

PSY300: Research Methods in Psychology

Spring 2009

Lecture: Monday / Wednesday / Friday 9:15a to 10:20a, Bailey Hall, room 312

Lab: Monday or Wednesday, 1:50p to 4:40p, Bailey Hall, room 303

Professor

George Bizer, Ph.D.

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:30a to 12:00n

Objective

Students should gain both conceptual and practical understanding of the scientific research process in the field of psychology. Conceptually, students should learn how to develop tight, empirically testable hypotheses, how scientific studies to test those hypotheses can be conducted, how data collected from those studies can be properly analyzed, the proper conclusions that can be drawn from the statistical tests, and how the results can be reported in a research paper. Practically, students should understand how to use the SPSS software package, know how to effectively use PsycInfo to conduct literature reviews, and how to write a research report that conforms to American Psychological Association standards. Mastery of both the practical and conceptual components of the scientific process will prepare students to excel in graduate school if they so desire. Regardless, this knowledge will help students become educated and critical consumers of scientific information.

Textbook

Schweigert, W. A. (2006). *Research methods in psychology*, second edition. Long Grove, IL: Waveland.

Grading

Grades will be scored out of a possible 500 points. The point breakdown will be as follows:

Three exams (100pts each):	300pts
Three papers (40pts each):	120pts
SPSS practical:	50pts
Poster presentation:	30pts

Grades will be awarded according to the following schedule:

		460	A	450	A-
440	B+	410	B	400	B-
390	C+	360	C	350	C-
		300	D		
		<300	F		

Schedule

Wk	Monday's topic and reading	Wednesday's topic and reading	Friday's topic and reading	Lab Content/ Assignments Due
1	Mar. 30 Welcome! Chapter 1	Apr. 1 Stats review Appendix 'A'	Apr. 3 The Process Chapter 1	Lab: SPSS and PsycInfo
2	Apr. 6 The Process	Apr. 8 The Process	Apr. 10 <i>Class Cancelled</i>	Lab: Correlational
3	Apr. 13 The Process	Apr. 15 The Process	Apr. 17 Pseudoscience	Lab: Correlational →SPSS Practical during lab
4	Apr. 20 → EXAM #1	Apr. 22 Observational Rsch Chapter 8	Apr. 24 Survey Rsch Chapter 9	Lab: Correlational
5	Apr. 27 Correlational Rsch Chapter 4	Apr. 29 Advanced Correl Rsch	May 1 Steinmetz Day: <i>Attend a session or two!</i>	Lab: Experimental →Paper #1 due Monday
6	May 4 Experimental Rsch Chapter 5	May 6 Experimental Rsch	May 8 Within-Subject Dsgn Chapter 6	Lab: Experimental
7	May 11 Factorial Designs Chapter 7	May 13 Factorial Designs	May 15 Factorial Designs	Lab: Independent Project →Paper #2 due Friday
8	May 18 Factorial Designs	May 20 Factorial Designs	May 22 Factorial Designs	Lab: Independent Project
9	May 25 → EXAM #2	May 27 Reliability + Validity Chapter 7 (to p. 174)	May 29 Measurement Chapter 7 (remainder)	Lab: Independent Project
10	June 1 Small-n Design Chapter 11	June 3 Ethics Chapter 4	June 5 To Be Announced	Lab: Poster Session →Paper #3 due Friday, 12n

*Final Examination time will be announced. Examination will take place in our usual room.
Please see "Schedule Changes" on Page 3*

Out-of-Class Activities

The Union College Department of Psychology has instituted an out-of-classroom activity requirement of all students enrolled in PSY300. You will receive more details on this requirement in an additional handout.

Important Policies

Expected Absences. If you know that you will miss a class due to religious observances or athletic competition, please let me know no later than the week *prior* to the class to be missed.

Unexpected Absences. If you experience an emergency or suffer from an illness that precludes your attendance, please call or email me as soon as possible. In such circumstances, you will need to provide written documentation to make up exams or submit papers late. Makeup exams will be administered in an alternative format.

Late Submissions. Papers and assignments are expected at the beginning of the class period for which they are assigned. Papers submitted later in the day will be subject to a 20% deduction. Papers submitted the following day are subject to a 30% deduction; the next day, 50%; while papers submitted more than two days late will not be accepted.

Disabilities. It is the policy of Union College to make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and wish to request accommodations to complete the course requirements, please make an appointment with me. All discussions will remain confidential.

Academic Dishonesty. Judicial action will be taken against any student engaging in dishonest behaviors. Dishonest behavior includes, but certainly is not limited to plagiarism on any assignment, collaboration with fellow students on any assignment, or dishonesty during examinations. *Although discussion with your classmates about readings and independent assignments is encouraged, collaboration – working jointly toward the completion of an assignment – is not.* Students are advised to consult the Union College Statement on Plagiarism available online at www.union.edu/PUBLIC/LIBRARY/refroom/statement.htm.

Schedule Changes. Although I intend to follow the Schedule, I reserve the right to make changes if necessary. Such changes, if any, will be clearly stated in class; it is the student's responsibility to be aware of such changes by attending class.

WAC Requirement. Because this class fulfills a WAC requirement, failure to submit any of the three research papers constitutes a failure in the course.

Old Exams. All old exams are available at www.GeorgeBizer.com. I am happy to discuss these exams during review sessions.

