

PSY 3213L Lab Methods in Psychology

MWF: 1:55 – 2:45 pm

PSY 130

Spring 2019

Instructor: Christine Vitiello, M.S. (cvitiello@ufl.edu)

Office: PSY 235E

Office Hours: Mondays 9:15 to 10:15

Wednesdays 9:30 to 10:30 or by appointment

Undergraduate Teaching Assistants:

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Course Description: Most students report that Lab Methods in Psychology is one of the most time-consuming and challenging courses. In truth, it is one of most important courses a psychology major will take in their undergraduate career because it provides the underlying framework that makes psychology a science. That is, it provides an overview of current research methods used in the various sub-disciplines of psychology. Basic principles of research design, data collection, analysis and communication of research will be covered. Success in this course requires active participation in class activities, timely reading of assigned material, and review of all material on a regular basis outside of class. Effective time management will be very important in this class.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Understand each component of the research process and how they relate to each other, including the development of: research questions and hypotheses, measures and manipulations, research designs, and analytic strategies.
2. Be able to identify threats to the validity of research inferences.
3. Be able to identify the distinguishing features of the different research designs.
4. Be able to critique research.
5. Understand the strengths and limitations of different research designs.
6. Know which analytic method to use to analyze data obtained by each design.
7. Understand the types of information provided by descriptive and inferential data analyses.
8. Understand the correct interpretation of the results of data analyses and how results relate to the hypotheses they test.
9. Be able to write a research proposal in APA style.

Recommended Texts:

Cozby, P. C. & Bates, S. C. (2017). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (13th ed.). New York, NY.

Optional Materials:

1. Schwartz, B.M., Landrum, R.E., & Guring, R.A.R. (2012). *An easy guide to APA style*. Los Angeles: Sage
2. Pallant, J. (2013). *SPSS survival manual : a step by step guide to data analysis using the SPSS program* (5th ed.).
3. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6th ed.). (HIGHLY recommended)

Course Structure

Exams: There will be 3 non-cumulative exams (see course schedule). Each is worth 100 points and can consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, and/or short essay questions. On the day of the exam please arrive on time. **If you arrive after the first person has turned in his/ her exam, you will not be allowed to take the exam.** You are responsible for bringing a pencil on exam day. You may only take an exam on the pre-arranged date and time unless you provide proper documentation as per University guidelines for a university excused absence. If you provide adequate documentation for your absence, you will be expected to take the exam within *one week* of the excused absence.

Attendance: I will take attendance during class periods using the website Arkaive (www.arkaive.com). After the drop/add period, I will provide instructions on Canvas for how to use this website. Sometimes your attendance during the class period will earn you 1 point; this will happen 15 times throughout the semester. If you are absent on an attendance credit day, you will receive 0 out of 1 points. I will drop the two lowest attendance scores of the semester. For example, if you were absent two different days when attendance credit was granted, I will drop those scores and you will have the full 13 points for attendance. You cannot make up these points so please make every effort to come to class. These attendance checks will be random so I will not announce when they will occur.

Lab Activities: There will be 6 lab activity assignments throughout the semester. Each is worth 10 points and will vary in format. The activities are designed to help reinforce content learned throughout the semester. You will be provided with detailed instructions regarding each assignment. Each assignment, with instructions, will be distributed through [Canvas](#). These assignments should be completed individually (i.e., NOT in groups). Completing these assignments in groups would be a violation of the academic code of conduct and will result in failure of the assignment and possible failure of the course. **No late assignments will be accepted under any circumstances. For your first lab activity, you will complete ethical training. All persons at UF who conduct research must complete this course and because you will be conducting research you must complete this. If you DO NOT complete this assignment by 1/18 at the start of lab, you will receive a 0 for the assignment. If you fail to complete it by 2/15 at the start of lab you will receive a 0 for your research project because I cannot allow you to collect data without successfully passing this training course. So PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU COMPLETE THIS!!!**

Research Project: This is the assignment that makes Research Methods different from any other class you have taken thus far. Students will be responsible for completing a group research project designed to reinforce course concepts. Assignments for this research proposal, as a group, will be due throughout the semester, including a graded title page, introduction, method, results, discussion, and reference sections. More detailed information on each part of the project will be provided throughout the course. **Late papers/assignments will not be accepted under any circumstances.** If you have any questions or need help with lab assignments or research project assignments, you should try to email the instructor or TAs at least 24 hours before the due date. If you wait until the last minute, we may not be able to answer you in a timely manner.

Turnitin.com: Turnitin.com is a plagiarism detection service available to the faculty at UF. The website searches your paper for instances of plagiarism (from previously turned in papers, internet resources and publications). Students who plagiarize may receive a “zero” (E) for the entire course. Please make sure you read the sections on plagiarism in your Student Handbook and the APA manual. It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is and any misunderstandings on your part may not be used as excuses. **Each section and final version of your paper will be submitted to turnitin.com. Late assignments will not be accepted under any circumstances.**

Grading

Your final grade will be calculated by your performance on exams, lab activities, and research project. Letter grades will be assigned according to the grading scale below. I do not round up grades under any circumstances.

3 exams (100 points each) – **300 points**

Lab Activities-**60 points**

Attendance- **13 points**

Research Proposal - **227 points**

 Introduction draft: 17 points

 Method draft: 13 points

 Results draft: 12 points

 Grading group members: 10 points

 Final Paper: 175 points

Total Points: **600**

A	=	93 – 100%	C-	=	70 – 72%
A-	=	90 – 92%	D+	=	67 – 69%
B+	=	87 – 89%	D	=	63- 66%
B	=	83 - 86 %	D-	=	60 – 62%
B-	=	80 - 82 %	E	=	0 – 59%
C+	=	77 - 79 %			
C	=	73 – 76%			

Policy for Disputing Grades:

You have two weeks after the release of a grade to dispute it (this does not include the final paper and Exam 3). Disputes about a grade will not be accepted after this period. If you want to dispute a test item, you must write a paragraph explaining why you think you should receive credit and include a reference to page numbers in the textbook or slide numbers in the lecture to back up your claim. For assignments, you must also write a paragraph explaining why you are disputing the grade. Grade disputes for the final paper are due by May 2 at 5 pm.

Attendance Policy:

Successful completion of this course requires *regular class attendance* and *active participation* in class discussions. Lectures and class discussions will clarify and expand upon information provided in your textbook. Also, because you will be working with other students on the group project it is very important that you attend class regularly. As such, if you **miss more than 3 lectures** I reserve the right to remove you from your group and do the project on your own. This removal can happen at any point in the semester. In other words, if you do not attend class regularly, you will not be allowed to work in a group. If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining the information discussed in class from your classmates. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Cheating is defined in the UF Handbook, and it is the student's responsibility to be familiar with its many forms (including plagiarism). If a student is caught cheating, the first offense will result in a zero for that exam or assignment and a record of the event will be placed in a temporary file with the Office of Student Affairs. The second offense will result in an 'E' for the course, and the student will go before the Honor Court. As a result of completing registration at UF, every student has agreed to the following statement: *I understand that UF expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."*

Classroom Conduct:

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Please arrive to class on time. If you must leave early, please do so as quietly as possible. Cell phones and other potential distractions must be turned off or in *silent* mode. If I see you using your cell phone during class I will give you 1 warning, if I see you using it again I will ask you to leave class. In the event that a personal emergency necessitates access to your cell phone, you must notify me *before* class begins and set your phone on *vibrate* mode.

Laptops:

I am perfectly fine with you using laptops to take notes but keep in mind recent research has shown taking notes by hand is more beneficial.

<http://www.npr.org/2016/04/17/474525392/attention-students-put-your-laptops-away>.

Disabled Student Policy:

The university provides accommodations to students with disabilities that may affect the ability to participate in activities or to meet course requirements. If you are a student with a disability and would like to request disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center (and me) as early in the semester as possible. The DRC is located in 001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall). Their phone number is 392-8565. ***Be sure to contact me as soon as possible and be assured these conversations will be held in strict confidence.***

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Canvas:

Course-related materials will be posted on Canvas platform (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>; click “**Canvas Login**”) so if you are not familiar with it I highly suggest that you spend some time exploring its various components. We’ll be using Canvas heavily to supplement our in-class meetings throughout the semester. Each student must become familiar with this software and ***check the course web site on a regular basis*** because important class updates and announcements will be posted online. You will be responsible for all class announcements made through canvas.

**PSY 3213L – Spring 2019
Lecture Class Schedule**

Class Date	Topic	Reading	Project Assignments
1/7	Course Introduction		
1/9, 1/14	Understanding Behavior	Chapter 1	
1/16, 1/23	Where to Start	Chapter 2	
1/21	Holiday No Class		
1/28, 1/30, 2/4	Fundamental Research Issues	Chapter 4	
2/6, 2/11, 2/13	Measurement Concepts	Chapter 5	
2/18	Exam 1		
2/20, 2/25	Survey Research	Chapter 7	
2/27	Experimental Design	Chapter 8	
3/4 to 3/8	Spring Break, No class		
3/11, 3/13	Experimental Design cont'	Chapter 8	
3/18, 3/20	Complex Experimental Designs	Chapter 10	
3/25	Exam 2		
3/27, 4/1, 4/3	Description and Correlation	Chapter 12	
4/8, 4/10, 4/15	Statistical Inference	Chapter 13	
4/17	Observational Methods	Chapter 6	
4/24	Ethics	Chapter 3	
4/30	Exam 3 (3 to 5 pm)		

** This schedule is tentative and subject to change as necessary**

Research Methods (PSY 3213L) Lab Schedule Spring 2019

Date	Lab Topics	Weekly Assignment
1/11	Overview of Lab Schedule Forming group partners Conducting a Literature Search using psychological databases	CITI IRB Training Certificate Due 1/18 at beginning of lab
1/18	APA Style Rules Paper Writing I: Introduction Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to write an introduction section 	APA Styles Assignment Due 1/25 at beginning of lab. Develop your research question and Hypothesis/hypotheses
1/25	In Lab Work Days Review of APA Style Rules Review of Paper Requirements	Develop your research question and Hypotheses/hypothesis
2/1	In Lab Work Days Review of APA Style Rules Review of Paper Requirements	Confounding Variable Activity Due 2/8 at beginning of lab Develop your research question and Hypotheses/hypothesis
2/8	In Lab Work Day	
2/15	Paper Part II Overview Paper Writing II: Method Section	Title Page, Introduction, and Reference Section Due 2/15 at beginning of lab
2/22	In Lab Work Day: Should leave today with all of your materials ready to collect data Data Collection Week	Work on Method Section
3/1	In Lab Work Day	Experimental Designs Activity Due 3/1 at beginning of lab
3/8	No Class	

3/15	Paper Part III Overview Paper Writing III: Results Section Data Collection Week	Method Section Due 3/15 at Beginning of Lab
3/22	Introduction to SPSS: Descriptive Statistics	Work on Results Section Descriptive Statistics Activity Due 3/29 at beginning of lab
3/29	Introduction to SPSS: Inferential Statistics	Work on Results Section Statistical Decisions Activity Due 4/5 at beginning of lab
4/5	Paper Part IV Overview Paper Writing IV: Discussion	Results Section Due at the Beginning of lab
4/12	Paper Part IV Overview Paper Writing IV: Discussion	
4/19	Work on Finalizing Paper	Final Paper including all revised sections Due 4/22 at 11:59pm

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