Welcome to Psychology 3213L - Lab Methods in Psychology!

Instructor: Dr. Dana Wood

Office: Psychology 273

Office Hours: Monday and Friday 11:35am-12:35pm, Wednesday 9:30-10:30am

I am also available by appointment.

Course Overview

As students of psychology, our goal is to learn as much as we can about the body of knowledge that constitutes our discipline. PSY3213L provides detailed coverage of the scientific methods researchers use to create that body of knowledge. General topics include 1) how to reason about social science research, 2) the kinds of claims that social scientists make and the appropriate research methods for supporting those claims, 3) how to apply the “four big validities” (i.e., construct, statistical, internal, and external validity) to evaluate the quality of existing social science research, and 4) research ethics. Along the way, we’ll incorporate a handful of basic statistical techniques and get a moderate dose of APA style. By the end of the class, you’ll be in a better position to critically and systematically evaluate reports of scholarly research, and to conduct a little research of your own.

Course Goals

Upon completion of the course, students will:

- Understand the link between theories and hypotheses, and be able to explain their role in the process of generating new knowledge in psychology.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the range of research methods used to test hypotheses in psychology; be able to select the appropriate method to test a given hypothesis.
- Know how to use the “three claims, four validities” framework to analyze and draw conclusions about the evidence behind research-based claims presented in scholarly articles and elsewhere.
- Understand the ethical issues involved in conducting psychological research.
- Be proficient at using APA style for writing term papers.

In addition to these broad goals, we will have a set of specific learning objectives for each chapter.

Course Materials

Everything you need for the course can be accessed right here on Canvas. Our textbook is the e-book version of Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of
Information (3rd edition) and is hosted on Norton Publishing’s e-Book platform. For the best price and quickest access, I recommend that you opt in to this class through UF All Access. (You can learn more about UF All Access here.) Because it contains quizzes that count toward your class grade, you are required to use the e-book version of our text.

Course Organization and Schedule

This course covers fourteen chapters in our textbook, which are organized into five blocks. As you read the book, you will complete the corresponding InQuizitive quizzes. For each chapter, you will also take a graded quiz on Canvas. For most chapters, we will complete an in-class activity designed to help you master the material on a deeper level. On occasion, we will analyze data collected from the class to illustrate course concepts. All of these activities and assignments are designed to prepare you for success on the five in-class exams and the final paper project.

See the full schedule for the semester here.

Assignments and Grading

InQuizitive quizzes (5%). InQuizitive is an adaptive quizzing system that accompanies our textbook. The quizzes are untimed and you can continue answering questions until you have earned the score you want.

Chapter quizzes (10%). We will have 13 open-book/open-note chapter quizzes, each with 25 multiple-choice items and a time limit of 30 minutes. You may take the chapter quizzes as many times as you wish before the quiz due date, and your highest score will be recorded in the grade book.

Participation in homework/learning cafes (10%). For several of the chapters, we will have a challenging homework assignment or in-class learning activity. Although the accuracy of your work will not be graded, your active engagement and participation in our class discussions about this work will count 10% toward your overall class grade. When a homework is assigned, you are expected to complete it fully at home and come to class prepared to ask and answer questions during discussion. When an in-class activity is assigned, you are expected to complete it in class and submit your work so that we can grade it for completion. You may miss one homework/learning cafe without penalty. Additional absences will incur a one-point deduction from your participation grade. If you are absent for a homework/learning cafe, please contact a classmate to find out what you missed.

In-class exams (60%). We will have six in-class multiple-choice exams, one corresponding with each section of our text. Exams are closed-book.
Final paper project (15%). For your final project, you will analyze an empirical research article through the lens of the three claims, four validities framework, which we will use throughout the semester. Additional information about this assignment will be provided later in the semester.

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

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

Final percent values will be rounded to the nearest whole number. For example, a grade of 89.50% would be rounded to 90, but a grade of 89.49% would remain an 89.

Grades in PSY3213L are based on objective criteria and are not negotiable. In the interest of fairness to all students, I ask that you kindly refrain from contacting me or the TAs at the end of the semester to request special consideration or extra credit work.

Course Policies

Academic integrity. Required syllabus statement regarding cheating: “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.”
Cheating on exams and assignments takes many forms, including but not limited to: copying the work of another student, plagiarizing, allowing another student to copy your work, completing work on behalf of another student, and sharing or discussing online exam questions with students who have not yet taken the test. The range of behaviors defined as cheating are clearly explained in the University of Florida Student Conduct & Honor Code, which you can access here (Links to an external site.). I am committed to treating all instances of cheating seriously. Please do not cheat.

Allowing other students to copy your work is a form of cheating. Accordingly, sharing work completed for this class to crowdsourced online learning websites (e.g., Course Hero or any other website from which your work could be copied) is strictly forbidden. If you share your work to one of these sites and another student copies it, you will be subject to UF’s honor code policy even if the incident occurs during a future semester.

**Assistance for students with disabilities.** If you have a disability, you may be eligible for educational accommodations. If you have not yet established your eligibility for accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at (352) 392-8565, accessuf@ufsa.ufl.edu, or Room 0001 in Reid Hall. If you have already established your eligibility, please contact me as early in the semester as possible so that we can work together to make sure you have what you need to succeed in class. Please note that accommodation requests are not retroactive; you must request what you need ahead of time.

**Late work policy.** To ensure your success in the class, do your best to submit all work on time. Late InQuizitive and chapter quizzes will not be accepted.

**Requests for regrades.** You have one week after a grade has been posted to dispute your grade and request that the grader take a second look at your work. Please note that requests for regrades will not be considered after the one-week window has passed. In your request for a regrade, contact the Dr. Wood with information about the assignment you are referring to and a clear explanation of why you believe your grade is not accurate. If needed, refer to material in the textbook or other course resources (e.g., posted videos, rubrics, etc.) to provide evidence for why the grade you received is incorrect.

**GatorEvals.** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/ (Links to an external site.). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/ (Links to an external site.). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/ (Links to an external site.).
Statement about sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is not tolerated in this class, in the Department of Psychology, or at the University of Florida. Sexual harassment includes the inappropriate introduction of sexual activities or comments in a situation where sex is otherwise irrelevant. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and a violation of state and federal laws, as well as of the policies and regulations of the university. All UF employees and students must adhere to UF’s sexual harassment policy, which can be found here: [https://hr.ufl.edu/forms-policies/policies-managers/sexual-harassment/](https://hr.ufl.edu/forms-policies/policies-managers/sexual-harassment/) (Links to an external site.). Please review this policy and contact a university official if you have any questions about the policy. As mandatory reporters, university employees (e.g., administrators, managers, supervisors, faculty, teaching assistants, staff) are required to report knowledge of sexual harassment to UF’s Title IX coordinator. For more information about UF’s Title IX office see: [https://titleix.ufl.edu/](https://titleix.ufl.edu/) (Links to an external site.). You can also complete a Sexual Harassment Report online (Title IX) at: [https://titleix.ufl.edu/title-ix-reporting-form/](https://titleix.ufl.edu/title-ix-reporting-form/) (Links to an external site.).