

University of North Carolina Wilmington  
PSY355-003 INTRODUCTION TO EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY  
SYLLABUS Fall 2018  
**REVISED!!!**

Dear Students in PSY355 section 003:

I hope you all made it through Hurricane Florence OK. It has been a long, difficult trial for all of us and I know it's going to take a little while to get back on track. As a result of our absence for about a month, we will have to make some changes in our class schedule. The University is requiring that the overall daily schedule changes, so note that class will begin each day at 12:05 and end at 2:05. In addition, the faculty is asked to give an extra assignment for you to do. Please see 2b below for details on your extra assignment.

Following this note is our revised schedule, but I want to highlight some important points:

1. Obviously, paper and test dates have had to be changed. Please read the schedule and note when papers are due and when tests will be given. Note these on your calendar and make sure you are ready for them when the dates arrive. (NOTE: if anyone in the class needs to take a test at the Disability Center, it is your responsibility to notify them at least a week before the test. Please use this schedule to tell them the new dates.)

2. Given the truncated schedule, it will not be possible for us to do a third experiment. However, I have come up with an assignment revision that should be a meaningful substitute for the 3<sup>rd</sup> experiment:

a) Your third assignment will be a thorough revision of Paper 2, based on the feedback you get on Paper 2 from Matt and me and from your anonymous peer reviewer. OK, so where will you get an anonymous peer reviewer? That's where the next part of this happens...

b) When Paper #2 has been turned in, I will strip all identifying information from it and send it to someone else in the class to critique. You will get someone else's paper so that you will critique it. This will give everyone a chance to try the peer-review process. Here is how it works: I am the Journal Editor. I give you an assignment and ask for feedback. That detailed feedback (again, anonymously) goes to the author of the paper. That way you get practice at peer reviewing AND you will get a peer-review of your paper as well as a review from Matt and me.

c) In order to do a peer review you will need to make sure you have your APA Manual and can use it. This is a required book anyway, but you will be interacting with it more, so make sure you have it handy. Obviously, I will go over peer review techniques with you in class.

Peer reviews will be judged on a pass/fail basis, but to pass you **MUST** turn it in on time. If you do not turn it in on time, your colleague won't get a peer review and it will be counted as a Fail for you. You will lose 5 points (1/2 a grade) from your final paper. Make sure you get it in on time.

See the new schedule (below) for revised times.

**REVISED SCHEDULE FOLLOWING HURRICANE FLORENCE (below)**

**University of North Carolina Wilmington**  
**PSY355-003 INTRODUCTION TO EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
**SYLLABUS Fall 2018**

**Dr. Nora E. Noel, Professor**  
**Mr. Matthew J. McBrady, Teaching Assistant**

**Class time** MWF 12 – 12:50, Rm 2011 TL  
1 – 1:50, Rm 2017 TL

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Mr. McBrady's email: [mjm2966@uncw.edu](mailto:mjm2966@uncw.edu)

**Textbook and readings:**

1. Webster. S. (2007) **Hand in hand: Research design and statistics in the behavioral sciences**. (Atomic Dog—an imprint of Cengage/Thomson learning) **REQUIRED**
2. American Psychological Association **Publication Manual 6<sup>th</sup> Edition** (2009) **REQUIRED**
3. Ethics Certificates must be **completed Friday, August 31 (before the first test)**. The site is <https://uncw.edu/sparc/documents/ResearchCompliance/HowToRegisterforIRBTrainingRevisedJune2017.pdf>  
You must complete the **Basic Human Subjects Protection** course for Social-Behavioral Researchers
4. 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. **You will be expected to know the material taught in PSY225.** 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.

**Student Learning Objectives** (These are the **class goals** for PSY 355):

1. Develop critical thinking skills with respect to psychological concepts.
2. Review and apply key statistical concepts (descriptive & inferential).
3. Understand & use American Psychological Association format for scientific writing.
4. Practice independent technical/scientific writing, as demonstrated with at least **three** APA-formatted written assignments. These reports should be a submission-style manuscript that includes all major sections (Introduction, Methods, Results, & Discussion) and the Introduction should include a literature with references to several empirical research papers.
5. Practice conducting a literature search with a major database search engine (e.g. PSYCINFO).
6. Experience active "hands on" research employing a true experimental design that includes practice in research design, data collection, and data analysis.
7. Develop computer competency (generally obtained through the implementation of the goals noted above, especially literature search, data/statistical analysis, and report preparation).
8. Prepare for the "capstone" Category 2 course.
9. Understand core concepts and experimental designs related to the practice of scientific psychology. At a minimum, this should include the following topics:
  - Operational Definitions.
  - Independent & Dependent Variables.
  - Extraneous Variability & Confounds.
  - Internal & External Validity.
  - The Purpose & Use of Correlations.
  - Between-Subject & Within-Subject Experimental Designs.
  - Factorial Designs including Main Effects & Interactions.

- Small-N Designs.
- Research Ethics including the IRB and Informed consent.

In addition, here are the SLO's as expressed in the Psychology Department PSY355 class goals for a writing intensive class:

- Students will locate, critically evaluate, integrate, and cite primary empirical journal articles relevant to a research topic (IL1; IL2; IL3)
- Students will write summaries and literature reviews to critically evaluate empirical methods and findings, and identify limitations of, of previous studies (IL2, IL4, WI1)
- Students will revise and improve written summaries based upon instructor feedback (WI2)
- Students will write a full research paper in APA format, including an abstract, literature review, methods, results, & references section. This paper includes drafts and revisions per feedback. (IL4, WI1, WI2)
- Student will write individual sections of the full APA paper as assignments throughout the semester, which will be given feedback to allow for revision on the final product (the full APA paper). (IL4, WI2)

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

**1) Attendance and participation** in laboratory and classroom exercises and projects is so important to the course, that **3%** of your grade will be determined by your attendance and participation. Prompt attendance (that is, arriving on time) and attending the full class (that is, not leaving early) are considered part of participation. We take attendance every day. In addition, we have pop quizzes that may count as part of your attendance and participation grade or may, in some cases (announced at the time of the quiz), count as points on one of the tests. 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. Do not miss a class.

**2) Lectures** will be given as part of class. On your tests and pop quizzes, you are required to know the material presented in the lectures as well as the material in the book and the posted readings.

**3) Laboratory Writing Assignments** will also be completed as part of class and 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. All writing assignments must be turned in electronically (no paper) via email to Dr. Noel and points will be taken off if they are misspelled and ungrammatical.

→Note: the UNCW Writing Center has tutors to help you with writing clearly in APA style. Please take the time to consult with them if your writing skills are "a bit shaky." Both Mr. McBrady and Dr. Noel will go over the APA writing style with you as well.

**4) Presentations** of research are part of class. You will have to prepare, one at the beginning of the course and one at the end. Details will be given in class. **(Note change—only one presentation and you already made it—Yay for you!)**

**5) Tests** will be given in class at announced times (see below). Tests are comprehensive. 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 that you give answers on the spot. Occasionally a pop quiz or writing assignment will be given in class. These will count as part of your lecture grade (see below). 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 (Presentation in Randall Library, **Wednesday, August 29**)

Using the APA publication manual

**Ethics certificates: Basic Human Subjects Protection** course for Social-Behavioral Researchers must be sent in electronically by **Friday August 31**.

**→ HURRICANE FLORENCE INTERRUPTS! HURRICANE FLORENCE INTERRUPTS!<--**

**Test 1 Monday October 8**

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

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

**Test 2 Wednesday October 31** (remember, tests are **cumulative**)

Unit 4: Factorial designs (Chapters 10 and 11)

**Test 3 Friday November 16** (remember, tests are **cumulative**)

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

**Final Exam (comprehensive) Monday, December 10, 11:30 – 2:30**

**Laboratory Outline**

Unit 1: Finding, interpreting and presenting scientific psychological literature

**Initial Class presentations (Group Power Point presentation) (Wednesday, September 5)**

Unit 2: Conducting a simple experiment and writing about it

**Laboratory Report 1 (due Friday, November 2 at noon)**

Unit 3: Conducting a 2<sup>nd</sup> experiment and writing about it

**Laboratory Report 2 (due Monday, November 19 at noon)**

Unit 4: Revising paper on Experiment 2 and writing about it

**Peer Review due Friday, November 30 at noon. Pass/Fail but if not turned in on time, you lose 5 points on last paper.**

**Laboratory Report 3 (paper due Friday, December 7 at noon)**

**Determination of Your Grade:**

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

Lecture (50% of grade)

3% Class attendance and participation (including some pop quizzes and surprise writing assignments in class)

5% Test 1

10% Test 2

12% Test 3

20% Final Exam

Laboratory (50% of grade)

5% Presentation

10% Laboratory Report 1

17% Laboratory Report 2

18% Laboratory Report 3 (including Peer review of other paper)

**Recap of Schedule:**

**August**

29 Library Day (meet Psychology Librarian, Ms. Stephanie Crowe, in Randall Library classroom, 1022)

31 Ethics Certificate completed

**September**

5 Article Powerpoint Group Presentations

**October**

8 Test 1

31 Test 2

## November

2 Lab report #1 due @ noon

16 Test 3

19 Lab Report #2 due @ noon

30 Lab report peer review due @ noon

## December

5 Lab report #3 due @ noon

10 Final exam 11:30 – 2:30

### **Important Notes about the course:**

-All members of UNCW's community are expected to follow the academic Honor Code. Please read the UNCW Honor Code carefully (as covered in the UNCW Student Handbook). Academic dishonesty in **any** form will not be tolerated in this class. You could be given an F for the course. Please be especially familiar with UNC-W's position on plagiarism as outlined in the UNCW Student Handbook. **Plagiarism** is a form of academic dishonesty in which you take someone else's ideas and represent them as your own. We will discuss plagiarism in class so you understand examples.

-In addition, please note that UNCW practices a zero tolerance policy for any kind of violent or harassing behavior. If you feel you are being harassed in class, please consult with the teacher. If you are experiencing an emergency of this type contact the police at 911 or UNCW CARE at 962-2273. Resources for individuals concerned with a violent or harassing situation can be located at <http://www.uncw.edu/wsrc/crisis.html>.

-Finally, please be courteous to your teachers and class mates: turn off your cell phones, pagers or other distractions during class. You can check messages at break time. Laptop use is permitted as long as you are not distracting others (e.g. no noise, no attention-getting photos). Violation of these rules may result in your immediate dismissal from the class for that day.

**Take Home Message:** This is a tough class—no doubt about it. However, it is one of the most valuable courses you will take in regard to both jobs and graduate school. If you get started early and stick with it, you will learn **so much** about research and writing that you won't recognize yourself at the end of the semester.

### **Special Statement for Students**

This course and section has been selected to participate in the campus-wide General Education Assessment process. Existing assignment(s) for this course have been chosen for this purpose. This assignment/assessment will be graded by your instructor as explained in the syllabus. The separate scoring of the assignment/assessment for the purposes of General Education Assessment WILL NOT affect your grade in the course, or any other course work at UNCW. It will, however, help the university to identify potential ways to improve student learning in general. We will remove all identifying information from your work so your confidentiality will be maintained during the scoring and tabulation processes. You can learn more about the General Education Assessment process by visiting our website:  
<http://uncw.edu/assessment/general/students.html>.