

PSYC 301 LAB: Research Methods in Psychology (4 credits) Spring 2022

Lab Instructor: Emily Sckalor

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Office Hour: Fridays from 11:00AM – 12:00PM (Feel free to email me for in-person, Zoom or other time options!)

Lab Meetings: Section 203: Innovation Hall 317 (12:20PM - 2:20PM)

Section 204: Innovation Hall 333 (2:30PM – 4:20PM)

Textbook: The textbook for lecture will also be used in lab. All other materials will be available online.

Morling, B. (2021). *Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of Information* (4th edition). New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Course Goals

By the end of the course, students should be able to

- Identify basic research designs in psychology
- Critically evaluate psychological research
- Communicate research ideas in written form using APA guidelines

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: This course has been approved by the Faculty Senate Writing Across the Curriculum Committee to fulfill the writing intensive requirement for the psychology major. It does so through writing an article critique, a research report, and one full research proposal. The research proposal will be completed through a draft/feedback/revision process. The schedule of due dates is on the syllabus. It is mandatory that students complete these assignments 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.

General Information

1. **Academic Integrity and the Honor Code:** Written assignments are expected to be the student's own work. Students 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 an honor code violation.

2. **Disability Accommodations:** Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Please be sure to share your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474
3. **Official Communication via GMU Email:** 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 email account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly. In the event that class is canceled, I will notify you via email; this email will include information about making up the missed class.
4. **Technology:** Please check Blackboard and your email regularly. Regarding electronic devices in class (such as laptops, cell phones, etc.), please be respectful of your peers and your instructor and do not engage in activities that are unrelated to class. Such disruptions show a lack of professionalism and may affect your grade. Students must follow the university policy for [Responsible Use of Computing](#).
5. **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.). Last Day to Add: [January 31](#). Last Day to Drop without tuition penalty: [February 7](#). Drop period with 50% tuition refund: [February 8-14](#). Drop period with no refund: [February 15-March 1](#). Selective withdrawal period: [March 2-April 11](#). 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.
6. [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](#).
7. [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.
8. **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.

9. Notice of a mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As an instructor, 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.
10. 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 should let me know in advance of the conflict date so that we can make alternative arrangements.

Grading Breakdown

This lab is 40% of your overall course grade for PSYC 301. The lecture portion of the course is 60%. These points are earned from participation, in-class activities, and writing assignments.

Participation: Each student can earn up to 70 points for participation. Participation consists of regularly attending class, as well active participation in any in-class activities. Activities will be done during every lab period, including in-class writing, study design, experiments, and discussions.

Assignments: Assignments should be turned in before class begins on the specified due date or at the beginning of class as specified by the instructor. In the event you cannot make it to class, please e-mail your instructor with an explanation for your absence prior to the class. The assignment must be sent before the scheduled meeting time of the class to avoid a late penalty.

Late Work Policy: Assignments submitted late will receive a 5% per day penalty. Non-penalty extensions will be considered in the case of family or health issues or other circumstances outside of your control. Except in emergencies, you must notify your instructor about any planned or excused absences ahead of time and make arrangements for making up any missed assignments ahead of time. There will be a firm deadline for making up any missed work, usually within a week or less of the original deadline depending on the complexity of the assignment. The assignments in this class build upon each other so your grade is likely to suffer if you miss assignments. Missing multiple assignments will not be tolerated unless there is concrete and documented evidence that the student was unable to be in class and complete these assignments (e.g., surgery, severe family emergency). If you must miss class, it is important to communicate with your instructor regarding absences and missed assignments in order to complete that work in a timely 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. Ask your instructor to go over the assignment with you and address your concerns. Any dispute regarding that grade must be addressed and resolved within a week of receiving the grade. 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.

Extra Credit

Extra credit is generally not provided in this course, as students who are not performing well are generally not spending enough time on required assignments. No extra credit opportunity is provided for one student when not provided for all students. Please meet with your instructor if you are having difficulty in this course.

Grading Overview

Assignment	Points	Due Date
Participation (in-class activities, discussions, writing)	70	(5 points x 14 lab sessions)
Writing Assignment #1: Article Critique	15	Friday, Feb. 25 (before class!)
Writing Assignment #2: Research Report	20	Friday, Mar. 11 (before class!)
References draft	5	Friday, Mar. 25 (before class!)
Introduction draft	10	Friday, Apr. 1 (before class!)
Method draft	5	Friday, Apr. 8 (before class!)
Results draft	5	Friday, Apr. 15 (before class!)
Discussion draft	5	Friday, Apr. 22 (before class!)
Abstract draft	5	Friday, Apr. 29 (before class!)
Complete Research Proposal	50	Friday, May 6 (before class!)
Research Proposal Poster	10	Friday, May 6 (before class!)
TOTAL POINTS	200	

- Details for all assignments will be provided during lab.
- A lab percentage grade will be calculated and shared with your lecture instructor at the end of the semester (e.g., 180 points is a 90%; to calculate your percentage, take your total lab points divided by 200 and multiple by 100).
- Your lecture instructor determines your final grade in PSYC 301. There is only one final grade for the course, which is based on both lecture (60%) and lab (40%).

Course Schedule

Lab	Date	Class Topic	Activities
1	Jan 28	Course Overview and Introduction Critical Consumers of Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzing headlines
2	Feb 4	Sources of Information Plagiarism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring research articles • Identifying plagiarism
3	Feb 11	Scientific Writing Correlation vs. Causation Writing Assignment #1: Article Critique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correlation or causation? • Article Critique guidelines

Commented [EQM1]: Change this column to be the dates of your labs; I've put in the Monday dates just for the sake of organization.

4	Feb 18	Measurement Methods Observational Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing an observational study
5	Feb 25	Research Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzing observational data
6	Mar 4	Research Questions Research Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing research questions • Finding relevant sources
7	Mar 11	Simple Experiments APA Reference Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing an experiment • Creating a reference section
	Mar 18	SPRING BREAK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO LAB
8	Mar 25	Simple Experiment APA Introduction Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting an experiment • Writing an introduction
9	Apr 1	APA Method Section Method Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing your study
10	Apr 8	Factorial Designs APA Results Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing a results section
11	Apr 15	APA Discussion Section Research Proposal Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing a discussion section
12	Apr 22	APA Abstract Research Proposal Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer review process • Writing an abstract
13	Apr 29	Ethics Presenting research in poster format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics Activity • Research Proposal Checklist • Creating a research poster
14	May 6	Poster presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on peers' posters

Please be aware that the topics and due dates listed above are tentative, therefore subject to change.
Check e-mail and Blackboard for announcements about closures or class cancellations.