

**PSY 3001W (Section 001) Introduction to Research Methods
Summer, 2009**

Class: MW, 1:-3:50pm

Location: S160, Elliott Hall

Course website: <https://moodle.umn.edu/course/view.php?id=5697>

Instructor:

Sandra Shallcross, shal0012@umn.edu, N456 Elliott Hall

Office hours: Mondays, 11:30am-12:30pm & Wednesdays, 4-5pm, or by appointment

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

Required books:

Cozby, P. C. (2009). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (10th ed.). Boston, MA: McGraw Hill.

Lectures and Labs:

Each class session will be divided into lecture and lab time, with approximately the first half dedicated to lecture and the second half to lab. Lectures will be based on material from the book and from outside sources. Students will be 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 (5 points each): A short 5-question quiz will be given at the beginning of each class session, unless there is an exam scheduled for that day. Quizzes will focus on material covered in the previous class session, but may contain questions about the reading assigned for that day. There are 15 quizzes this semester. The lowest two quiz scores will be dropped, so there are 65 possible quiz points. Quizzes are used to encourage prompt arrival to class and frequent review of the material, and to monitor for any common misunderstandings of the material within the class.

(2) Participation points (5 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 95 possible Participation points. Participation points are used to encourage attendance and active participation in all lab activities.

- **THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP CLASSES.** 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” on page 2).

Exams:

There will be 2 non-cumulative exams and a final exam (composed of 50% material covered after Exam 2 and 50% cumulative information). Exams 1 and 2 will be worth 60 points each, and the Final Exam will be worth 120 points. Thus, it is possible to accumulate 240 points on exams. Exams 1 and 2 will be scheduled for the first half of the lecture period (1 hour) 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. Please bring a #2 pencil to class on exam days.
- 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 most class sessions. 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. Other assignments will give you further practice writing the sections of the manuscript or practice evaluating journal articles. A total of 206 points can be earned through Writing Assignments. The Schedule of Writing Assignments on page 6 shows when Writing Assignments will be assigned and when they are due. Unless you receive explicit instructions to the contrary, **all writing assignments must be completed independently. The misrepresentation of someone else’s writing as your own constitutes scholastic dishonesty. (See page 4.)**

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 in a late assignment to let me know you have placed it my mailbox on the 2nd floor of Elliott Hall.

- If you are unable to turn in an assignment during class due to absence for a foreseeable legitimate reason such as playing a University sanctioned sporting event (see “Legitimate Absences” on below), you **MUST** get the assignment to me before the start time of class.
- 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 hours** of the scheduled end of the class period to work out an alterative due date.

“Legitimate Absences”:

I will decide if an absence is legitimate based on the University Senate Policy on Makeup Examination for Legitimate Absences (see <http://policy.umn.edu/categories/esl.html> - [ctgEducation](#)). 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:

Grading will be determined by summing points for writing and non-writing assignments separately. Points earned on writing assignments will be more weighted, which allows me to weight the Non-Writing Assignments and Writing Assignments equally in determining your final grade. See the Grading Scorecard on page 7 for more details.

Extra Credit:

You may earn up to 10 extra credit points in this class. Extra credit/REP points will be converted into EC/REP credits and added to your total credits at the end of the semester (See pages 6 and 7). REP points can make a letter-grade difference when your credit total is near the next higher grade cut-off. You have two options for extra credit:

Option 1: 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 15 REP points will be considered when determining your grade. 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!

Option 2: Research Critiques. You may also earn extra credit by summarizing and critiquing peer-reviewed journal articles (scored out of 5 points for each summary). Please check in with me if you are interested in taking this option, as you will need to first show me the article (before/after class or via email) to get it approved. Further instructions for research critiques are available on the course website.

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>.

- **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 student 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.** ***

FULL SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, & ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Day	Topic & Assignments	Cozby	
June	15	M	Lecture: Introduction to the Scientific Research, Assigned: Writing Assignment 1	Ch. 1
	17	W	Lecture: Research Hypotheses & Locating Past Research, Assigned: Writing Assignment 2, Due: Writing Assignment 1	Ch. 2
	22	M	Lecture: Study Design & Writing an APA Style Introduction Assigned: Writing Assignment 3, Due: Writing Assignment 2	Ch. 4
	24	W	Lecture: Non-experimental Research & Surveys Assigned: Introduction I, Due: Writing Assignment 3	Ch. 7
	29	M	EXAM 1 Assigned: Self-Critique and Method Worksheet, Due: Introduction I	
July	1	W	Lecture: Reliability and Validity Due: Self-Critique & Method Worksheet	Ch. 5
	6	M	Lecture: Statistical Review Assigned: Introduction II	Ch. 12
	8	W	Lecture: Statistical Review (Cont.) Due: Introduction II	Ch. 13
	13	M	Lecture: Ethical Research & Writing a Method Section Assigned: Method	Ch. 3
	15	W	Lecture: Experimental Research Basics Assigned: Writing Assignment 4, Due: Method	Ch. 8, 9
	20	M	Lecture: Experimental Research Continued	Ch. 8, 9
	22	W	EXAM 2 Assigned: Results and Discussion	
	27	M	Lab: Collect Data	
	29	W	Lecture: Naturalistic Observation, Case Studies & Archival Research Lab: Analyze Data	Ch. 6
August	3	M	Lecture: Complex Experimental Designs, Main Effects & Interactions Assigned: Compiled Final Paper Draft, Due: Results and Discussion	Ch. 10
	5	W	NO CLASS	
	10	M	Lecture: Quasi-Experimental Designs, Single Case Experimental Designs Assigned: Peer Review & Self-Critique 2, Due: Compiled Final Paper Draft	Ch. 11
	12	W	Lecture: Generalizing Results, Review for Final Exam Assigned: Final Paper, Response to Peer Review Due: Peer Review & Self-Critique 2	Ch. 14
	17	M	FINAL EXAM	
	19	W	Final Presentations Due: Final Paper, Response to Peer Review	

SCHEDULE OF WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

The following schedule shows which writing assignments will be assigned and due in each lab.

Date	Writing Assignments Due	Writing Assignments Assigned
6/15		Writing Assignment 1: Mozart Effect
6/17	Writing Assignment 1: Mozart Effect	Writing Assignment 2: Annotated Bibliography
6/22	Writing Assignment 2: Annotated Bibliography	Writing Assignment 3: Practice Introduction
6/24	Writing Assignment 3: Practice Introduction	Introduction I
6/29	EXAM 1 - Introduction I	Self-Critique 1 + Method Worksheet
7/1	Self-Critique 1 + Method Worksheet	
7/6		Introduction II
7/8	Introduction II	
7/13		Method
7/15	Method	Writing Assignment 4: Practice R & D
7/20	Writing Assignment 4: Practice R & D	
7/22	EXAM 2	Results and Discussion (not due until 8/03)
7/27	<lab: collect data>	
7/29	<lab: analyze data>	
8/3	Results and Discussion	Compiled Final Paper Draft
8/5	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
8/10	Compiled Final Paper Draft	Self-Critique 2 + Peer Review
8/12	Self-Critique 2 + Peer Review	Response to Review + Final Paper + Presentation
8/17	FINAL EXAM	
8/19	Final Paper + Presentation + Response to Review	

PSY 3001W SCORECARD

NON-WRITING:

Exams:

1	/ 60
2	/ 60
Final	/ 120
Total 1	/ 240

Classes:	Participation	Quizzes
1	/ 5	/ 5
2	/ 5	/ 5
3	/ 5	/ 5
4	/ 5	/ 5
5	/ 5	Exam
6	/ 5	/ 5
7	/ 5	/ 5
8	/ 5	/ 5
9	/ 5	/ 5
10	/ 5	/ 5
11	/ 5	/ 5
12	/ 5	Exam
13	/ 5	/ 5
14	/ 5	/ 5
15	/ 5	/ 5
16	/ 5	/ 5
17	/ 5	/ 5
18	Final Exam	Final Exam
19	/ 5	/ 5
Total	/ 90	/ 70 (drop 2)
Total Total	/ 160	

WRITING:

Writing Assignments Related To Final Paper:

Introduction I	/ 12
Self-Critique 1	/ 10
Introduction II	/ 24
Method	/ 12
Results + Discussion	/ 24
Peer Review	/ 10
Self-Critique 2	/ 10
Final Paper	/ 50
Response to Peer Review	/ 10
Total 3	/ 162

Other Writing Assignments:

Writing Assignment 1	/ 10
Writing Assignment 2	/ 10
Writing Assignment 3	/ 12
Writing Assignment 4	/ 12

Total 4	/ 44
----------------	-------------

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION:

NON-WRITING CREDITS: _____/12

+ **WRITING CREDITS:** + _____/12

= **TOTAL CREDITS:** = _____/24

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

NON-WRITING TOTAL

Total 1 + Total 2 + Total 3: _____/ 370

Non-Writing Total	Percent (approx.)	Non-Writing Credits	NonWrit Grade
368-400	92-100	12	A
360-367	90-91.9	11	A-
352-359	88-89.9	10	B+
328-351	82-87.9	9	B
320-327	80-81.9	8	B-
312-319	78-79.9	7	C+
288-311	72-77.9	6	C
280-287	70-71.9	5	C-
272-279	68-69.9	4	D+
240-271	60-67.9	3	D
< 240	< 60	0	F

NON-WRITING CREDITS: _____/12

WRITING TOTAL

Total 4 + Total 5: _____/201

Writing Total	Percent (approx.)	Writing Credits	Writing Grade
190-206	92-100	12	A
179-189	87-91.9	11	A-
173-178	84-86.9	10	B+
138-172	67-83.9	9	B
123-137	62-66.9	8	B-
119-122	58-61.9	7	C+
87-118	42-57.9	6	C
76-86	37-41.9	5	C-
68-75	33-36.9	4	D+
43-67	21-32.9	3	D
< 43	< 21	0	F

WRITING CREDITS: _____/12

Total Credits	Final Grade
23-24	A
21-22	A-
19-20	B+
17-18	B
15-16	B-
13-14	C+

11-12	C
9-10	C-
7-8	D+
6	D
< 6	F