

University of North Carolina Wilmington
PSY355-004 INTRODUCTION TO EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
SYLLABUS FALL 2009
Dr. Nora E. Noel, Instructor
Mr. Christopher Beck, Teaching Assistant

Class time MWF 12 – 1:50, Rm 216 S&B
Dr. Noel's Office Hrs: MW 2 - 3

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Mr. Beck's email: clb2783@uncw.edu

Textbook and readings:

Webster, S. (2007) Hand in hand: Research design and statistics in the behavioral sciences. (Atomic Dog—an imprint of Cengage/Thomson learning) **REQUIRED**

American Psychological Association Publication Manual *6th Edition* **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**

Other readings will be required and posted as needed on the website. Details will be available in class.

Class prerequisite: To be a member of this class, you are required to have completed PSY 225 (Psychology Statistics) with a passing grade. If you have not completed this course, please see me immediately.

Catalog description: 4 credits. Prerequisite PSY225. Basic principles of research design and evaluation, including techniques of data collection and analysis, and conduct, interpretation and reporting of various types of psychological research. Experimental research is emphasized.

Class Requirements: This is a four credit advanced level course in Psychology, requiring both lecture and laboratory hours to complete the course. In order to pass the course, there are certain standards you will need to meet. These will be outlined at the beginning of class.

Attendance and participation in laboratory and classroom exercises and projects is so important to the course, that 10% of your grade will be determined by your participation. Prompt attendance (that is, arriving on time) and attending the full class (that is, not leaving early) are considered part of participation. For a four credit class, you are normally expected to spend six hours in class (lectures, class projects, experiments, etc.) and six hours out of class (studying, data entry and analysis, writing, etc) each week.

Lectures will be given as part of class. You are required to know the material presented in the lectures as well as the material in the book and the posted readings.

Laboratory Writing Assignments will also be completed as part of class and perhaps outside of class. Usually they will necessitate working as part of a team. These assignments must be completed by the deadline given in class for you to get credit for them.

Presentations of research are part of class. You will have to prepare at least one. Details will be given in class.

Tests will be given in class at announced times (see below). Each test will emphasize the new material but will incorporate some material from previous tests. A make-up test will be given only if you produce a legitimate excuse for being absent (for example, a note from the ER doctor). A make-up test may be an oral test, requiring you to give answers on the spot. Occasionally, a pop quiz or writing assignment will be given. These may be used for extra credit. There will be absolutely no make-ups on pop quizzes.

Lecture Outline

Unit 1: Values and Ethics in Science (Chapters 1 – 3 and other posted readings)

Using the library to do background research-Ethics certificates must be turned in by date of Test 1.

Test 1 September 11

Unit 2: Operational Definitions of Dependent and Independent Variables (Chapters 4 and 5 and other posted readings)

Unit 3: Hypothesis Testing with One-Factor Designs (Chapters 6 – 9 and other posted readings)

Test 2 October 12

Unit 4: Factorial designs (Chapters 10 and 11)

Test 3 November 9

Unit 5: Other types of designs used in Psychology (Chapters 12 and 13)

Final Exam (comprehensive) Friday, December 4, 11:30 – 2:30

Laboratory Outline

Unit 1: Finding, interpreting and presenting scientific psychological literature

Initial Class presentation (Power Point presentation August 28 or 31)

Unit 2: Conducting a simple experiment and writing about it

Laboratory Report 1 (due September 25)

Unit 3: Conducting a 2nd experiment and writing about it

Laboratory Report 2 (due November 2)

Unit 4: Conducting a 3rd experiment and writing about it

Laboratory Report 3 (present December 2; due December 7)

Determination of Grade:

The Lecture and the Laboratory sections each count 50% of your grade as follows.

Lecture (50% of grade)

5% Test 1

10% Test 2

10% Test 3

15% Final Exam

10% Class attendance and participation

Extra points obtained in pop quizzes and writing assignments will be added at the end of the course

Laboratory (50% of grade)

5% Presentation

10% Laboratory Report 1

15% Laboratory Report 2

20% Laboratory Report 3

Recap of Schedule:

August

24 Library Day (meet in Library classroom)

28 and 31 Presentations

September

11 Test 1

25 Lab report 1 due

October

12 Test 2

November

2 Lab report 2 due

9 Test 3

December

2 Lab Report 3 presentation due

7 Final Lab report due

Final Exam

Friday, December 4 11:30 – 2:30