

# Psychology 3100-200

Spring 2016

Monday Wednesday Friday 11:15 AM to 12:05 PM

Lectures are in **Brackett 212**

Labs are in **Martin E305**

Psyc 3101-301 Wednesday 2:30 to 4:30 PM

Psyc 3101-302 Wednesday 4:30 to 6:30 PM

**January 11, 2016**

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The purpose of this course is to give you a thorough grounding in the empirical research techniques that we use in psychology. For historical reasons, we call this course "experimental" psychology, but we won't restrict ourselves to true experiments. Survey research, naturalistic observation, and quasi-experiments will also be covered. We'll also give some attention to non-empirical issues; deeper theoretical issues in psychology often cannot be evaluated on the basis of empirical data alone. You will get a good deal of practice in writing about your studies—good, clear scientific writing is the goal, not just conformity to the stylistic norms of psychology journals—and in critical thinking about the claims that researchers make. You will also be making a poster presentation of your project, after you have collected and analyzed the data.

**This is a tough, labor-intensive course.** I don't have an attendance policy, because I don't think adults need one. It does **not** follow that skipping classes is a good idea. **There is no textbook. All course materials will be presented in lecture and on Blackboard.**

Regular attendance at class and lab and timely work on the written assignments are necessary for success in this course. You will be helping to conduct 3 laboratory studies and writing them up: you will be drafting the front sections of your final project (Introduction and Method); you will be preparing an application to submit to the Institutional Review Board; and you will producing a final report of the entire project. (In addition, if you can get us a draft of the Results and Discussion sections for comment a few days before you turn in your final paper, this is likely to be beneficial for you.) **Written assignments that are late will have 5 points out of 100 deducted for each day past the due date.** It's critical to stay on schedule when there is so much for you to do and for us to grade. If I haven't arrived—or Allie hasn't arrived—within 15 minutes of the scheduled time for a class or lab to begin, you are free to leave.

Instead of tests, there will be a **daily quiz**, consisting of 1 to 3 questions. (With three class days per week, we will do "daily" quizzes two days out of three, on the average.) You may drop 6 daily quiz grades for any reason (including absences); the daily quiz average will be based on the remaining 21 or 22 quizzes. The volume rules out make-ups, and daily quizzes will not be returned to you; grades for the quizzes will be posted on Blackboard. The final project counts as our final exam.

Your grade will be determined on a contract basis. **To receive a grade of A, B, C, or D in this class, you must turn in your IRB submission by the date specified in the schedule below. Each of the other assignments will then count toward your final grade as follows.**

Average of 21 or 22 daily quizzes	31%
Study 1 writeup	7%
Study 2 writeup	7%
Study 3 writeup	12%
Final project introduction and references	9%
Final project method section	9%
Complete final project paper	25%

### **Learning objectives for this course:**

- Be able to distinguish accurately between the kinds of empirical studies that allow inferences to be drawn about what causes what, and those that do not.
- Be able to identify what makes a hypothesis testable, and the difference between testing and proving.
- Be able recognize the differences between a typical problem of psychological measurement (e.g., measuring anxiety) and a typical problem of physical measurement (e.g., measuring weight).
- Identify the two key ethical principles in any kind of research with human participants, showing how they govern what kinds of studies should be done at all, and what kinds of procedures should be used.
- Become adopting at quoting, paraphrasing, and citing correctly from a variety of media sources, using APA style and its associated norms.

### **Laptop policy:**

Laptop computers are helpful in this course, and are necessary to do the data analysis in our labs.

If you bring a laptop to the lectures, please use it for class-related purposes, such as taking notes and access course materials. If I notice that you are playing Solitaire on it, viewing Facebook, or IMing, I may ask you not to bring it back to our next class.

We will be using the SPSS grad pack for statistical analysis. It runs on both Macs and Windows machines. The Psychology Department will provide licenses that are good through the end of August 2016; you will receive these around two weeks after the start of the semester. If you have a stat package already installed on your computer that you like, you are welcome to use it; however, our consulting ability is limited to SPSS, plus the other stat packages that we have recently used (such as SAS-JMP).

### **Cheating policy:**

Cheating means providing or accepting information on a quiz (quizzes are meant to be your individual work). Or not being the sole author of your writeups (we encourage you to *discuss* the writeups and your final project with others, but the actual *writing* on your lab writeups—and the actual data collection, analysis, and

writing on your final project—must be yours alone). If you decide to cheat, we will take action against you according to University policy.

## Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Items Due
Wed. January 6	Science, Empirical and Theoretical	
Fri. January 8	Science, Empirical and Theoretical	
Mon. January 11	Science, Empirical and Theoretical	Tuesday January 12 is the <b>Last Day to Add a Class</b>
Wed. January 13	Hypothesis Testing	
Fri. January 15	Hypothesis Testing	
Mon. January 18	<b>Martin Luther King Day</b>	
Wed. January 20	Hypothesis Testing	<b>Last Day to Drop without a W</b>
Fri. January 22	Getting Ideas for Research	
Mon. January 25	Getting Ideas for Research	
Wed. January 27	Getting Ideas for Research	
Fri. January 29	Ethics 1 [Human Subjects]	
Mon. February 1	Ethics 1 [Human Subjects]	
Wed. February 3	Ethics 1 [Human Subjects]	
Fri. February 5	Ethics 1 [Human Subjects]	
Mon. February 8	Ethics 2 [Institutional Review Boards]	
Wed. February 10	Ethics 2 [IRBs]	<b>Introduction and Reference section for Final Project Due</b>
Fri. February 12	Ethics 2 [IRBs]	
Mon. February 15	Ethics 3 [Reporting Data]	
Wed. February 17	Ethics 3 [Reporting Data]	
Fri. February 19	<b>IRB Application Workshop 2</b>	
Mon. February 22	<b>IRB Application Workshop 3</b>	
Wed. February 24	Ethics 3 [Reporting Data]	<b>IRB Application due</b>
Fri. February 26	Ethics 3 [Reporting Data]	
Mon. February 29	Ethics 3 [Reporting Data]	
Wed. March 2	Ethics 3 [Reporting Data]	
Fri. March 4	Psychological Measurement	<b>Method section for Final Project due</b>
Mon. March 7	Psychological Measurement	

Wed. March 9	Psychological Measurement	
Fri. March 11	NO CLASS	<b>Last day to withdraw without a final grade</b>
Mon. March 14 through Friday March 18	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
Mon. March 21	Measurement and Operational Definitions	
Wed. March 23	Measurement and Operational Definitions	
Fri. March 25	Sampling	
Mon. March 28	Sampling	
Wed. March 30	Sampling	
Fri. April 1	Confounds	
Mon. April 4	Confounds	
Wed. April 6	Confounds	
Fri. April 8	Confounds	
Mon. April 11	Single-IV Experiments: Between Groups	
Wed. April 13	Single-IV Experiments: Between Groups	
Fri. April 15	Single-IV Experiments: Between Groups	
Mon. April 18	Single-IV Experiments: Within Groups	
Wed. April 20	Single-IV Experiments: Within Groups	
Fri. April 22	Single-IV Experiments: Within Groups	
Tue. April 26 4:30 PM		<b>FINAL PROJECT DUE</b>

## Lab Schedule

You should bring your laptop to each lab. We put our data files together using Excel, which we also use for means and standard deviations. For more advanced analysis, we are using the SPSS "grad pack," which runs on both Windows and Mac OS machines.

Date	Topic
Wed. January 6	Study 1
Wed. January 13	Literature Searches Taught by Peg Tyler
	Study 2

Wed. January 20	<b>Study 1 report due</b>
Wed. January 27	Study 3
Wed. February 3	Study 3 <b>Study 2 report due</b>
Wed. February 10	Study 3
Wed. February 17	<b>IRB Application Workshop 1</b>
Wed. February 24	Study 3
Wed. March 2	Study 3
Wed. March 9	Final report workshop <b>Study 3 report due</b>
Wed. March 16	<b>SPRING BREAK: NO LAB</b>
Wed. March 23	Final report workshop
Wed. March 30	Final report workshop
Wed. April 6	Final report workshop
Wed. April 13	Final report workshop
Wed. April 20	Final report workshop

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