University of North Carolina Wilmington
PSY355-003 INTRODUCTION TO EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
SYLLABUS Fall 2019

Dr. Nora E. Noel, Professor
Ms. Alex Reyes, Teaching Assistant

Class time  MWF 12 – 12:50, Rm 2011 TL  Noeln@uncw.edu ; 910.962.4044; www.beachlab.com
1 – 1:50,  Rm 2017 TL  Ms. Reyes’ email: alr3720@uncw.edu

Textbook and readings:

   Dog—an imprint of Cengage/Thomson learning) REQUIRED


3. Ethics Certificates must be completed by Wednesday August 28 (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) 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 Ms. Reyes 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 at least two, one at the beginning of the course and one at the end. Details will be given in class.

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, **Monday, August 26**)
Using the APA publication manual
**Ethics certificates: Basic Human Subjects Protection** course for Social-Behavioral Researchers must be sent in electronically by **Wednesday, August 28**.
**Test 1 Monday September 9**

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 Friday, October 4 (remember, tests are cumulative)

Unit 4: Factorial designs (Chapters 10 and 11)
Test 3 Monday, October 28 (remember, tests are cumulative)

Unit 5: Other types of designs used in Psychology (Chapters 12 and 13)
Final Exam (comprehensive) Monday, December 9, 11:30 – 2:30

Laboratory Outline

Unit 1: Finding, interpreting and presenting scientific psychological literature
Initial Class presentations (Group Power Point presentation) (Friday August 30)

Unit 2: Conducting a simple experiment and writing about it
Laboratory Report 1 (due Friday, September 27 at noon)

Unit 3: Conducting a 2nd experiment and writing about it
Laboratory Report 2 (due Monday, November 4 at noon)

Unit 4: Conducting a 3rd experiment and writing about it
Laboratory Report 3 (present Monday, December 2; paper due Wednesday, December 4 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

Recap of Schedule:
August
26 Library Day (meet Psychology Librarian, Ms. Stephanie Crowe, in Randall Library classroom, 1022)
28 Ethics Certificate completed
30 Article Powerpoint Group Presentations

September
9 Test 1
27 Lab report 1 due @ noon

October
4 Test 2
28 Test 3

November
4 Lab report 2 due @ noon
December
2 Lab report 3 presentations
4 Lab report 3 paper due @ noon
9 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 classmates: 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.