

PSY 301 Lab SYLLABUS

Fall 2006

Mon: 8:30am-10:30am

Wed: 8:30am-10:30am

Instructor: **Rebecca Hartman**

Email: rhartma1@gmu.edu

Office: 3rd Floor JC

Office hours: Tuesday 10:30-11:30

Mailbox: David King Hall

Texts:

1. Shaughnessy, J.J., Zechmeister, E.B., & Zechmeister, J.S. (2006). *Research Methods in Psychology* (7th Edition). Boston: McGraw- Hill Higher Education.
2. Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association (5th Edition).
3. Dunn, Dana (2004). *A Short Guide to Writing about Psychology*. New York: Pearson Education Inc.

Course Goals:

1. Learn about experimental design and understand its role in the field of psychology
2. Understand and apply statistical principles in research design (not calculation of statistics)
3. Learn to access and use library resources and psychological databases (such as psycINFO)
4. Gain experience proposing and conducting psychological research
5. Learn how to use the APA format to write scientific reports

Attendance:

This class works in conjunction with the lecture sections, but is not a regurgitation of the lecture material. Therefore, lab attendance is very important and strongly recommended. You will receive participation grades, which account for a substantial portion of the final lab grade (40 %). You will be responsible for all materials, assignments and workshops conducted in this lab. THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS/CLASSES. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. If you know in advance that you will not be able to attend class, you may turn an assignment in to me via email or my mailbox prior to the beginning of the class in which the assignment is due (please note that this class meets at 8:30 AM, so I will need it before then.)

Honor Code:

Lab reports are expected to be your own work. You may use books, notes and other sources in preparing lab reports. Under no circumstances are you to collectively write papers with another student. This is considered to be plagiarism and plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Work such as library references, statistics, and reports of the research studies should be your own work. Quotations in lab reports should be minimal and the appropriate citation must be given.

Additional Information:

If you are a student with a documented disability and require some academic accommodation, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 12, 2006

Last Day to Add (Full Semester Course)

September 29, 2006

Last Day to Drop (Full Semester Course)

September 30-October 27, 2006

Elective Withdrawal Period (Full Semester Course)

Grading Criteria:

This lab counts for 40% of the total grade in PSY 301.

The point breakdown is as follows:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Class Participation (Class participation includes in-class writing, peer/group reviews and writing, participation in the in-class experiments, participation in class discussions, and experimental design critiques/discussion). No participation may be made up if you misses class. | 50 |
| Two Quizzes (10 points each) 10 points per assignment (No make-up for missed quizzes) | 20 |
| Observation assignment data collection | 15 |
| Observation write-up (Methods & Results section) | 15 |
| Survey write-up (Method & Results section) | 15 |
| Introduction Draft (Paper #1) (Maximum is 20 points and may be less based on quality) | 20 |
| Discussion Draft (Paper #1) | 10 |
| Data Collection (Paper #1) | 15 |
| Completed Paper #1 | 100 |
| Abstract Draft (Final Proposal) | 10 |
| Proposal Draft | Optional |
| Final Proposal | 100 |
| Final Proposal Presentation | 25 |
| TOTAL | 395 |

IMPORTANT:

Psychology 301 meets the writing intensive requirement for psychology majors. This requirement is met by successful completion of the required written assignments in the course and by successful completion of the Psychology 301 course with an overall grade of C.

Final Proposal Assignment -Psychology 301

The last/second full writing assignment project is to be an original experimental proposal or partial-replication of an experiment relevant to topics in Psychology. The student may “propose” a project from any area of psychology. Correlational or observational studies are acceptable but studies with at least one variable to manipulate are encouraged.

Students are required to write a proposal using APA format. A minimum of **five** references is required. The proposals must be projects that are plausible in that the project could realistically be completed. For example, if I wanted to test 100 amnesic patients, it would not be plausible because it would be extremely unlikely that I would have access to 100 amnesic patients.

Since this is a proposal of research to be conducted in the future, the paper should be written in the future tense: Below are a few examples:

- a. "The present project is designed to investigate whether older adults recall more items than younger adults."
- b. "The participants will be tested in a laboratory setting."
- c. Participants will be presented with lists of words from....."

The proposals must include the following:

1. An **Introduction** section that introduces the question/problem and includes a review of the literature relevant to the topic. The hypothesis should also be stated at the end of the introduction.
2. A **Method** section that includes the design (e.g., a 2 X 2 mixed factorial), participants, materials and procedure. All of the sections should be written in appropriate APA format.
3. A **Results** section should briefly describe how the data *would* be analyzed and what the expected result *would* be based on the hypothesis. For example, if a correlational study is done, the student would write something such as "A pearson-product correlational analysis will be conducted to determine the strength and direction of the correlation between anxiety and depression. This is likely because"
4. A **Discussion/Conclusion** section should include the following:
 - a. What would this research contribute to the literature if the hypothesis were supported?
 - b. A discussion of what would be done next if the hypothesis were supported. In other words, what would be the next step in the research or what would the researcher do next.
 - c. Additional ideas if the hypothesis were not supported could be added. Of course, this would be hypothetical.
 - d. A critique of their own design or the limitations of the study.

(Note: this section should be only one or two paragraphs and does not have to be extensive.)
5. An **Abstract** should be included as well. Students may include an expected outcome rather than a real outcome. Again the text should be written in the future tense. For example, "It would be expected that older adults would recall fewer words than younger adults."

All students must attach the measures/materials to be used (e.g., a survey). An exception will be made if the survey would have to be purchased by the student. However, this is a rare exception.

When the final proposals are turned in, students must include the following:

- a. **A copy of all articles referenced in the report, copies of the measures, etc. mentioned above**
- b. **Two copies of the final paper. If all of these are not included, there will be a grade reduction.**

Final Presentation

Each student is required to present the proposal to his/her classmates the last day of lab class. It is an opportunity for students to demonstrate to their classmates what kind of research they are interested in and what they think the study would reveal. This presentation should be

considered as an informal conversation with their classmates as well as a good opportunity to “practice” speaking in front of others.

All materials will be returned to the students at the end of the semester. The extra copy of the papers will be given to Dr. Linda Chrosniak for her files. We keep copies of all papers written in Psychology 301 to minimize plagiarism and to use in writing assessments for the university.

Course Outline:

WEEK 1

Topics- Introductions
Discuss syllabus
Goals of the lab
Overview of research design
Library resources (library and online)
Article discussion

WEEK 2

Topics- Article discussion
Observational research w & w/o intervention
Operational Definitions
Descriptive statistics (means)
Inter-rater reliability

Activity- Observational study
discussion

Assignment- Conduct study, compile
data

WEEK 3

TURN IN: Data from Observational

study
Topics- APA format/Various sections
Writing the Methods and Results sections

Activity- Writing Workshop- The APA
Methods
and Results section

Assignment- Write Methods & Results
section
using observational study

WEEK 4

TURN IN: APA Methods & Results
Sections

Topics- Correlations and correlational
research

Activity- Complete surveys
Enter surveys data into SPSS

Assignment- Retrieve survey data from you
email, read over and bring to
next class

WEEK 5

Topics- Return Methods & Results
Papers
Survey Results

Activity- Experiment (TBA)**this will be
the experiment upon which your first paper will be based**
SPSS data entry

Assignment: Collect data from 3 people
outside of class
Write Methods & Results section using survey data

WEEK 6

TURN IN: Methods & Results section
paper

Topics- Literature Review

Activity- Writing Workshop-
The APA Introduction section

Assignment- Obtain/ read article
Independently collect 3 more articles on topic

WEEK 7

TURN IN: Rough Draft of Introduction

Topics- Results from experiment
Writing Workshop- The APA
Discussion section

Assignment- Rough draft of Discussion section

WEEK 8

TURN IN: Rough draft of Discussion section

Topics- Return and discuss Intro section papers
Peer review of Discussion section

Assignment- FINAL DRAFT of Paper #1 due this week!

WEEK 9

TURN IN: Final draft of Paper #1

Topics- Discuss ideas for final proposal

Assignment- Literature search on proposal topic
Obtain & summarize 5 articles on topic

WEEK 10

TURN IN: Articles and summaries

Topics- Outline for final proposal

Assignment- Abstract of proposal topic

WEEK 11

TURN IN: Abstract of proposal topic
(Have this ready for class)

Topics- Return paper #1
Writing Workshop- proposal abstract
Peer review/Discussion

WEEK 12

Topics- Final Proposals

Assignment- Rough draft of proposal due next week!

WEEK 13

TURN IN: Proposal rough drafts (Bring 3 copies to have ready for class review)

Topics- Peer review of rough draft
Upcoming presentations

Assignment- Final proposals are due next week!

Lab presentations are next week!

WEEK 14

TURN IN: Final Draft of proposal due!

Activity- Lab Presentations (a 5-6 minute discussion of your findings)

Please note: This is a tentative schedule and all items are subject to change. You will be notified in class about changes made to the schedule.