

**Psychology 301 - Research Methods in Psychology**  
**Summer 2006, Section C-1**  
**Meeting Times: MTW 9:30 – 11:20 am**

INSTRUCTORS: Tine Koehler and Katie Elder  
Office: Robinson B 213C/Phone 703 993 3706 x 4  
Emails: [tkoehler@gmu.edu](mailto:tkoehler@gmu.edu) and [kelder@gmu.edu](mailto:kelder@gmu.edu)  
Office Hours: Monday, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm and by appointment

LAB INSTRUCTOR: Amanda Cassell, [adibart@gmu.edu](mailto:adibart@gmu.edu)

TEXTS:

Shaughnessy, J.J., Zechmeister, E.B., & Zechmeister, J.S. (2006). *Research Methods in Psychology* (7<sup>th</sup> edition). Boston:McGraw-Hill Higher Education.  
Dunn, D. S. (2004). *A Short Guide to Writing about Psychology*. New York: Pearson Education, Inc.

Recommended: Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association (5<sup>th</sup> edition).

COURSE OBJECTIVES & FORMAT

Our goal in teaching Psychology 301 is to provide the students with information that will create a foundation of knowledge regarding research methods in psychology. Specifically, after completing this course, students should have an understanding of the various methods that psychologists use to study human behavior which includes the experimental design, analyses, and interpretation of results. Additionally, students should finish the course with an understanding of the process of scientific report writing using American Psychological Association (APA) format. The course will primarily consist of lecture with discussion when time permits.

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS & ETIQUETTE

**Attendance:** It is expected that you attend every lecture and lab session in this course. If you have to be absent one day, make sure that you download and review the course material posted on webct. You may also ask one of your classmates for his/her notes as things might have come up during class discussion that were not in the slides. Please also check absence policies for your lab section.

**Course Material:** You are responsible for all the readings announced on the syllabus as well as for information covered in class or lab. This also means that there might be information covered in class that is neither covered by the class slides nor the book. All of the information covered in class or lab can potentially be included in quizzes, write-ups, or the exams. Again, attendance is important.

**Cell Phones and Pagers:** These items are to remain off during the entire class. All electronic devices are to be put away and turned off during presentations and exams.

**Special Accommodations:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

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GRADES

A total of 1000 points can be earned in this class. 60% (i.e., 600 points) of your grade will come from your performance in lecture, and 40% (i.e., 400 points) will come from your performance in lab.

Grading is taken very seriously and grades are assigned with care and thought. In general, the more proactive you are in dealing with your coursework, the less of a likelihood there will be a grade "problem" or surprise.

**Exams (600 points):** There will be three exams based on the assigned readings, lectures and labs. Each exam will be worth 20% (i.e., 200 points) of your final grade. Questions may include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short essay questions, and application questions.

**Lab performance (400 points):** Your performance in lab will constitute 40% of your final grade. Your grade will be based on your performance on write-ups, quizzes, a paper, and a final proposal as well as on attendance. Please refer to the lab syllabus for more detailed information.

**In-Class Assignment (20 points):** Application of Knowledge Vignette. The psychology department is doing an assessment of how well students can apply the knowledge they learn in the classroom to real-life situations. This voluntary (and extra credit) assignment will be near the end of the semester and will be an in-class exercise. Credit will be awarded depending on the quality of your answers provided.

**Extra Credit (20 points):** Students may earn up to 20 points of extra credit by serving as participants in research studies in the psychology department. 10 points will be awarded for each hour of participation. **Research Participation has to be completed by August 5<sup>th</sup>.** Please sign up by using the Experimetrix Web site.

***Point Values of Each Course Component:***

<i>Course Component</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>
Exam 1	200	20
Exam 2	200	20
Exam 3 (during Final period)	200	20
Lab Performance (see lab syllabus)	400	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	1000	100
Extra Credit –Experimetrix- Maximum	20	<i>Bonus 2%</i>
Extra Credit-Vignette-Maximum	20	<i>Bonus 2%</i>

***Grading Scale:***

Your grade will be assigned based on the number of points you earn according to the following scale.

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Total Points</i>
A	900 and above
B+	870-899
B	800-869
C+	770-799

C	700-769
D	600-699
F	Below 600

#### GRADING POLICY

**Make-up Exams.** You can schedule a make-up exam, if you have a university-validated excuse for missing the exam. In this case, you must contact Tine Koehler and Katie Elder **before** the actual exam, if possible, and provide necessary documentation for approval to make up the exam. Make up exams will usually be scheduled before the actual exam.

**Quizzes and In-Class Assignments:** There are no make-up quizzes, and there is no opportunity to make up for missed in-class assignments.

**Write-ups, homeworks, papers, etc.:** All of your writing assignments are due within the first 10 minutes of lab. Writing Assignments that are handed in late will not be accepted for whatever reason. If you know that you can't attend lab one day, make sure to hand in your writing assignments to your lab instructor beforehand (for policies related to handing in your writing assignments, please refer to your lab syllabus).

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#### LABS

You will receive a syllabus for your lab section in the first week of class. Specific lab assignments, discussion of the material, and writing assignments for this course will be discussed in the labs.

Your lab instructor is responsible for the labs and the lab grades. You must be enrolled in one of the lab sections associated with this course. You must attend the lab section in which you are enrolled.

In addition to the required texts mentioned above, it is strongly recommended that you have access to or purchase the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5<sup>th</sup> edition). Being that all lab reports and papers for this class have to be written in APA style and format, this resource will prove to be very helpful, especially if you plan to attend graduate school.

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#### HONOR CODE

The Honor System and Code adopted by George Mason University will be enforced for this class. Students are permitted to work in groups during in-class small group exercises and while studying for the exam. However, it is expected that all writing assignments, quizzes, and exams will be the student's own work. Discussion with other students with regard to the write-ups or quizzes should be limited to format and structure and **not** include content. No discussion or study aids will be permitted while taking the exams. This course is conducted in accordance with GMU Honor Code procedures: <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/unilife/honorcode.html>.

**Please note:** Any suspected Honor Code violations **will be** submitted to the Honor Committee.

#### Important Information

**Last Day to Add: July 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Last Day to Drop: July 14<sup>th</sup>**

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<b>Course Outline</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
July 5	Syllabus Intro to Research Methods Scientific Method	Chapter 1 & 2
July 10	Descriptive Methods	Chapter 4
July 11	Correlational Research (Survey Research)	Chapter 5
July 12	Unobtrusive Measures Exam Review	Chapter 6
July 17	<b>Exam 1</b> Begin Experimental Methods: Simple Experiments Independent Group Designs	Chapter 7
July 18	Hypothesis Testing in Independent Groups Analysis of Experiments	Chapter 7 & 13 (440-466)
July 19	Finish Independent Groups Design Begin Complex Designs	Chapter 9
July 24	Complex Designs Analysis of Complex Designs	Chapter 9 & 13 (471-482)
July 25	Exam Review <b>Exam 2</b>	
July 26	Repeated measures designs	Chapter 8
July 31	Single Case Studies	Chapter 10
August 1	Quasi-Experimental Design	Chapter 11
August 2	Ethics in Research Exam Review	Chapter 2
August 4th	<b>Final Exam</b>	

**\*NOTE:** This is a tentative schedule, and topics and times are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class ahead of time.