

PSYC 3130-01 (CRN 11189)

EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

and Contemporary Methods of Psychological Science

Tu/Th 2-3:15pm, Boggs 104

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Course Web Site: <http://psychmike.com/exp>

We will rely heavily on this web site, so become familiar with its organization immediately. BlackBoard will only be used for posting copyrighted materials, data files, and grades.

Prerequisite: PSYC 3090 – Univariate Statistics **Corequisite:** PSYC 3131 – Experimental Lab

Course Overview: Psychology is the scientific study of human behavior. This course will provide an initial overview of the research methods used to study people, including correlational studies, experiments, and other approaches. After completing this course, successful students will be able to do the following:

- Develop testable hypotheses and design simple correlational and experimental studies that have the potential for significance and innovation
- Read and critically evaluate research articles and scientific claims
- Conduct basic statistical analyses of broad relevance to psychological science
- Contribute to the scientific infrastructure of the nation that will allow the coming generation of psychologists to flourish

This course is difficult for most students, but your effort will largely determine your grade. You will get as much out of this class as you put into it.

Required Textbook:

Goodwin, C. J. (2004). *Research in Psychology: Methods and Design – 4th Ed.* Wiley.

ISBN = 0471450081 or 978-0471450085

<http://www.amazon.com/Research-Psychology-C-James-Goodwin/dp/0471450081>

Other Materials:

- Simple calculator without text entry capabilities (strongly recommended)
- USB-style “flash” or “jump” drive (strongly recommended)
- Access to the internet and SPSS (in on-campus labs)
- APA Style Manual, 6th Edition (optional)

Format: Students are responsible for preparing for class by keeping up on assigned readings and homework. You are responsible for all information and announcements made in class, regardless of whether you are there. In accordance with University policy, you are also required to check your e-mail each day. Attendance correlates ($r = .50$) with good grades.

Academic Dishonesty: Students are responsible for adhering to the Academic Honesty Policy at Tulane (<http://tulane.edu/college/upload/Academic-Honesty-at-Tulane-2011.pdf>). Violations include plagiarism, looking at notes during an exam/quiz, looking at another student's paper during an exam/quiz, turning in assignments with answers paraphrased or copied from another classmate, and more. In the typical situation, two friends work together and turn in the same incorrect, bizarre answers, or someone copies directly from the internet. Work should be conducted independently, unless otherwise indicated. The Policy states that "Students are required to act in accordance with The Code of Academic Conduct. Any suspected violations will be brought before the Newcomb-Tulane College Honor Board," which can result in an automatic course failure, probation or expulsion, and a letter in one's permanent record.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism means presenting someone else's ideas as your own without properly giving credit. In a nutshell, this means your assignments must be your own, unless otherwise stated. It is not okay to work together to solve specific homework problems. For papers, use a citation when expressing another's idea that is not common knowledge. Use a citation and page number when paraphrasing closely, providing a figure, or providing a number/statistic. Use a citation, page number, and quotation marks when directly copying.

Classroom Civility: Students are responsible for adhering to the Tulane Policy on Disruptive and Threatening Student Behavior (<http://tulane.edu/studentaffairs/upload/Disruptive-and-Threatening-Student-Behavior-Final.pdf>). Violations include persistently arriving late or leaving early without prior authorization, talking incessantly during lecture, making frequent interruptions, belligerence, threats or bribes (written, spoken, or non-verbal, even jokingly), substance use, and inappropriate use of electronics. Computers can be used for note-taking only. Electronics should be silenced, including alerts and vibrations. Violations will be handled informally where possible. Repeated or severe violations may result in dismissal from the classroom, referral to the Office of Judicial Affairs, and/or police response.

Special Needs: Tulane provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities, and services. Students requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should first register with the Office of Disability Services (<http://tulane.edu/studentaffairs/disability/index.cfm>), and then contact me as early as possible. A letter verifying need for accommodation will be provided and should be presented to instructors in week one.

Class Schedule: The course schedule will be updated online and any announcements will be made in class. Dates for exams and papers are final, barring university closings.

- Withdrawal Deadline: 2/14 (without record), 3/19 (with record)
- Regular Exams, Labs, and Papers: See online course calendar
- Make-up Exam: Wednesday 5/7 at 1pm
- Make-up Lab, Re-Writes, ELC: Friday 5/9 at Noon (SONA closes around Thursday 5/1)

Grades: A = 920.0, A- = 890.0, B+ = 860.0, B = 820.0, B- = 790.0,
C+ = 760.0, C = 720.0, C- = 690.0, D+ = 660.0, D = 620.0, D- = 590.0

Statistical procedures (e.g., item analysis, ANCOVA) are used to ensure the fairness of test items and the provision of lab instruction. While there is no rounding, the available extra credit and make-up work will provide students with ample opportunities for titrating their grades. Finally, the top student of the semester will be honored with the Experimental Psychology B. F. Skinner Award.

Category	Number	Points Each	Points Total	Percentage
Exams	4	120	480	48.0%
Lab Papers	2	120	240	24.0%
Lab Assignments	6	30	180	18.0%
Lab Attendance	--	--	60	6.0%
Experiential Learning Credit (ELC)	--	--	40	4.0%
Total			1,000	100.0%

Extra Credit

There are 50 extra credit points available. Extra credit will come primarily from pop quizzes held in lecture. Students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to class. No additional extra credit opportunities are expected to be offered, and missed quizzes cannot be made up.

Exams

Each exam is worth 120 points. All exams are 40 questions and are multiple choice or T/F. In addition to the 4 regularly scheduled exams, there will be 1 make-up exam (cumulative, held finals week). If you would like, you may take all five exams and drop your lowest score. If you are content with your scores, however, you may elect not to take the make-up exam.

Lab Papers

Each paper is worth 120 points. Details will be provided in lab and lecture. The first paper will involve writing an APA-style report, using correlational analyses. The second paper will involve writing an APA-style proposal for a research experiment. Students are expected to back-up their work frequently and print the night before to avoid catastrophes. Students will be allowed to substantially revise and re-submit one paper to earn back half the points they missed. Late papers can be submitted by email before midnight (email your lab instructor and CC Mike) and will be marked 30% off.

Writing Intensive. This course can be used to fulfill the “Writing Intensive” requirement, but will require working alone on both papers and revising one of them, each of which are normally optional (<http://tulane.edu/liberal-arts/undergraduate-writing-intensive-requirement.cfm>)

Innovation Waiver. Extremely advanced students can waive any-and-all lab paper requirements by putting forth a more challenging alternative. Any student requesting an innovation waiver should meet with Mike individually and gain written authorization by January 21.

Lab Assignments

Each homework assignment is worth 30 points. All assignments must be typed. In addition to the 6 regularly scheduled assignments, 1 make-up assignment will be offered at the end of the year. Allow ample time for SPSS assignments, and remember to backup your work. Late or incomplete assignments can be submitted by e-mail before midnight (email the lab instructor and CC Mike) and will be marked 30% off.

Lab Attendance

Lab attendance is mandatory. Students will lose 10 points per absence, 5 per tardy. Students missing 6 labs will automatically fail the course. The lab instructor can excuse an absence if notified the same day or earlier and subsequently presented with evidence of an urgent doctor's visit or funeral attendance. The available extra credit should more than offset the loss of points for other potential absences.

Experiential Learning Credit (ELC)

A great philosopher Wang Yangming once argued that, "to know and not to act is not to know." Students are to complete 4 hours of ELC in psychology for 40 points; it's **all or nothing**, so if you do 3.8 hours, you get no points. Hours can be completed using any combination of the following options.

A) Research Study Participation: Students can serve as research participants through SONA, Tulane's psychology research web site (<https://tulane-psych.sona-systems.com>). Participating in psychological research will yield firsthand knowledge of research materials and methods, allow for introspection, provide exposure to research labs potentially worth joining, and support the Tulane research infrastructure that underlies much of the university's prestige, funding, and contribution to society.

B) Creative Activities: These must be approved by Mike in advance. They can be anything that allows you to use psychology skills in the real world. Some options:

- Attend an on-campus event that can be linked to psychology
- Advocate for causes valued by psychologists, e.g., human welfare, science, teaching, equality
- Write a letter to a newspaper editor regarding an issue involving psychology, human welfare, statistics, or research

C) Article Reviews: I have posted several recent articles from *Psychological Science* on Blackboard under the Course Materials section, which can be reviewed for 1 ELC hour each. Read the article and write a 1.5+ page review that answers these questions: (1) What are the main conclusions of the article? (2) What are the strengths and weaknesses of the study or article? (3) Are their conclusions valid—that is, do you buy what they're selling? (4) Given these findings, what should researcher examine next and why? Reviews that are < 1.5 pages or with 2 or more spelling/grammatical errors will be returned.

PSYC 3130 Student Survey

All responses optional

Name: _____

Class: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Other: _____

Have you taken the prerequisite (PSYC 3090 – Univariate Statistics)? Yes No

Are you correctly enrolled in one of the corequisite lab sections? Yes No

Have you ever enrolled in this course previously? Yes No

What are your concerns about effectively completing this course? _____

What are your career plans? _____

Are you considering attending graduate school? _____

Which research labs are you involved with? _____

What are a few topics that interest you in psychology? _____

Where are you from? _____

Any non-academic interests (sports, clubs, interests, favorite music/TV/movies, etc.)? _____

Do any of the following topics interest you? Check all that apply. In the Special Topics series, we can discuss how any of these relate to psychological science, research methods, and career development.

- How to get into grad school How to find a good mentor/job Interviewing
- Implications of the ACA (Obamacare) Time management Dealing with rejection
- Overview of NIH (federal grant funding) Internet research Avoiding offensive words
- Effective titles, tables, and figures How research gets published
- How to say “no” effectively Other #1: _____ Other #2: _____

Sign that you have read and understood the Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, Classroom Civility, and Special Needs policies in the syllabus.

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