

**PSYC 301 Lab, Section 2C2: Research Methods in Psychology (1 credit)
Summer 2021**

Instructor: Katherine Maultsby

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Recommended Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and either PSYC 300, STAT 250, or STAT 350 or equivalent.

Office hours: By appointment via Zoom. As my policy is to respond within 24 hours, I ask that you email me at least 24 hours before the assignment you want to discuss is due.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is delivered entirely online in an asynchronous format via the GMU Blackboard. The course goals include the following:

- Explore, explain, and apply different research designs used in psychology
- Recognize and apply statistical principles in research design
- Apply the principles of scientific writing
- Communicate research ideas in written form using APA guidelines
- Create a research proposal on a topic of your interest

MEETING COURSE GOALS

This course is going to move quickly – the easiest way to succeed in this course is by submitting assignments on time. The assignments are due on **Wednesdays** and **Sundays** during the course (with an exception of the final week, where everything is due by Friday, July 23rd with an early submit option Tuesday, July 20th) and always by **11:59 PM EST**. Turning things on time, putting in effort, and integrating feedback will guarantee you receive a good grade in this course. The best thing you can do is communicate with me early if you are struggling with assignments or personally so I can work to help you complete this lab requirement.

WRITING INTENSIVE REQUIREMENT

This lab course fulfills the writing intensive requirement for the psychology major. It does so through writing drafts of each section of a research proposal (e.g., Preliminary research questions, Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion) and one full research proposal (Complete Final Research Proposal). These written assignments are completed through a draft/feedback/revision process in which instructor and peers provide comments on drafts. For the introduction and method and results drafts, you will have an optional assignment to resubmit a second draft if you would like additional feedback. This is also an opportunity to improve your grade – for these two assignments, the draft 2 grade will replace the draft 1 grade, as outlined below. The final week, I will offer extra credit for people who turn in the Final Paper to me on or before July 20th, and if you have been working throughout the course to integrate my feedback into your paper, this will be completely attainable. I also will offer to reread one draft section of your proposal during the

final week of the course – this is not for extra credit, but an opportunity for those who are looking for a second round of feedback on a section of their proposal. It is mandatory that students turn in each draft and the Final Proposal 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 Psychology 301 course.

BLACKBOARD

Access to MyMason and GMU email are required to participate successfully in this course. Please make sure to update your computer and prepare yourself to begin using the online format BEFORE the first day of class. If you need help, check the IT Support Center website and the Student Support page for help and information about Blackboard. You will always submit your assignments via Blackboard, typically uploading a file or by posting on a discussion board responding to your peers. **When you submit assignments, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive this, you have not submitted your assignment properly. Send me a follow up email if you are unsure if something submitted properly so I have a timestamped email from you of when you attempted to turn it in.** I can't accept late excuses that assignments didn't upload, so if you are having issues with Blackboard email me and attach your assignment rather than wait to find out I didn't receive it.

In addition, please utilize Microsoft Office Word to create, save, and submit written assignments in (.doc) or (.docx) format – do not submit assignments in pdf or pages format. The ITS website includes information on how to download Microsoft Word through your Mason account. Please let me know if you have trouble.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

- Dunn, D. (2011). *A Short Guide to Writing About Psychology* (3rd edition). Boston: Longman.
- *This text is **optional**, but highly recommended. If you plan on pursuing a career in Psychology, or attending graduate school, this is a good book to purchase. There are options to purchase an e-book version for around \$25 or you can rent a version. Please email me if you are having trouble accessing the book.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (6/21-6/27)	ASSIGNMENTS	RECOMMENDED READING
Introduction to the Course, Developing Research Questions, Sources of Information, Observational Methods,	<p>Submit by Wednesday, 6/23 at 11:59 PM</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Academic Integrity Certification: Complete Academic Integrity and plagiarism training modules and upload certificate 2. Research Questions and Hypotheses: Submit 3 research questions and write a hypothesis statement for each <p>Submit by Sunday, 6/27 at 11:59 PM</p>	<p><u>Dunn</u> Pp. 5-12 (Forms of scientific writing, forming a timeline) Pp. 13-15 (Choosing a research topic)</p>

and Literature Reviews	3. Mini lit-review: Find 5 articles and provide a 2-3 sentence summary on your primary topic of interest. 4. Observation Assignment: Data Collection: Follow instructions and respond to 6 questions on worksheet	Pp. 17-25 (Narrowing focus, searching the literature) Pp. 35-50 (Reading the scientific literature, plagiarism)
WEEK 2 (6/28-7/04)	ASSIGNMENTS	RECOMMENDED READING
Introduction Writing, Interpreting Results, APA Citations and References	Submit by Wednesday, 6/30 at 11:59 PM 1. Peer feedback on Research Questions: Reply to 2 peers with feedback on their research question and hypotheses 2. Bivariate Interpretation and Results: Complete worksheet by answering the two questions for each (5) statistical analysis Submit by Sunday, 7/04 at 11:59 PM 3. Research Proposal Intro Draft 1: Submit draft of your Introduction with minimum 5 APA references 4. Observation Assignment: Method and Results: Using Week 1 Data Collection assignment, write Method and Results section for the Observation Assignment	<u>Dunn</u> Pp. 56-67 (Outlining, first draft, structuring a paper) Pp. 88-92 (Writing an Introduction) Pp. 102-103 (References)
WEEK 3 (7/05-7/11)	ASSIGNMENTS	RECOMMENDED READING
Study Design, Interpreting Results, Method and Results Writing, Discussion Writing	Submit by Wednesday, 07/07 at 11:59 PM 1. Multivariate Interpretation and Results: Complete worksheet on multivariate statistics by answering the two questions for the (1) statistical analysis 2. Research Proposal Method and Results Draft 1: Submit draft of your Methods and Results sections with minimum 2 references Submit by Sunday, 07/11 at 11:59 PM 3. OPTIONAL: Research Proposal Intro Draft 2: Submit draft of your Introduction with minimum 5 references (to replace Intro Draft 1 grade)	<u>Dunn</u> Pp. 93 – 102 (Writing Method and Results) Pp. 120-129 (More details on Reporting Results in APA Format)
WEEK 4 (7/12-7/18)	ASSIGNMENTS	
Interpreting Results, Limitations in Research,	Submit by Wednesday, 7/14 at 11:59 PM 1. OPTIONAL: Research Proposal Method and Results Draft 2: Submit draft of your Methods and Results sections with	<u>Dunn</u> pp. 85-88 (Abstract writing) Pp. 99-102 (Discussion writing)

Abstracts, Discussion Writing	<p>minimum 2 references (to replace Method and Results Draft 1 grade)</p> <p>2. Research Proposal Abstract: Post Abstract on Discussion Board</p> <p>Submit by Sunday, 7/18 at 11:59 PM</p> <p>3. Research Proposal Discussion Draft: Submit draft of your Discussion section</p>	
*WEEK 5 (7/19-7/24)	ASSIGNMENTS	RECOMMENDED READING
Final Research Proposal, Revisions, APA Formatting, Peer Feedback *Short week	<p>Submit by Tuesday, 7/20 at 11:59 PM</p> <p>1. Peer feedback on Abstracts: Reply to 2 peers with feedback on their abstracts</p> <p>2. OPTIONAL: Early proposal submit (two options):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Submit a full final draft to me if you are comfortable with all of the feedback throughout the course by this date and receive 10 extra points on your final lab grade Submit ONE section of your proposal that you would like a second round of feedback on and I will return it within 24 hours <p><u>FINAL DEADLINE TO SUBMIT RESEARCH PROPOSAL: 07/23 at 11:59 pm EST</u></p>	<p><u>Dunn</u> pp. 103-115 (Sample Research Paper)</p> <p>Schedule office hours with me if you need to discuss anything this week. You're almost there!</p>

GRADING

This lab is 40% of your overall course grade for Psychology 301. The lecture portion of the course is 60%. Please see detailed description of assignments and points for the lab below.

Assignments	Points
Academic Integrity Certification	5
Observational Study	
- Data Collection Worksheet	10
- Method and Results	10
Bi-Variate statistics: interpretation and write-up in APA style (Results)	10
Multivariate statistics: interpretation and write-up in APA style (Results)	10

Research Project	
Research Questions and Hypotheses	10
- Feedback for 2 peers	5
Mini Lit Review 5 articles with APA References	15
Introduction Draft with APA References	25
OPTIONAL TO REPLACE: Introduction Draft 2 with APA References	
Method & Results Draft with APA References	25
OPTIONAL TO REPLACE: Method & Results Draft 2 with APA References	
Discussion Draft	15
Abstract Draft	10
- Feedback for 2 peers	5
Final Research Proposal	70
Total	225 points
Extra Credit Opportunities	10

COURSE POLICIES

Late Work Policy: Late work may be submitted for up to half credit within 1 week of the due date. Exceptions will only be considered in the case of a documented, personal emergency or excused absence with permission of the instructor prior to the due date. Additionally, the assignments in this class build upon the previous ones so your grade is likely to suffer if you miss assignments. Late final proposals will not be accepted, unless we have discussed accommodations 48 hours prior to the due date.

Attendance: This is an online class and attendance is treated differently from traditional classrooms. You will be presenting with multiple avenues for accessing instructional materials and interaction, from completing individual small projects to participating in different peer interaction activities. You should strive to keep up with the assignments, small projects, and several research project tasks that show that you are “attending” and participating. However, overall completion is based primarily upon your peer interaction and communication throughout this semester. Your final attendance will be counted in this manner.

Grade Disputes: In this course, if you wish to challenge the merit of an individual grade that you have received on an assignment you must do that within one week of receiving the grade. The final proposal grade will not be disputed, since you will be receiving clear feedback throughout the semester on this assignment. Otherwise, no further consideration for a change of grade on these assignments

will be allowed. Under no circumstances will any grade dispute on individual assignments be considered once the semester has ended and grades have been posted.

Instructor-Student Communication: I will respond to your emails within 48 hours. If I will be away from email for more than one day, I will post an announcement in the Blackboard course folder. Before sending an email, please check the following (available on your Blackboard course menu) unless the email is of a personal nature:

1. Syllabus
2. Blackboard Q&A forums (feel free to respond to other students if you know the answer to a question)
3. On-demand Blackboard videos on how to use Blackboard features, and Technical Requirements.

GRADING SCALE. Please see the lecture syllabus for the Final Grade Breakdown.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

1. **Academic Integrity and the Honor Code:** Written assignments are expected to be the student's own work. You may use books, notes, and other sources in preparing lab reports. In fact, I encourage you to take advantage of a variety of resources. However, under **NO** circumstances are you to collectively write papers with another student or use the work of others without proper and accurate citations. This is considered to be plagiarism and plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. It is not permissible to cheat, plagiarize, steal or lie in matters relating to academic work. Work such as library references, statistics, and reports of the research studies should be **each student's own work**. Quotations in lab reports should be minimal and the appropriate citation must be given. It is the student's responsibility to understand what is meant by plagiarism and to seek guidance prior to turning assignments. Academic misconduct is taken seriously and may result in a failing grade on the assignment or in the course and will be reported to the GMU Honor Committee. The instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade in the lab for any student found guilty of honor code violation. See honorcode.gmu.edu for detailed information
2. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, or another person's assistance. Unless otherwise stated in class, all work done for courses -- papers, examinations, homework exercises, laboratory reports, oral presentations -- is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. Any assistance must be reported to the instructor. If the work has entailed consulting other resources -- journals, books, or other media - - these resources must be cited in a manner appropriate to the course. Everything used from other sources -- suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language -- must be cited. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating, you will fail the assignment, and, depending upon the severity of the violation, you may fail the class.
3. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing

4. **Enrollment:** Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes (available from the Registrar's Website: registrar.gmu.edu). After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.
5. **Student services:** The University provides range of services to help you succeed academically and you should make use of these if you think they could benefit you. I also invite you to speak to me (the earlier the better).
6. Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely through their Mason email account**.
7. The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance. Counseling Center: Student Union I, Room 364, 703-993-2380. Website [here](#).
8. If you have any specific needs (e.g., related to vision, hearing, learning, or medical conditions) or any religious or cultural practices, please let me know by the second week of class so that I can make the appropriate arrangements. Disabilities must be documented by the Disability Resources Center (703-993-2474) for reasonable accommodations to be provided. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester.
9. The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing. University Writing Center: Robinson Hall Room A114, 703-993-1200. The writing center includes assistance for students for whom English is a second language.
10. Diversity: George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth. George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty, and staff. An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds, and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard, and respected.

11. Notice of a mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee”, and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling & Psychology Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing cde@gmu.edu.
12. Religious Holidays: A list of religious holidays is available on the University Life Calendar page. See the [Religious Holiday Calendar](#). Any student whose religious observance conflicts with a scheduled course activity must contact the Instructor at least 2 weeks in advance of the conflict date in order to make alternative arrangements.
13. Resources for Students:
 - [University Career Services](#), [Student Health Services](#)