

**PSYC 301- B01 Research Methods in Psychology**  
**Summer 2006, Mon/ Wed 7:20 – 9:10 p.m.**  
**Enterprise Hall 274**

*Instructor:* Brandon Beltz  
email (preferred): bbeltz@gmu.edu  
phone: (703) 993-1207  
office: David King Hall 2061  
office hours: Wed 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., or by appointment

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Provide students with a basic knowledge of how research is conducted in psychology.
- Examine the benefits and limitations of various research methodologies.
- Teach students the vocabulary that psychological scientists use.
- Encourage students to critically examine what it means to claim something as “factual” or “true”.

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**TEXTBOOKS**

- Shaughnessy, J.J., Zechmeister, E.B., & Zechmesiter, J.S. (2006). *Research Methods in Psychology* (7<sup>th</sup> Edition). Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill
- Dunn, D.S. (2004). *A Short Guide to Writing About Psychology*. New York, NY: Pearson-Longman

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**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Any schedule changes will be announced in class in advance. After an absence, students are responsible for contacting the instructor to obtain accurate information.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Jun 5	Introduction, the Scientific Method	Chapter 1, 2
Jun 7	Ethical Issues in Research	Chapter 3
Jun 12	Descriptive Methods: Observation	Chapter 4
Jun 14	Descriptive Methods: Surveys	Chapter 5
Jun 19	<b>**Exam 1**</b>	<b>Chapters 1-5</b>
Jun 21	Descriptive Methods: Unobtrusive Measures	Chapter 6
Jun 26	Experimental Methods: Independent Groups	Chapter 7
Jun 28	Experimental Methods: Repeated Measures	Chapter 8
Jul 3	<i>No class (4<sup>th</sup> July holiday)</i>	
Jul 5	Experimental Methods: Complex Designs	Chapter 9
Jul 10	<b>**Exam 2**</b>	<b>Chapters 6-9</b>
Jul 12	Applied Research: Single-Case and Small n Research	Chapter 10
Jul 17	Applied Research: Quasi Experimental Design	Chapter 11
Jul 19	Analyzing and Reporting Research	Chapter 12
Jul 24	Analyzing and Reporting Research	Chapter 13
Jul 26	<b>**Exam 3**</b>	<b>Chapters 10-13</b>

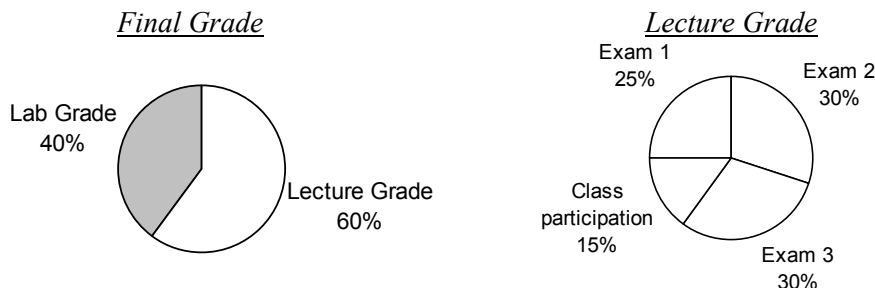
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**COURSE GRADING**

*Final Grade:* Psyc 301 is composed of a lecture section and lab section. The lecture and lab sections are taught by different instructors. You will earn separate grades for your lecture and lab performance. 60%

of your final grade will be based on your lecture grade and 40% of your final grade will be based on your lab grade. Final letter grades will be assigned according to the following percentages.

A	93 - 100	B+	87.0 – 89.9	C+	77.0 – 79.9	D	60.0 – 69.9
A-	90.0 - 92.9	B	83.0 – 86.9	C	73.0 – 76.9	F	Below 60.0
		B -	80.0 – 82.9	C-	70.0 – 72.9		



**Lecture Exams:** Your lecture grade is determined by your performance on three exams. The first exam will count towards 25% of your lecture grade. The second and third exams will each count towards 30% of your lecture grade. The exams will be based on material from the readings and lectures. The exams will consist of multiple-choice, short answer (1-2 words), and short essay (1-2 paragraphs) questions.

**Make up exams:** No make-up exams will be given except in cases of documented emergencies. All make-up exams will consist completely of essay questions.

**Class participation:** 15% of your final grade will be your in-class participation. This includes attending lectures and completing short in-class quizzes and assignments. You will not be able to make up missed in class quizzes or assignments.

**Extra Credit:** Students may participate in psychology research experiments conducted at GMU for extra credit. Students may participate in a maximum of 2 hours of research. A 1% increase will be added towards students' final grades for each hour of research participation (2% max). The website for research participation is <https://experimetrix2.com/GMU/>

## HONOR CODE

All provisions of the GMU Honor Code will be followed in this class. During exams no books, notes, student interactions, or electronic devices will be permitted.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible. Also contact the Disability Resource Center at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

## ACCESS TO COMPUTERS

Students must have access to their GMU e-mail or an equivalent account. I may need to send class updates and notifications to the class email list.

## LAST DAYS TO ADD/DROP COURSE

Last day to add: June 14th  
 Last day to drop: June 21st