

Psychology 303: Research Methods

Instructor: Shin Shin Tang, M.S.

Office: 446 Straub

Office Hours: M 11:00-12:00, W 2:00-3:00, or by appt.

Phone: 346-4176

Email: stang@uoregon.edu

Graduate Teaching Assistants:

Kimberly Angelo

Lab Sections: Th 8:30-9:50, 2-3:20

Office: 337 Straub

Office Hours: Tu 2-3:50 or by appt.

Phone: 346-

Email: kangelo@uoregon.edu

Melissa Foynes

Lab Sections: Th 12-1:20

Office: 383 Straub

Office Hours: 2:30-3:30 or by appt.

Phone: 346-3936

Email: mfoynes@uoregon.edu

Lecture: Tu,Th 4:00-5:20 in 242 Gerlinger Hall

Labs: Th 8:30-9:50 in 180 Straub (except for library research lab on 1/26)

Th 12:00-1:20 in 180 Straub (except for library research lab on 1/19)

Th 2-3:20 in 180 Straub (except for library research lab on 1/26)

Course Description and Goals

Welcome to Research Methods! This course provides you with a unique opportunity to learn new skills in conducting and evaluating scientific research in psychology that will sharpen your ability to think critically and logically about important topics. The research skills you learn in this course are essential for becoming a wise consumer of the often overwhelming and confusing mass of information provided by the media, corporations, sales people, the government, and other various sources. You will also improve your writing skills and gain experience in writing an empirical research paper. In addition, all of these skills will provide a basic foundation in scientific methodology if you choose to go on to graduate study either in research or as a clinician. Finally, you will learn elements of creating a happy and successful career in research.

Course Pre-Requisite

Successful completion of Psychology 302 (Statistics) or Math 243 is a pre-requisite for this course. I am assuming you have a working knowledge of basic statistics. We will review important statistical concepts as they apply to conducting, analyzing, interpreting, and reporting research results, but this should not be 'new' material for you.

This class also assumes that you have college-level writing skills. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you show drafts of your paper to the instructor or GTF even if you do not believe you need help with writing. Writing in a scientific style is different than writing an essay.

Textbooks

Required: Cozby, P.C. (2004). *Methods in Behavioral Research*, 8th edition. McGraw Hill

Recommended: APA (2001). *Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association*.

Course Components and Requirements

The course includes traditional lecture meetings and a weekly lab meeting. Keys to success in this course:

- Attend at least 95% of lectures and labs
- Read assigned material before lecture
- Participate in discussions, debates and class activities
- Have the instructor or GTF look at a rough draft of your research paper

The lecture sessions will include review of selected textbook material, information relevant to the research project and paper, elaboration of some topics with information not provided in the text book, and unannounced in-class small group exercises. You must be present to participate in the in-class exercises—they **cannot be made up** for

credit after class. In-class exercises are designed to help you master important concepts, prepare for quizzes, and have the experience of being in a research community. Quizzes will be used to assess your mastery of the lecture and reading material. There will be 4 quizzes in the course and the lowest grade will be dropped before calculating your course grade. If you miss a quiz for any reason, this will serve as the dropped quiz score when calculating your course grade. Thus, **make-up quizzes will not be scheduled**. See below for learning accommodations.

Each student will complete a research project during the course from topics selected by the instructor. The culminating product will be an APA style manuscript describing your study. A timeline for completing the research project will be provided to help ensure you do not fall behind on your project. The research project is a major component of the course. It demonstrates your ability to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills you have gained in reading, lectures, and lab sessions. **The research paper is due in lab on 3/9/05**. Late papers will be penalized 10 points per day past due.

Lab sessions will focus on various steps of the research project. The lab sessions will be conducted by a graduate student serving as a teaching assistant for this course. **You cannot make-up missed labs for credit, and you must attend the lab session you are registered for each week**. Some labs will include assignments that are due at the end of the lab session, and some labs will include assignments that are due at the beginning of the next week's lab session. Late lab assignments will be penalized 2 pts. per day past due. Be sure to bring your textbook, paper, writing utensils, campus cash on your i.d., and a disk to each lab as you will often need these to complete the activities and/or save your work.

Learning Accommodations

Instructors will accommodate students with documented disabilities and will comply with individualized instructions provided by Disabilities Services. However, students must take the initiative in discussing arrangements with the instructor in the first week of class and providing documentation as soon as it is available. Students without a documented disability who are experiencing learning difficulties are encouraged to consult Disabilities Services (164 Oregon Hall; 346-1155). Without documentation, special accommodations are not guaranteed and are to be made at the discretion of the instructor. [Disability Services: disabsrv@darkwing.uoregon.edu, 346-1155, <http://ds.uoregon.edu/>]

Academic Honesty

Members of the university community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. To falsify the results of one's research, to present the words, ideas, data, or work of another as one's own, or to cheat on an examination corrupts the essential process by which knowledge is advanced. It is the official policy of the University of Oregon that all acts of alleged academic dishonesty by students be reported to the Director of Student Judicial Affairs in the Office of Students Life.

Inclement Weather

In the event that a lecture or lab needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather, the instructor will send an email to all students via Blackboard. Be sure you are able to access your U.O. student email account.

Grading

Quizzes: 35 pts. each for	105 points total (lowest of 4 quiz scores dropped)
In Class Exercises:	100 pts. (10 pts. Each)
Lab Assignments:	100 pts. (10 pts. Each)
Research Paper drafts:	30 pts
Research Paper:	150

Total Points: 485

A 93-100%	B- 80-82%	D+ 68-69%
A- 90-92%	C+ 78-79%	D 63-67%
B+ 88-89%	C 73-77%	D- 60-61%
B 83-87%	C- 70-72%	F < 60%

Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Lecture Date</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Week's Lab Topic</u>
1/10	Introduction	Ch. 1	Data Collection
1/12	Scientific Method & Conducting Research	Ch. 2	
1/17	Science in Context	App. A	Summarizing Articles (Th 8:30, 2) Library Research (Th 12)
1/19	Ethics in Research	Ch. 3	Meet in Knight Library 144 Edmiston Classroom
1/24	Quiz 1 (Ch. 1-3, App. A & Lecture)		Summarizing Articles (Th 12)
1/26	Variables	Ch. 4	Library Research (Th 8:30, 2) Meet in Knight Library 144 Edmiston Classroom
1/31	Research Designs	Ch. 4	APA style citations & reference sections
2/2	Reliability & Validity	Ch. 5	Scientific Writing
2/7	Observation Survey Research	Ch. 6, 7	Constructing Introduction Outlines
2/9	Quiz 2 (Ch. 4-7 & Lecture)		*Reference section due in lab
2/14	Experimental Designs	Ch. 8	Writing your Method section
2/16	IV's and DV's	Ch. 9	*Introduction draft due in lab
2/21	Complex Experimental Designs	Ch. 10	Writing your results section Scoring and entering data
2/23	Complex Experimental Designs	Ch. 10	
2/28	Quiz 3 (Ch. 8-10 & Lecture)		Data Analysis and Interpretation *Methods draft due in lab
3/2	Description & Correlation	Ch. 12	
3/7	Statistical Inference	Ch. 13	Writing your Discussion section
3/9	Generalizability, Case studies	Ch. 14	
3/14	Careers & graduate school in psychology		***Research paper due in lab 3/16/05
3/16	Quiz 4 (Ch. 12-14 & Lecture)		