

Psychology 301 – Research Methods in Psychology

Fall 2017

Section 003 Mondays & Wednesdays, 3:00pm – 4:15pm, Mason Hall D005

Instructor: Carol Wong

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Office: David King 3064

Office Hours: Thursdays 11:30am-12:30pm (and by appointment)

Texts

You will need to purchase the following texts:

Morling, B. (2015). *Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of Information* (2nd edition). New York: W. W. Norton & Company. (Required)

Dunn, D. (2011). *A Short Guide to Writing About Psychology* (3rd edition). Boston: Longman. (Required)

Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association (6th edition). (Recommended)

Course Goals

This course is designed as an introduction to psychological research methods, and will address general issues in research methodology as well as descriptive, experimental, and applied methodology. This course will highlight the way data is collected, analyzed, the strengths and weaknesses of each methodological approach, and the limit of interpretation for each technique. The course should help develop skills in critically evaluating research studies as well as provide the tools needed to identify a research question and design your own study.

Grading Criteria

Three Exams	(300 points)
301 Lab	(260 points)*
Class Participation/Activities	(50 points)
Project	(25 points)
Research Participation	(15 points)
Total	(650 points)

*I will take your lab percentage and multiple it by 260 to get your points for this component. For example, if your lab instructor tells me that you got a 90% in lab, then I will multiple .90*260 for a lab point total of 234 points.

Grading Scale:

A+ = 97-100% B+ = 87-89% C+ = 77-79% D = 60-69%

A = 93-96% B = 83-86% C = 73-76% F = <60%

A- = 90-92% B- = 80-82% C- = 70-72%

Class Policies

- **EXAMS**

Three exams will be given for this course. Students are responsible for all material covered in assigned readings, lectures, and laboratory sections. Material not covered in the text is often discussed in lecture. All exams count toward your final grade. Make-up exams will only be given in special circumstances with proper documentation when appropriate. Prior approval should be obtained if circumstances allow. Please see me as soon as possible if you are unable to take the exam at its scheduled time.

- **LECTURE ASSIGNMENTS**

Throughout the course, a number of small assignments will be given, totaling 50 points. Some assignments will be completed in class, whereas others will be completed on your own time.

- **LAB PARTICIPATION**

The laboratory section is taught separately from the lecture section of this course. However, your work through the lab accounts for 40% of your final grade in this course. Your lab instructor will provide me with your grades for lab assignments and papers.

The lab for Psychology 301 fulfills the Writing Intensive requirement in the psychology major that is a university requirement. It does so through a written research proposal completed in the context of the lab sections and through other written assignments. Each assignment is completed through a draft/feedback/revision process. The schedule of due dates will be on the lab syllabus. It is required that students successfully complete written assignments (in this case there will be drafts, a complete paper, and a final written proposal). The complete paper and the final written proposal are mandatory. Drafts will be essential and if a student fails to turn in drafts it is unlikely the final written proposal will receive a passing grade. This written proposal is required in order for students to successfully fulfill the university writing intensive requirement. **Students who fail to meet the writing intensive requirement will not receive a passing grade in PSYC301. Please note that the above requirement is mandated by the University.**

- **PROJECT**

Students will be assigned a project to help them apply research method concepts and enable them to create their own final projects in the lab. The project will be **due November 15th**. More details will be provided closer to the due date through blackboard.

- **RESEARCH PARTICIPATION**

You will be required to participate in 3 credits (hours) of research. You can participate in any number of research projects, but the hours must total 3. (The number of credits for a study may range from .5 credit hours upward). For students who choose not to participate in an experiment, attendance at alternative lectures also meets this requirement and can be accessed through SONA as well.

- To sign up for an experiment/lecture, you must log on to: <http://gmu.sona-systems.com/>
 - a) Enter all the required information – you will need your GMU e-mail account as a user ID and also your student ID number.
 - ii. Select the course.
 - iii. ***BE SURE TO SELECT THE RIGHT COURSE AND SECTION!***
 - iv. Click on register.

Additional Information

- **TECHNOLOGY:** Blackboard - I will post various information, resources, and announcements on Blackboard. You should frequently check Blackboard because you will be responsible for the material. To use Blackboard you will need to go to <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>. I will let you know via Blackboard if class is going to be cancelled for any reason and how we will make up the time. Email - Most communication outside of class will be completed by email. I can only respond to gmU.edu email addresses, so please only use your Mason email in correspondence with me. Electronic databases - The lab section will include the use of online searches using PsycINFO and other electronic databases through the library website: <http://library.gmu.edu>.
- **ATTENDANCE:** Although I will not take attendance in lecture, coming to class is important. Material will be presented in lecture that is not covered in the book and you will be held responsible for that information. Additionally, you will jeopardize your grade if you regularly miss out on in-class assignment points. Opportunities to make up class activities will be available only for students with valid medical excuses and family emergencies. Missing class will also mean missing important discussions about homework assignments, as well as review of difficult test material. You may also miss announcements about scheduling changes and extra credit opportunities. **You are responsible for all announcements made in lecture and lab regardless of whether or not you attend class.**
- **LATE WORK:** In-class exercises will not be accepted late (i.e., will receive a zero). Other late work will be penalized at a rate of 5 percent per day. For example, if a homework assignment that would have received a grade of 80 points is turned in one week late it will be worth 65 percent of the original grade (52 points). I will accept late assignments up to one week late. Non-penalty extensions will be considered in the case of a family or medical emergency.
- **GMU COMMUNICATION:** Official Communications via GMU E-mail: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.
- **HONOR CODE:** Coursework is expected to be the student's own original work. Students may use books, notes, and other sources to prepare assignments. Under no circumstances are students to collectively write papers with another student, turn in work previously submitted for another course, or use material from other sources (textbook, websites, journal articles etc.) without proper citation (Please use APA style citations). This will be considered plagiarism. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code. You can find a copy of the Honor Code at academicintegrity.gmu.edu. All violations of the Honor Code *will be reported* to the Honor Committee for review.
- **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact Disability Resource Services (DRS) (Sub 1, Rm. 4205) at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

ADD/DROP/WITHDRAW DEADLINESLast Day to Add: 9/5/17Last Day to Drop with no tuition penalty: 9/5/17Last Day to Drop with 33% tuition penalty: 9/19/17Last Day to Drop with 67% tuition penalty: 9/29/17**Undergraduate Selective Withdraw Period: 10/2/16-10/27/16 (Consult your advisor for this option)****Course Schedule**

Date	Chapter	Topic
8/28	Chapter 1	Syllabus/Introductions
8/30	Chapter 2	Sources of Information
9/4	Labor Day Enjoy the long weekend!	
9/6	Chapter 2 & 3	Three Claims, Four Validities
9/11		Evaluating Research
9/13	Chapter 5	Measurement
9/18	Chapter 6	Surveys and Observation
9/20	Chapter 7	Sampling
9/25	Chapter 8	Correlational Research
9/27	Exam 1 Review	
10/2	Exam 1	
10/4	Chapter 9	Longitudinal Research
10/10 (TUESDAY)	Chapter 10	Simple Experiments
10/11	Chapter 10	Simple Experiments
10/16	Chapter 11	Threats to Internal Validity
10/18	Chapter 11	Interrogating Null Effects
10/23	Chapter 12	Factorial Designs
10/25	Chapter 12	Factorial Designs
10/30	Chapter 13	Quasi-Experimental Design
11/1	Exam 2 Review	
11/6	Exam 2	
11/8	Chapter 13	Small- <i>N</i> Designs
11/13	Chapter 12	Statistics
11/15	Chapter 14	Replication and Generalization **Project Due**
11/20		Proposal Workshop

11/22	NO CLASS! HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	
11/27	Chapter 4	Ethics
11/29	Chapter 4	Ethics
12/4	Chapter 14	Data Analysis
12/6	Exam 3 Review & Wrap-up	
12/11	University Reading Day	
12/18	Exam 3	

*** This syllabus is subject to change during the course of the semester. All changes will be announced during class and on blackboard.**