

PSYC 318 W: EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Tues 2-3 PM, Thurs 3-4 PM
or by appointment

Lecture:

Call Number: 20177
Time: TR 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM
Location: Kaufman Hall 100

Labs:

20199: MW 10-11:30 MGB 236
20201: MW 12-1:30 MGB 236
21115: TR 8-9:30 MGB 236
20209: TR 9:30-11 MGB 236
22792: TR 1:30-3 MGB 236

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“Psychology is the study of the mind and behavior. The discipline embraces all aspects of the human experience — from the functions of the brain to the actions of nations, from child development to care for the aged. In every conceivable setting from scientific research centers to mental health care services, ‘the understanding of the mind and behavior’ is the enterprise of psychologists.” (American Psychological Association, 2007)

In order to understand the natural world, scientists use a variety of research and experimental techniques. This course is an overview of the principles and methods of scientific research common in the field of psychology. Theory and hypothesis development, reviewing literature, experimental design, data analysis, and scientific technical writing will be emphasized. Instruction in the American Psychological Association writing format and the “Statistical Package for the Social Sciences” computer application will also be covered. The two primary goals of this course are: 1) to familiarize the students with the important concepts and techniques necessary to understand and perform research in the behavioral sciences and 2) to give students hands-on experience with each of the stages of psychological research, from formulating an idea all the way to writing up their results for publication.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Bordens, K.S., & Abbott, B.B. (2008). *Research design and methods: A process approach (7th ed.)*. Boston, MA: McGraw Hill. ISBN 978-0-07-312906-8 **(B&A)**

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.)*. Washington, DC

BLACKBOARD:

Course materials (assignments, handouts, study guides, additional required reading assignments) will be accessed via Blackboard (<http://blackboard.odu.edu/>). Students must activate their ODU email in order to access Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Lab Participation: Laboratory instruction will be given on the entire research process from literature review to the final write-up of a research project. **Laboratory section attendance is mandatory.** Each absence will result in a loss of 10 percent off your lab participation grade. There are no lab make-ups. It is the student's responsibility to complete any missed assignments.

Lecture Participation: It is expected that students will attend all lectures. Each lecture is associated with a reading, as shown in the lecture schedule. The readings are to be completed BEFORE the associated lecture. This will help you better understand the lecture material and provide you with the opportunity to ask questions about the readings during class. The lecture and readings are meant to complement each other, not to repeat each other. So, there may be aspects of the readings that you will need to know that are not explicitly covered in lecture and vice versa. **Quizzes will be given periodically during the semester.** Each Quiz will count as 10 percent of your lecture participation grade. You cannot make up missed quizzes. However, I offer extra credit opportunities that can be used to replace missed participation points (see extra credit section).

If you need to miss several classes for illness or family emergencies you should contact Student Services (683-3442) to document your absences. Student services can protect you by collecting supporting documents and informing professors of your situation.

Research (Craig, 1990; Davenport, 1990; Van Blerkom, 1996) has shown that there is a significant positive correlation between attendance and grades.

Exams: Exams will be given at 3 different times throughout the semester. Exams will focus on the material from the lectures and readings. Exams will consist of multiple choice, matching, and true/false items. Exams cannot be made up. If you have a conflict with an Exam date, contact the instructor immediately to make other arrangements to take the exam.

Class Research Project: You will be required to complete a research project. The entire class will work on the same project but all writing assignments are to be done individually. A more detailed handout is forthcoming.

Research Proposal Project: You will be required develop an original research project proposal. All topics are to be pre-approved by your lab instructor. Students will present their project to their lab class as part of their grade. A more detailed handout is forthcoming.

Late Assignments: All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the designated due date. All assignments that are turned in late will have 10 percent deducted per day late up to 3 days late (this includes weekends). Assignments that are turned in more than 3 days late (this includes weekends) will receive a grade of zero.

EXTRA CREDIT:

You may receive up to 40 extra credit points. You may participate in research studies posted on the SONA Research Participation System (<http://odupsychology.sona-systems.com/>) as one way of obtaining this extra credit. Equivalent credit may be obtained by completing research article critiques or attending certain University colloquiums. You do not have to participate in any research in order to obtain this extra credit.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Exams: 450 points
 Exam #1: 150 points
 Exam #2: 150 points
 Exam #3: 150 points

APA Writing Assignments: 80 points
 Introduction Section: 20 points
 Method Section: 20 points
 Results Section: 20 points
 Discussion Section: 20 points

Laboratory Assignments: 50 points
 Library Assignment: 10 points
 APA Assignment: 10 points
 SPSS Assignment: 10 points
 Proposal Idea/References: 10 points
 Article Critique Assignment: 10 points

Participation Credits: 200 points
 Lecture Quizzes: 100 points
 Laboratory Attendance: 100 points

Class Research Project: 100 points
 Rough Draft: 25 points
 Research Paper: 75 points

EXTRA CREDIT: 40 points possible
 1 hour experiment participation: 5 points
 Article critique: 5 points
 Psychology experience activities to be announced

Research Proposal Project: 120 points
 Proposal Paper: 70 points
 Presentation: 50 points

Total Points: 1000 points

GRADING SYSTEM:

870-899 points:	B+	930+ points:	A	900-929 points:	A-
770-799 points:	C+	830-869 points:	B	800-829 points:	B-
670-699 points:	D+	730-769 points:	C	700-729 points:	C-
<600 points:	F	630-669 points:	D	600-629 points:	D-

No incompletes will be given unless the situation complies with the University's policies. Psychology Majors must earn at least a C- in this course.

HONOR PLEDGE:

The Honor Code of ODU shall be abided by. The Honor Pledge is as follows:
I pledge to support the Honor System of Old Dominion University. I will refrain from any form of academic dishonesty or deception, such as cheating or plagiarism. I am aware that as a member of the academic community it is my responsibility to turn in all suspected violators of the honor code. I will report to a hearing if summoned.

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS:

In compliance with PL94-142 and more recent federal legislation affirming the rights of disabled individuals, provisions will be made for students with special needs on an individual basis. The student must have been identified as "special needs" by the university and an appropriate letter(s) must be provided to the course instructor. Provision will be made based upon written guidelines from the university "special needs students" resource office. All students are expected to fulfill all course requirements.

Important Class Rules (modified from the ODU Classroom Behavior Standards):

1. Students must turn off cell phones and pagers during class.
2. Classes are expected to begin on time. If you are late for lecture/lab you will not receive participation points (10pts) for that class.
3. Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Honor Council.

LECTURE SCHEDULE FOR PSYC 318W

Dates are subject to change. It is the students' responsibility to keep up with changes announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	15-Jan	Overview of Course	
	17-Jan	Explaining Behavior	B&A: 1
2	22-Jan	Explaining Behavior	
	24-Jan	Ideas & Theories	B&A: 2
3	29-Jan	Ideas & Theories	
	31-Jan	Science vs. Pseudoscience	Ruscio 1 & 2 Harris et al. 1999
4	5-Feb	Science vs. Pseudoscience	
	7-Feb	Developing Research Ideas	B&A: 3
5	12-Feb	Developing Research Ideas	
	14-Feb	EXAM 1	
6	19-Feb	Research Design	B&A: 4
	21-Feb	Research Design	
7	26-Feb	Making Systematic Observations	B&A: 5
	28-Feb	Measurement	
8	4-Mar	Research Subjects	B&A: 6
	6-Mar	Research Subjects	
Spring Break	11-Mar	NO CLASS	
	13-Mar	NO CLASS	
9	18-Mar	Ethics in Research	B&A: 8
	20-Mar	Ethics in Research	
10	25-Mar	EXAM 2	
	27-Mar	Using Non-Experimental Research	B&A: 8
11	1-Apr	Using Non-Experimental Research	
	3-Apr	Using Survey Research	B&A: 9
12	8-Apr	Using Survey Research	
	10-Apr	Experimental Designs	B&A: 10
13	15-Apr	Experimental Designs	
	17-Apr	Specialized Research Designs	B&A: 11
14	22-Apr	Specialized Research Designs	
	24-Apr	Single-Subject Designs	B&A: 12
15	29-Apr	Single-Subject Designs	
Final Exam	6-May	Exam 3	12:30-3:30 PM

HELPFUL WEBSITES:

Course Textbook Student Website (with practice tests and study materials):

http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0073129062/student_view0/index.html

Research Methods Tutorials: <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/>

Online Statistics Textbook: <http://davidmlane.com/hyperstat/index.html>

APA Style Website: <http://www.uwsp.edu/PSYCH/apa4b.htm>

ODU writing center (BAL 6015): <http://www.odu.edu/AL/wts/wts.htm>

ODU Student Affairs: <http://studentaffairs.odu.edu/>