

## PSYC 301-202: Research Methods in Psychology Lab Syllabus

Spring 2017

Instructor: Daniela Barragan

Class Time: Thursday 10:30 AM-12:20 PM

Office Hours: Tuesday 1-2 PM

Email: [dbarraga@gmu.edu](mailto:dbarraga@gmu.edu)

Class Location: Innovation Hall 317

Office Location: David King Hall 1014 F

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### General Information

**Course Description:** General research design in psychology, with an emphasis on experimental design and control. Topics include use of human participants in research, reliability and validity, observational methods, and survey and longitudinal designs. Laboratory work will include designing and running research studies and writing manuscripts using appropriate style and format.

#### Course Objectives:

- To reinforce the understanding of experimental design
- To learn scientific report writing in psychology using APA format
- To understand and apply statistical principles in research design
- To increase the understanding of the role of experimentation in psychological sciences

**Writing Intensive Course Requirement:** This course fulfills the writing intensive requirement for the psychology major. It does so through writing two research proposal drafts and one full research proposal (i.e., preliminary proposal introduction draft, complete proposal introduction draft, and complete final research proposal). These written assignments are completed through a draft/feedback/revision process. It is mandatory that students turn in these assignments in order to meet the writing intensive requirement of George Mason University. Students who fail to meet the writing intensive requirement will not pass the PSYC 301 course.

### Course Material

#### Required Text:

Dunn, D.S. (2011). *A short guide to writing about psychology* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York, NY: Pearson Education.

Morling, B. (2015). *Research methods in psychology: Evaluating a world of information* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.

#### Optional Text (highly recommended):

American Psychological Association (2006). *Publication manual for the American psychological association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: APA.

### Course Grade and Assignments

This lab accounts for 40% of your overall PSYC 301 grade. For this lab, your grade is made up of participation (including attendance and in-class activities), quizzes, homework assignments, papers, and a final presentation.

**Participation:** Students must attend class, actively participate in class discussions, and complete in-class assignments in order to receive credit for participation. Students who do not attend class cannot make up these points.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes and pop quizzes may be given during the semester, which will be based on lectures and assigned readings. Students cannot make up quizzes.

**Assignments:** Assignments include homework, papers, and a final presentation. There will be one major papers that students will be working on throughout the semester. This paper will be a research proposal based

on an experiment designed by the student. At the end of the semester, each student will give a brief in-class presentation on their proposed study. In the event that you cannot make it to class, please email me an explanation with the assignment attached before our scheduled meeting time if you would like me to consider granting credit for the assignment. Late work will not be accepted.

**Submitting Assignments:** Assignments MUST be typed and submitted electronically on Blackboard by Thursday at 10:30 AM and a hard copy turned in at the beginning of each class period (unless otherwise specified).

**Attendance Policy:** Students who will miss assignments as a consequence of their religious observance or for participation in a university activity will be provided a reasonable opportunity to make up the missed work ahead of time. It is the obligation of the student to provide me, within the first two weeks of the semester, with dates of major religious holidays on which they will be absent, and the dates for which they will be participating in any university-sponsored activity scheduled prior to the start of the semester, and as soon as possible otherwise. Students who will miss class for participation in a university-sponsored activity must provide me a letter from a university official stating the dates and times that participation in the activity would result in the student missing class.

**Grade Disputes:** Students who wish to challenge the merit of an individual grade received on an assignment, must notify me within one week of receiving the grade. Grade disputes will not be considered more than one week of receiving the grade, as well as after the final grades have been submitted.

**Grade Breakdown:**

Participation	40 points
Plagiarism quiz	10 points
Assignment 1: Article critique	5 points
Assignment 2: Finding scientific sources	10 points
Assignment 3: Observation data collection	5 points
Assignment 4: Observation write-up (Method & Results)	20 points
Assignment 5: Survey write-up (Method & Results)	20 points
Assignment 6: Blackboard Proposal Discussion	5 points
Assignment 7: Proposal outline	10 points
Assignment 8: Introduction draft 1 (proposal)	20 points
Assignment 9: Introduction draft 2 (proposal)	25 points
Assignment 10: Method & Results draft (proposal)	15 points
Assignment 11: Discussion draft (proposal)	10 points
Assignment 12: Abstract draft & References (proposal)	10 points
Proposal paper	100 points
Proposal presentation	25 points
Total	330 points

## Technology

Technological training will be gained in many ways by performing literature searches using the online library and other research sites, survey sites, some data analysis using SPSS, some use of Mendeley or Zotero, and PowerPoint for presentations.

**Privacy:** Students must use their Mason email account to receive important University information, including communications related to this class. I will not respond to messages sent from a non-Mason email address.

**Class Cancellation Policy:** This class will entail frequent use of email and Blackboard. Please check Blackboard and your email regularly. If class is cancelled, I will notify you by email/Blackboard and provide a revised Course Schedule (if applicable).

### Academic Integrity

Academic integrity refers to honest and ethical behavior in all aspects of academic activity. It is not permissible to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters relating to academic work.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the *unacknowledged* use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, or another person's assistance. All graded work is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. If the work has entailed consulting other resources such as, journals, books, and other media, these sources must be cited. Everything used from other sources such as, suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language (including quotations), must be properly and accurately cited. Failure to cite or incorrectly cite borrowed work constitutes plagiarism. Undocumented use of materials from the web is plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to understand what is meant by plagiarism and to seek guidance prior to turning in assignments.

**Honor Code:** George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. It is every student's responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Honor Code. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. The instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade for any student found guilty of Honor Code violation. See [oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/](http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/) for detailed information.

### Additional Information

**Disability Accommodations:** If you are a student with a documented disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact [Disability Services](#) at 703-993-2474. Disability Services is located in SUB I, room 2500. All academic accommodations must be arranged through Disability Services.

#### Add/Drop Course:

Last Day to add: January 30, 2017

Last day to drop (33% tuition penalty): February 13, 2017

Final drop deadline (67% penalty): February 24, 2017

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Class Activity	Assignments Due
1	Jan 26	Journal to journalism	Review syllabus Plagiarism exercise	
2	Feb 2	Sources of information Journal articles and review process	Article discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dunn pp. 45-50, 88 &amp; Morling p. 107-108</li> <li>Plagiarism quiz on BB</li> <li>Assignment 1</li> </ul>
3	Feb 9	Measuring behavior Observational research	Assign groups Discuss observation study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment 2</li> <li>Morling pp. 124-126, 168-177</li> </ul>
4	Feb 16	APA-style Method & Results sections IRB process and consent forms	Writing workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct observation study</li> <li>Assignment 3</li> <li>Morling pp.100-103, 492-496</li> </ul>
5	Feb 23	Survey & correlational research	Survey experiment Correlation analyses in SPSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment 4</li> <li>Morling pp.204-207</li> </ul>
6	Mar 2	Research questions & hypotheses Research proposals	Discuss survey results Identifying research question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBD</li> </ul>
7	Mar 9	APA-style Introduction Literature search using online databases	Begin literature search	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment 5 &amp; 6</li> <li>Morling pp. 489-492</li> </ul>
	Mar 16	<b>Spring Break (no class)</b>		
8	Mar 23	APA-style Abstract, References, Appendices Literature review	APA-style template	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment 7</li> <li>Morling pp. 488-489</li> </ul>
9	Mar 30	Peer review: Introduction draft		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment 8 (3 copies)</li> </ul>
10	Apr 6	Research design & statistical analyses	Identifying statistical analyses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment 9</li> <li>Morling pp.485-486</li> </ul>
11	Apr 13	APA-style Discussion	Discuss presentation Writing workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment 10</li> <li>Morling pp.496-498</li> </ul>
12	Apr 20	Presenting yourself Creating questionnaires	Create questionnaire using Qualtrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment 11 &amp; 12</li> <li>Morling pp. 158-165</li> <li>Create Qualtrics account</li> </ul>
13	Apr 27	Peer review: Proposal draft		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal draft (2 copies)</li> <li>Poster presentation draft (optional)</li> </ul>
14	May 4	<b>Presentations</b> (review Morling pp. 522-525)		<b>Proposal paper</b> (review Morling pp. 507-521)