

EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYCH 440.01 AND 440L.51
FALL 2014
M/W/F 9:00 – 9:50
LAB TH 8:00 – 10:50

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OFFICE HOURS: M/W/F 10:00 – 11:00
THURSDAY 12:30 – 1:30
OR BY APPOINTMENT
OFFICE LOCATION CAS ROOM 105

Required Texts:

Doing Psychology Experiments, 7th ed. Martin, D. W. Cengage Learning.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition

Enforced Prerequisites:

Successful completion of the following courses: Introduction to Psychology, Quantitative Analysis, and Research Methods in Psychology is required. If you did not receive at least a "B" in these courses, you should plan on spending a fair amount of time reviewing the materials from these courses. You will not be allowed to remain in class if you are currently registered for either PSYC 240 Quantitative Analysis or PSYC 340 Research Methods or both.

Course Description:

In this course you will gain an in-depth understanding of experimental design. In addition, due to the significant emphasis of writing on presentation, in this course you will also dramatically expand your knowledge and skills in all aspects of report writing; specifically, surveying the literature, creating hypothesis statements, conceptualizing design and methodology, analyzing and interpreting data using IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences V.21, reporting your final results, and discussing your findings in the style required by the American Psychological Association.

Learning Outcomes:

It is my expectation that at the completion of this course you will be able to (1) formulate and test research questions using experimental methodology, (2) perform appropriate statistical analyses and interpret results, (3) read and critique professional research, (4) use professional level statistical programs, (5) enhance your general writing skills and more specifically, your scientific writing skills and apply the conceptual logic of experimentation to your own research, and finally, (6) present the results of your research findings both verbally as well as in written format.

Course Format:

Class will follow a lecture/discussion/laboratory/ format. Class-time will be devoted to lecture material followed by examples based in both the textbook and experimental scenarios applying the chapter topics to experimental paradigms. **This is a difficult, labor-intensive course.** However, learning is a process and you will find as you complete the assignments your knowledge base of experimental psychology will expand. The utility of this course extends beyond any intention to attend graduate school. In this class, you will be practicing and refining your writing skills, your knowledge of complex statistical analyses and your ability to intelligently discuss literature in many area. This includes recognizing cogent arguments, flawed designs, and far-reaching conclusions.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes:

In order to ensure the course objectives are met, I will be assessing your progress in each of the above areas through in-class assignments, the presentation of your group research proposal, the presentation of your final project at a professional poster session, a comprehensive final exam, and an APA-style manuscript of your completed experimental study. A detailed description of each outcome as well as the course grading scheme is as follows:

Exam – 100 points

There will be one exam in this class. The exam will cover material presented in the Martin text as well as the lecture materials and all class assignments. Exam format will include short written responses as well as longer essay responses. The exam is comprehensive and will take place during the designated timeslot for finals (TBA). I will place all lectures in PowerPoint format on the University shared drive (in lab) to assist you in preparing for the exam. However, this does not absolve you of any responsibility for taking notes during class. I reserve the right to eliminate electronic access to this supplemental material if I feel students are not taking notes during class.

In-Class Assignments – 400 points

You will be required to complete a series of assignments in this class. The assignments are designed to help you connect learning to application and to increase your skills-set in experimental methodology. The assignments are unannounced and can take place either during our fifty-minute meetings (M/W/F) or our weekly Lab meetings (TH 8:00 – 10:50). **Class assignments constitute 50% of your grade.** Please take them seriously as there is no opportunity to make up a missed in-class assignment, regardless of excuse. My class attendance policy permits you to miss **two** regularly scheduled class sessions (M/W/F) without losing points. However, for each class missed after two I will deduct 10 points from your final grade. Similarly, you will be allowed to miss **one** Lab session without penalty to your final grade. Any missed Lab session after one will result in 50 points deducted from your final grade.

APA Paper – 100 points

You will be required to complete an INDIVIDUAL paper on your group's research project. Details of the paper requirements will be discussed in class. The paper is due on the last day of class, Monday, December 8, 2014.

Proposal Presentation and Poster – 200 points

You will be responsible for working in groups to prepare your final poster to be presented at a poster session at the end of the semester. I will provide each group with a template to follow. This assignment is worth 100 points of your final grade. You will be assigned a group grade that will not only include the quality of your presentation but your ability to answer questions posed at the poster session. You will also be required to present your research idea as a group. This assignment is also worth 100 points. Date of the presentation is listed on the syllabus.

Miscellaneous Important Items

Please do not come to class unprepared to take notes and participate. Please do not come to class late. Do not come late to the final exam, as you will not be allowed to take it. Your grade for the missed exam will be zero. You are responsible for all material covered in class whether you are in class or not. Check with your classmates for missed material. All assignments are due at the start of class on the date noted on the syllabus. Late assignments will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero, regardless of excuse. I try to make the course schedule as accurate as possible. However, it may be necessary to make adjustments as the semester progresses. I will advise you of changes to this schedule if any are necessary. Lectures tend to deal with methodological issues, but also cover general content. **There is heavy emphasis on design and statistics.** If you feel I am not sufficiently covering a topic, please tell me and we will review it again. Also, there is no opportunity for extra credit in this class.

Semester Schedule

WK	DATE	TOPIC	REQUIRED READING/ACTIVITIES
1	W 8/27	Welcome/ Review syllabus	An overview of Measurement and Statistics Appendix A - Martin
	TH 8/28	LAB	<i>Selection of Groups</i>
	F 8/29	Chapter 1	How to Make Orderly Observations
2	M 9/1	No Class	Labor Day Observed
	W 9/3	Chapter 2	How to Do Experiments
	TH 9/4	LAB	<i>Threats to Experimental Validity</i> <i>Discussion of research questions in groups</i> <i>Identifying testable hypotheses w/in groups</i>

	F 9/5	Chapter 2 continued	Identifying and working with IVs and DVs
3	M 9/8		Open
	W 9/10	Chapter 3	Obtaining Experimental Ideas
	TH 9/11	LAB	Researching ideas for experimentation Identifying variables to be used in your study
	F 9/12	Chapter 3 continued	The relation between theory and research
4	M 9/15	Chapter 4	Ethics: How to Be Fair to Participants
	W 9/17	HSRB	All HSRB applications are turned in at the completion of LAB on 9/18
	TH 9/18	LAB	Working on HSRB applications
	F 9/19	Chapter 4 continued	Identifying your sample
5	M 9/22	Chapter 5	How to Be Fair with Science
	W 9/24	Plagiarism	Working with <i>Qualtrics</i>
	TH 9/25	LAB	Setting up your study on <i>Qualtrics</i>
	F 9/26	Chapter 5 continued	Connecting theory to your topic
6	M 9/29	Chapter 6	Researching the Literature
	W 10/1		Obtaining articles from <i>PsycINFO</i>
	TH 10/2	LAB	Identifying factors in the literature Complete the Citi training (if needed)
	F 10/3		Discussion of research questions
7	M 10/6		Open
	W 10/8	Chapter 7	Identifying Variables for Research

	TH 10/9	LAB	Reliability and Validity
	F 10/10	Operational definitions	Composing operational definitions in experimental methodology
8	M 10/13	No Class	Columbus Day
	T 10/14	Chapter 8	Between-Subjects Design
	W 10/15		Within-Subjects Design
	TH 10/16	LAB	Group Proposal Presentations
**	F 10/17		Last day for W grade
9	M 10/20	Chapter 9	Advanced Factorial Designs
	W 10/22		Mixed Designs
	TH 10/23	LAB	Working w/SPSS on main effects and interactions
	F 10/24		
10	M 10/27	Chapter 10	Non-experimental Research
	W 10/29		Survey Development
	TH 10/30	LAB	Survey Development continued
	F 10/31	Chapter 10 continued	Analyzing survey data
11	M 11/3	Chapter 11	How To Tell When You are Ready to Begin
	W 11/5		Answering the proper research questions
	TH 11/6	LAB	Working with a collective data set
	F 11/7		

12	M 11/10	Chapter 12	Interpreting results
	W 11/12		
	TH 11/13	LAB	Working on SPSS input in groups
	F 11/14		
13	M 11/17	Chapter 13	Reporting Experimental Results
	W 11/19		
	TH 11/20	Chapter 13 continued	Working on Results Section
	F 11/21		Refining your Results Section
14	M 11/24	LAB	Working in groups on Results Section Final Poster Template Due
	W 11/26	No Class	Thanksgiving Holiday
15	M 12/1	APA requirements	Working on your papers
	W 12/3		Working on your papers
	TH 12/4		Open
	F 12/5	Review	Comprehensive Final Review Session
16	M 12/8	Review	Comprehensive Final Review Session Final APA-style Paper Due
		Final Exam	TBA

Tutorial Support Services:

Tutorial Support Services (TSS), located on the second floor of the University Library within the Center for Academic Development, provides peer and faculty tutoring at no charge for all RWU students. The Math, Writing, Science, and Foreign Language Centers offer assistance Monday – Thursday 9 am – 8 pm; Friday 9 am – 3 pm; Sunday 2 pm – 8 pm. For additional information about the Center, including tutor schedules, please see our website at <http://rwu.edu/go/tss>.

Academic Accommodations:

Students who wish to receive academic accommodations for this course must first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in order to begin the accommodation process. The SAS office will provide registered students with the specific information they will need to share with each instructor. SAS is located on the second floor of the Main University Library and is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Please note Student Accessibility Services was previously known as Disability Support Services. Website: <http://rwu.edu/academics/academic-services/sas/current-students>

Academic Standards:

As you are aware, RWU has a defined set of policies and procedures outlined on the University's website: <http://rwu.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-standards>. Taken directly from the site: "Students are responsible for knowing and complying with the academic regulations of the University. Each College and School has an Academic Standards Committee that serves as the appeal committee for students requesting exceptions to academic policy. A petition obtained from the appropriate dean's office must be completed and submitted to the dean of the college or school in which the student is enrolled. The dean of the college or school, if necessary, forwards the petition to the appropriate Academic Standards Committee. Please refer to this statement on this site for any questions regarding academic integrity issues such as: cheating, plagiarism, etc."

University Civility Statement

Roger Williams University maintains that upholding the highest standards of civility, respect, and understanding of others is key to thriving in an increasingly global world. The University believes that reasoned and respectful discourse is the most enduring and beneficial way for us to learn from each other. Therefore, in joining the Roger Williams University community, you are expected to practice civility and respect in all aspects of teaching, learning, and living (*taken from RWU Student Handbook 2010-2011, p.3*).

University Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Although multiple definitions exist, plagiarism is best defined as incorporating the words or ideas of another person into a paper, presentation, or other scholarly form without properly crediting the source from which the words or ideas come. Plagiarism is a violation of ethical practices. The author who commits plagiarism attempts to claim another person's work as his or her own. Thus, plagiarism is both a form of intellectual theft and of intellectual fraud. In its worst form, plagiarism may consist of directly copying large or a small portion of either printed works or, as frequently happens in schools, written papers of another student. There are, however, more subtle forms of

plagiarism as well. Paraphrasing, or changing an author's ideas or words, is also a form of plagiarism if the source of the idea being paraphrased is not acknowledged, and this form of plagiarism is comparable to direct copying and every bit as serious. (Taken verbatim from [http://www.rwu.edu/academics/academicaffairs/standards/.](http://www.rwu.edu/academics/academicaffairs/standards/))

If I think there is an instance of plagiarism or any other breach of academic integrity in this class, I will follow the guidelines depicted at the website listed in the previous paragraph. If I consider the violation serious enough, I reserve the right to assign a failing grade for the particular assignment and/or for the course.

Syllabus as a Contract:

This syllabus is a contract between the professor and student. Your enrollment in this class indicates you agree to adhere to the syllabus guidelines, including turning in all assignments on time according to the schedule. I reserve the right to change the schedule of topics and readings and I will give notice to you of such changes well in advance of those changes.

Letter Grade Assignment	Total Points Earned in Class*
A	720-800 points
B	640-719 points
C	560-639 points
D	480-559 points
F	< 480

* This range includes +/- grades as well.