your grades, (2) course materials, (3) writing samples, (4) discussion boards, and (5) a copy of this syllabus.

Lectures and Labs:

Each class session will involve both lecture and lab time, with approximately the half of each day dedicated to lecture and half to lab. Lectures will be based on material from the book and from outside sources. NOTE: Students are responsible for all material in the assigned readings in the book whether or not it is discussed in class. Lab activities will be conducted in order to extend, apply, and practice the principles learned in lecture.

Students will earn points IN CLASS in two ways:

(1) Quizzes (3 points each): A short 3-question quiz will be given at the beginning of each class session, unless there is an exam scheduled for that day. Quizzes will typically address the main points of the material covered in the previous class session. There are 25 quizzes this semester. The lowest two quiz scores will be dropped, so there are 69 possible quiz points. Quizzes are used to encourage prompt arrival to class and frequent review of the course materials, as well as to monitor for any common misunderstandings of the material among students.

(2) Participation points (2 points each): Students will earn points for participating in the lab activities each day. To earn Participation points, you must perform the activities. No Participation scores will be dropped, so there are 56 possible Participation points. Participation points are used to encourage attendance and active participation in all lab activities.

*** The nature of the classes is such that you must be present during the scheduled class session in order to perform the tasks. As such, **THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES OR LAB ACTIVITIES**. Students who miss a class and who provide evidence that their absence is legitimate will be given the Participation points for that day, but not the quiz points. The 0 on that quiz will count as one of your dropped lowest scores. The Instructor alone will determine whether an absence is legitimate (see “Legitimate Absences” below).***

Exams:

There will be 3 non-cumulative exams as well as a final exam that will be composed approximately of half material covered after Exam 3 and half cumulative information. Exams 1, 2, and 3 will be worth 60 points each, and the Final Exam will be worth 100 points. Thus, it is possible to accumulate 280 points on exams. Exams 1, 2, and 3 will be scheduled for the first 45 minutes of the lecture period on the dates scheduled. Two hours will be allotted for the final exam.

- Exams will be based on material from the book as well as lecture material. Material that is presented **ONLY** in lab activities will **NOT** appear on exams.
- All exams will be multiple-choice format.
- During exams, students will not be permitted to listen to audio reproduction devices (e.g. personal stereos). Students also will be asked to turn off cell phones and place them out of sight.

University policy requires that make-up tests be made available in very limited circumstances. Unless your situation fulfills the criteria outlined by the University, **REQUESTS FOR MAKE-UP TESTS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED**. The Instructor alone will determine whether an absence is legitimate (see “Legitimate Absences” below). Exams will be given on the dates shown on the attached Schedule (see page 5).

Writing Assignments:

Writing Assignments will be assigned and collected during the class sessions shown on the attached Schedule (see page 6). Most of these assignments will be related to the research manuscript that you will prepare, one section at a time, over the course of the semester. One additional assignment will give you practice evaluating journal articles. A total of 211 points can be earned through Writing

Assignments. Unless you receive explicit instructions to the contrary, **all writing assignments must be completed independently. While you will work with your group to come up with research ideas, you MUST write your own individual papers. The misrepresentation of someone else's writing – including the sample assignments provided – as your own constitutes scholastic dishonesty (see page 4).** All writing assignments must be typed and printed out at home – printing them on the lab computers is not allowed.

Policy on Late Assignments: 50% penalty

Writing Assignments must be turned in during the class period on the due date. Assignments turned in after class on the due date but before the beginning of the next class period will be scored but that score will be cut in half as a late penalty. Assignments will not be accepted after the beginning of the next class period. Please e-mail me if you turn a late assignment to let me know you have placed it in my mailbox on the 2nd floor of Elliott Hall.

- If you know you will be missing class and therefore unable to turn in an assignment during class in which it is due, you MUST get the assignment to me before the start time of the class in which the assignment is due.
- If you unable to turn in an assignment during class due to absence for an unforeseeable legitimate reason (such as an illness or family emergency) you MUST e-mail me within 24 hrs of the scheduled end of the class period in which the assignment is due to work out an alternative due date.

“Legitimate Absences”:

I will decide if an absence is legitimate based on the University Senate Policy on Makeup Examination for Legitimate Absences http://policy.umn.edu/groups/senate/documents/policy/makeupwork_pol.cfm I very rarely consider absences to be legitimate. Please come to class regularly to avoid unnecessary conflicts. It is your responsibility to contact the Instructor in order to obtain the materials from any class period that you miss.

Grades (see pages 7 and 8):

Grades will be determined by dividing graded activities into two groups: Non-Writing (exams, quizzes, and participation points) and Writing (all writing assignments). The points you earn in each of these categories will then be converting into credits based on the percent of the total points possible. Note that the Writing Assignments are awarded credits on a more lenient curve. The process of splitting the points and allocating credits also allows me to weight the Non-Writing Assignments and Writing Assignments equally in determining your final grade.

Extra Credit Opportunities:

You may earn up to 20 extra credit points through the Research Experience Program (REP). You receive 1 REP point for each half-hour of research participation. You may participate in as many hours of research as you wish; however, no more than 20 REP points will be considered when determining your grade. REP points will be converted into REP credits and added to your total credits at the end of the semester (See pages 7 and 8). REP points can make a letter-grade difference when your credit total is near the next higher grade cut-off.

Studies recruiting REP participants can be found on the bulletin board in Elliott Hall and at <http://www.psych.umn.edu/research/rep/default.htm> by clicking on “To search for participating research studies.” Researchers may also come and announce studies before each class period. The Department cannot guarantee every student a chance to earn the maximum number of REP points, however there are usually many studies being run throughout the semester, and so participate early and often! Be sure to keep a record of the studies you participated in.

Obtaining Help on Writing Assignments Prior to Turning Them In:

Because of the amount of grading involved in a Writing Intensive course, I will not be able to accept and provide feedback on drafts of writing assignments. You may obtain help or feedback on a writing assignment in person during office hours, or obtain help by asking specific questions via email.

Additional help with improving your writing can be obtained from:

-Student Writing Support: offers free one-to-one writing assistance to undergraduate and graduate students, with appointments up to 45 minutes. Nonnative speaker specialists are available. 306b Lind Hall and satellite locations varying by semester (612.625.1893). For more information and links to additional writing resources see <http://writing.umn.edu> and <http://writing.umn.edu/sws/hours.htm>

- Student Writing Guide: A guidebook providing student writers with detailed, step-by-step guidance through the writing process and lists numerous resources. Available on the web in pdf at: <http://writing.umn.edu/docs/sws/swgpdf.pdf>

- Non-Native Speakers: 337 Nolte Center (612.624.4524) http://composition.cla.umn.edu/student_web/ Non-Native Speakers (NNS) in need of assistance or guidance with writing concerns can contact Sheryl Holt, the Coordinator for Non-Native Speakers (holtx001@tc.umn.edu) NNS students might also find answers to their writing-related questions on the Composition Program's NNS link: http://composition.cla.umn.edu/student_web/.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Per CLA Classroom, Grading, and Examination Procedures:

Students with Special Needs. Any student with a documented disability condition (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, systemic, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations should contact the Instructor and Disability Services at the beginning of the semester.

Per the Office for Student Academic Integrity:

Student Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows: **Scholastic dishonesty** means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging , or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" for the course and a report to the Office for Student Academic Integrity.

*** This syllabus is subject to change at the Instructor’s discretion as the needs ***
*** of the course demand. Changes will be announced during lecture. ***

The following is a rough outline of the topics to be covered each day. We may not adhere precisely to this schedule, but **EXAMS DEFINITELY WILL BE GIVEN ON THE DATES SHOWN.**

Date	Day	Lecture Topic	Reading
9/8	T	Course Introduction; Introduction to APA Writing Style	
9/10	Th	Introduction to the Scientific Research; Psychology as Science	Ch. 1
9/15	T	Getting Started: Research Ideas; APA Research Articles	Ch. 2
9/17	Th	Getting Started: Locating and Understanding Past Research	pp.299-307
9/22	T	Basics of Study Design: Variables, Design Types, and Causality	Ch. 4 (ONLY pp. 65-68, 73-85), pp. 100-103
9/24	Th	Writing an APA Style Introduction	pp. 283-291; Intros of sample papers
9/29	T	Measurement Characteristics: Reliability and Validity	pp.85-86, Ch. 5 (pp. 90-100)
10/1	Th	\$\$\$ EXAM 1 \$\$\$; Intro. Formatting; Improving Your Writing	pp. 309-312
10/6	T	Writing Peer Reviews; Non-Experimental Research: Survey Research - Designing a Survey	Ch. 7 (pp. 121-131)
10/8	Th	Non-Experimental Research: Survey Research - Collecting Data	Ch. 7 (pp. 132-146)
10/13	T	Experimental Research: Basics	Ch. 8
10/15	Th	Experimental Research: Further Considerations	Ch. 9
10/20	T	Writing a Method Section	p.291-292, Methods of sample papers
10/22	Th	Ethical Research: Risks/Benefits, Informed Consent; Debriefing, Selecting Subjects, IRB; Additions to Method Section	Ch. 3
10/27	T	\$\$\$ EXAM 2 \$\$\$; Statistics Review: Overview of Descriptive Statistics	Ch. 12 (pp.222-230)
10/29	Th	Statistics Review: Overview of Inferential Statistics, Type I and Type II Error; Statistics Review: Specific Inferential Statistics – Correlations and Chi-square	Ch 13 (pp. 244-249, 255-261, 265-266); pp. 68-73, Ch. 12 (pp.230-237), Ch. 13 (pp.262-263)
11/3	T	Statistics Review: Specific Inferential Statistics – Comparing Means	Ch. 13 (pp.250-255)
11/5	Th	Generalizing Results; Explaining Results	Ch. 14
11/10	T	RESEARCH DAY	
11/12	Th	Writing Results and Discussion sections; ANALYZING DATA DAY	pp. 297-300, 316-317, Results and Discussion sections of sample papers
11/17	T	Non-Experimental Research: Case Studies, Archival Research	Ch. 6 (pp. 115-120)
11/19	Th	\$\$\$ EXAM 3 \$\$\$; Non-Experimental Research: Observational Research	Ch. 6 (pp. 106-114)
11/24	T	Non-Experimental Research: Quasi-Experimental Designs; Program Evaluation	Ch. 11 (pp. 205-215)
11/26	Th	**NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING**	
12/1	T	Non-Experimental Research: Single Case Experimental Designs; Developmental Research	Ch. 11 (pp. 200- 205, 215-221)
12/3	Th	Complex Experimental Designs: Main Effects and Interactions	Ch. 10 (pp. 183-193)
12/8	T	Writing An Abstract; Responding to a Peer Review; Complex Experimental Designs Continued	p. 290, abstracts of sample papers, Ch. 10 (pp. 193-199)
12/10	Th	FINAL PAPER MEETING TIME, PRESENTATION PREP	
12/15	T	PRESENTATIONS; Review Session for Cumulative section of Final Exam	
12/17	Th	\$\$\$ FINAL EXAM \$\$\$: 6:30-8:30 in normal classroom	

SCHEDULE OF WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

The following schedule shows which writing assignments will be returned, assigned, and due in each class.

Date	Day	Assignment Assigned	Assignment Due	Assignment Returned	
9/8	T				
9/10	Th	Journal Review: Mozart			
9/15	T		Journal Review: Mozart		
9/17	Th	Literature Search		Journal Review: Mozart	
9/22	T		Literature Search		
9/24	Th	Introduction Outline		Literature Search	
9/29	T		Introduction Outline		
10/1	Th	Introduction A		Introduction Outline	
10/6	T	Peer Review 1	Introduction A		
10/8	Th	Introduction B	Peer Review 1	Introduction A	
10/13	T		Introduction B	Peer Review 1	
10/15	Th				
10/20	T	Method A		Introduction B	
10/22	Th		Method A		
10/27	T	Method B		Method A	
10/29	Th		Method B		
11/3	T			Method B	
11/5	Th				
11/10	T				
11/12	Th	Results and Discussion A	BRING IN DATA		
11/17	T		Results and Discussion A		
11/19	Th	Results and Discussion B		Results and Discussion A	
11/24	T		Results and Discussion B		
11/26	Th	**THANKSGIVING** (suggest you begin working on compiling final paper if you can)			
12/1	T	Compiled Final Paper Draft		Results and Discussion B	
12/3	Th	Peer Review 2	Compiled Final Paper Draft		
12/8	T	Final Paper + Response to Review	Peer Review 2		
12/10	Th			Peer Review 2	
12/15	T		Final Paper + Response to Review		

NON-WRITING POINTS

Exams:

1	/60
2	/60
3	/60
Final	/100
Total	/ 280

Classes: Participation Quiz (**drop 2 lowest**)

1 (9/8)	/ 2	/ 3
2 (9/10)	/ 2	/ 3
3 (9/15)	/ 2	/ 3
4 (9/17)	/ 2	/ 3
5 (9/22)	/ 2	/ 3
6 (9/24)	/ 2	/ 3
7 (9/29)	/ 2	/ 3
8 (10/1)	/ 2	Exam
9 (10/6)	/ 2	/ 3
10 (10/8)	/ 2	/ 3
11 (10/13)	/ 2	/ 3
12 (10/15)	/ 2	/ 3
13 (10/20)	/ 2	/ 3
14 (10/22)	/ 2	/ 3
15 (10/27)	/ 2	Exam
16 (10/29)	/ 2	/ 3
17 (11/3)	/ 2	/ 3
18 (11/5)	/ 2	/ 3
19 (11/10)	/ 2	/ 3
20 (11/12)	/ 2	/ 3
21 (11/17)	/ 2	/ 3
22 (11/19)	/ 2	Exam
23 (11/24)	/ 2	/ 3
11/26: NO CLASS - Thanksgiving		
24 (12/1)	/ 2	/ 3
25 (12/3)	/ 2	/ 3
26 (12/8)	/ 2	/ 3
27 (12/10)	/ 2	/ 3
28 (12/15)	/ 2	/ 3
Total	/ 56	/ 69
Total Total	/ 125	

Non-writing total: ____/405

See next page to determine credits

WRITING POINTS

Writing Assignments Related To Final Paper:

Journal Review – Mozart Article	/ 10
Literature Search	/ 12
Introduction Outline	/ 10
Introduction A	/ 12
Peer Review 1	/ 8
Introduction B	/ 24
Method A	/ 9
Method B	/ 18
Results + Discussion A	/ 12
Results + Discussion B	/ 24
Peer Review 2	/ 8
Final Paper	/ 50
Response To Peer Review	/ 8
Total	/ 205

Writing Total: ____/205

See next page to determine credits

REP POINTS: _____ (maximum = 20)

REP Points	REP Credits
19-20	4
13-18	3
7-12	2
1-6	1

REP CREDITS: ____/4

Non-writing total: _____/405

Grade	Non-Writing Total	Percent	Non-Writing Credits
A	373-405	92-100	40
A-	365-372	90-91.99	37
B+	357-364	88-89.99	33
B	333-356	82-87.99	30
B-	324-332	80-81.99	27
C+	316-323	78-79.99	23
C	292-315	72-77.99	20
C-	284-291	70-71.99	17
D+	276-283	68-69.99	13
D	252-275	62-67.99	10
D-	243-251	60-61.99	7
F	<243	< 60	0

NON-WRITING CREDITS: _____/40

Writing Total: _____/205

Grade	Writing Total	Percent	Writing Credits
A	189-205	92-100	40
A-	183-188	89-91.99	37
B+	177-182	86-88.99	33
B	164-176	80-85.99	30
B-	158-163	77-79.99	27
C+	152-157	74-76.99	23
C	138-151	67-73.99	20
C-	130-137	63-66.99	17
D+	121-131	59-62.99	13
D	103-120	50-58.99	10
D-	93-102	45-49.99	7
F	< 93	< 45	0

WRITING CREDITS: _____/40

Calculate Your Grade:

NON-WRITING CREDITS: _____/40
+ WRITING CREDITS: + _____/40
+ REP CREDITS: + _____/4
= TOTAL CREDITS: = _____/80

Grades: Grades will be based on the **total number of credits** that you accumulate in the course: the sum of the non-writing, writing, and REP credits that you earn. Final grades will be assigned according to the table to the right.

Total Credits	Final Grade
77-80	A
70-76	A-
63-69	B+
57-62	B
50-56	B-
43-49	C+
37-42	C
30-36	C-
23-29	D+
17-22	D
7-16	D-
<7	F

GRADE: _____