

Psychology Research Methods

PSYC 3130-05/06, Experimental Psychology & Lab, CRN 32266/32267, 4 credits

Labs: M 11am-12:50pm or M 9am-10:50am in Boggs 102
Lecture: Tu/Th 2pm-3:15pm in Richardson Building 113A

Instructor: Mike Hoerger, PhD, MSCR, Office in Stern 3070, mhoerger@tulane.edu

Lab Instructor: Jenna Winston, MS, Office in Stern 4066, jwinston@tulane.edu

Grader (Quizzes/Scantron): Ryan Brennan, BS, rbrennan@tulane.edu

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

We will rely mainly on this web site, while grades, data files, and readings will be posted on Canvas

Prerequisite: PSYC 3090 – Univariate Statistics

Corequisite Lab Section: Each student is personally responsible for enrolling in their desired lab section. Students cannot attend lab sections other than the one they are enrolled in, and students in different lab sections cannot work together on the few joint assignments.

Course Overview: Psychology is the scientific study of human cognition, affect, and behavior. This course will provide an overview of the research methods used to study people, including correlational studies, lab experiments, clinical studies, 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

Required Textbooks:

- Main textbook: Reading assignments are posted as PDF documents on Canvas.
- American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association – 6th edition*. Washington, DC: Author. ISBN = 1433805618 or 978-1433805615
<http://www.amazon.com/Publication-American-Psychological-Association-Edition/dp/1433805618>

Other Materials:

- Simple calculator without text entry capabilities
- USB “flash” or “jump” drive (always back up any work you would be disappointed to lose)
- Access to the internet and SPSS (in on-campus labs)

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. Advising wants to be contacted if you are not meeting expectations.

Code of Academic Conduct: The Code applies to all Tulane students (<https://college.tulane.edu/code-of-academic-conduct>) and acknowledges the right of the university to take disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion, for conduct judged unsatisfactory or disruptive. 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.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism means presenting someone else's ideas as your own without properly giving credit. 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.

Civility: Students are responsible for adhering to Tulane's policy on disruptive and threatening student behavior (<https://www2.tulane.edu/studentaffairs/support/conduct/faculty/help.cfm>). Violations include persistently arriving late or leaving early without prior authorization, talking incessantly during lecture, making frequent interruptions, belligerence, threats, bribes, substance use, and inappropriate use of electronics. Violations will be handled informally where possible and may affect participation grades. Repeated or severe violations may result in dismissal from the classroom, referral to the Office of Judicial Affairs, and/or police response.

Technology: Phones and other technology that may distract classmates should be silenced, including alerts and vibrations, and put away during class. Computers should only be used to access course content, not email, Facebook, Twitter, Tinder, or other content that may distract classmates. If a student is highly distractible, they should shut off their wi-fi. Violations will be handled as with the civility policy, may result in loss of points, and will result in loss of credit if exams or quizzes are out.

Printing Policy: Students may not print assignments or papers in the computer lab on the day they are due. These will not be accepted, and violations will be handled as with the civility policy.

Quiet Policy: Avoid conversing in the hallway near faculty offices, as this is very disruptive. Violations will be handled as with the civility policy.

Accommodations: Any students with disabilities or other needs, who need special accommodations in this course, are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor and contact Goldman Center for Student Accessibility: <http://accessibility.tulane.edu> or 504.862.8433. All paperwork is now handled electronically, but please check in with Mike in the first two weeks of class to give him a heads up.

Non-Discrimination and Support: Tulane recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. As "One Wave," Tulane is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, creed, religion, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation, as well as all forms of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences discrimination, domestic violence, sexual assault or sexual harassment, know that you are not alone. Resources and support are available (<http://campushealth.tulane.edu/>). Any and all of your communications on these matters will be treated as either "Strictly Confidential" or "Mostly Confidential" as explained online.

Grief Policy: With documentation, Mike will make every effort within the university policy to accommodate students affected by loss.

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 (see online course calendar).

Innovation Waiver: Extremely advanced students can waive any-and-all course requirements by putting forth a more challenging alternative. For example, in the past, advanced students have negotiated replacing the term paper requirements with the greater challenge of producing a publication-quality manuscript from a mentor's data; two have been published. Any student requesting an innovation waiver should complete the innovation waiver form (http://www.psychmike.com/methods/innovation_waiver.doc) by 1/25.

Grades: A = 930.00, A- = 900.00, B+ = 870.00, B = 830.00, B- = 800.00, C+ = 770.00, C = 730.00, C- = 700.00, D+ = 670.00, D = 630.00, D- = 600.00, E < 600.00

Statistical procedures are used to ensure the fairness of grades. Students have ample opportunities for titrating their grades through extra credit and make-up work, so requests for rounding grades up or down (even by 0.0001 points) would reflect poorly and will never be honored. Finally, the top student of the semester will be honored with the Experimental Psychology B. F. Skinner Excellence Award.

Category	Number	Points Each	Points Total	Percentage
Extra Credit	--	--	(50)	(5.0%)
Exams	3	160	480	48.0%
Lab Papers	2	120	240	24.0%
Lab Assignments	5	30	150	15.0%
Lab Attendance	--	--	60	6.0%
Participation	--	--	50	5.0%
Course Evaluations	--	--	20	2.0%
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 for any reason.

Exams: Each exam is worth 160 points. The 3 regular exams are 40 multiple-choice questions each. Late exams cannot be offered per university policy. An optional, cumulative make-up exam held finals week is essay/short-answer and can replace a low or missing exam 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. Students are expected to back-up their work frequently and print the night before to avoid catastrophes. Late papers can be submitted by email before midnight (email your lab instructor and CC Mike) and will be marked 30% off. Students will be allowed to substantially revise and resubmit the 2nd paper to earn back 25% of *all* paper-points missed.

Writing Intensive. Mike recommends most psychology majors complete Tulane's "Writing Intensive" requirement through this course (<http://psychmike.com/methods/Writing-Petition.pdf>). This is a part of Tulane's broader mission of making graduates more competitive, as writing skills have been underemphasized. Implementation of the "Writing Intensive" program has moved Tulane from a "D" (underdeveloped) to a "B" (effective) rating in this quality domain (Dunn, McCarthy, Baker, Halonen, & Hill, 2007). In contrast, A-level (distinguished) programs have systematic, multi-tiered writing requirements. The only additional requirements for completing the intensive in this course are that you must write your papers alone, which is normally optional. Mike requires you complete the form, obtain his signature, and return the form to him by 1/25. He will turn in all forms to Beth Wee, PhD.

Lab Assignments: Each of the 5 assignments are worth 30 points. All assignments must be typed. Allow ample time for SPSS assignments, and remember to back-up 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. At the end of the year, there will be one make-up assignment offered, which is optional and can be used to replace a low or missing score on one lab assignment.

Lab Attendance: Lab attendance is mandatory. Most lab sessions will go the entire time, though early dismissal criteria are noted for some sessions involving group work or for advanced students who have worked far ahead. Students who are physically present and mentally present (i.e., not browsing the web or using their cell phone) for the entire required portion of each lab session receive full credit (60 points for the semester). Students lose 10 points per absence, defined as not being fully present, physically and mentally, for more than 10 minutes according to the lab instructor's estimate. Students lose 5 points per tardy or other minor absence <10 minutes by lab instructor estimate. Students missing >5 labs 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 medical visit or funeral attendance. The available extra credit should more than offset the loss of points for other potential absences (e.g., vacations to Crested Butte, job interviews, cleaning up dog pee, oversleeping, mononucleosis-induced fatigue). The lab instructor will communicate regularly with Mike about lab room management, and serious violations will be handled via the civility policy.

Participation: Students are expected to actively engage in lecture and their lab work (50 points for the semester). Side conversations, off-task use of technology, distracting other students, and violating the civility policy will lead to a loss of points. Students are encouraged to read for class, ask thoughtful questions, make insightful comments, and foster an atmosphere of mutual comfort and respect.

Course Evaluations: Students will receive 20 points for completing end-of-semester evaluations of the instructor (through the online system) and lab instructor (through an anonymous form provided in lecture).