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Course Purpose: Most students report that Lab Methods in Psychology is one of the most time-consuming and challenging courses. In truth, it is, in my opinion, the most important courses a psychology major will take in her/his 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.

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.

Required Texts:

Cozby, P. C. & Bates, S. C. (2024). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (15th ed.). New York, NY.

*This course is participating in the UF ALL ACCESS program for the **Fall 2025** semester. **The ALL ACCESS program will allow you to gain access to the required materials for the course at a significantly discounted price.** **Please see UF All Access PDF posted in the course files for directions on how to opt-in and access your course materials. Go to <https://bsd.ufl.edu/allaccess> to log into your GatorLink account. You will see a list of classes in which you are enrolled that are participating in UF All Access, with the prices. Click the **Opt-in check box** next to the appropriate class. You may have more than one class that you are taking participating in the program. Students then need to click the button below to authorize the charges.*

Optional Materials:

1. Szuchman, L.T. (2014). *Writing with style* (6th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson-Wadsworth Publishing.
2. Pallant, J. (2016). *SPSS survival manual : a step by step guide to data analysis using the SPSS program* (7th ed.).
3. Here (<https://www.psychologicalscience.org/observer/learning-to-work-with-r>) you will find several resources for learning how to use R. If you are planning to attend graduate school in Psychology then I strongly suggest you get familiar with R. But we WILL NOT use this in our class as it is too advanced for our purposes.
4. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. (7th ed.). (HIGHLY recommended)

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.

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 and thus will receive a 0 on the exam without the ability to make it up.** 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 documentation of an illness, death in the family, or **serious** emergency. If you provide adequate documentation for your absence, you will have to take the exam within *one week* of the excused absence and the exam will be an **ESSAY EXAM**.

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 a course grade penalty of one letter grade and completion of an ethical decision making training course. However, if you have a prior history of misconduct then misconduct will result in an E grade in 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 as part of your grade for this class you must complete this. **If you DO NOT complete this assignment by 8/28 at the start of lab, you will receive a 0 for the assignment. If you fail to complete it by 10/9 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!!!!!!**

SONA Participation Pool: Learning about Psychology requires reading, listening, and doing. As a supplement to lecture, you are required to participate in 7.5 hours of experimental research studies, or to complete an equivalent alternate assignment (see assignment on CANVAS for more details). There is a Psychology Department requirement that all students enrolled in Gen Psych, Personal Growth, or any 3000 level class participate in the SONA participation pool. Please see the CANVAS assignment for very detailed instructions about this assignment. There is also a file uploaded to CANVAS called “SONA Participation Pool”. The deadlines for this requirement will be posted on the research requirement document by the second week of class. Completion of this requirement affects your course grade based on the amount of research credits you earn. Do NOT wait until the last minute to complete this requirement. The longer you wait the harder it will be to get all the credits need! When you complete the research experience, you will receive 15 points that are added into your final grade. If you do NOT complete the full number of credits by the deadline, you will receive points at a rate of 1 point per credit completed. If you do not wish to participate in research then you may “opt in” for an alternative assignment, please see the Canas assignment for more details.

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 will be due, as a group, 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.**

Academic Misconduct and Turnitin.com: The University of Florida holds its students to the highest standards, and we encourage students to read the University of Florida Student Honor

Code and Student Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040), so they are aware of our standards. Any violation of the Student Honor Code will result in a referral the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution and may result in academic sanctions and further student conduct action (Please see above sections for the sanctions you will receive in this class for conduct violations). The two greatest threats to the academic integrity of the University of Florida are cheating and plagiarism. Students should be aware of their faculty's policy on collaboration, should understand how to properly cite sources, and should not give nor receive an improper academic advantage in any manner through any medium. [UF Student Honor Code.](#)

There have been recent advancements in the world of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and while many of these advancements are of benefit to society there exists serious pitfalls as well. One such pitfall is using AI to generate academic work for this class and then to submit it for grading as if YOU generated this work. To be clear, if you submit any work to this class for grading, that has been generated (in part or in whole) using any kind of AI program/computer program/chatbot/etc, under the guise that it is your OWN original work, then you will have committed academic misconduct and you will be reported to the university. Remember, **any form of academic misconduct within this class will result in a course grade penalty of one letter grade and completion of a plagiarism/ethical decision making course. However, if you have a prior history of misconduct then plagiarism/misconduct on any assignment will result in an E grade in the course.** The two greatest threats to the academic integrity of the University of Florida are cheating and plagiarism. Students should be aware of their faculty's policy on collaboration, should understand how to properly cite sources, and should not give nor receive an improper academic advantage in any manner through any medium. [UF Student Honor Code.](#)

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). **Plagiarizing or any form of misconduct on any assignment in this course will result in a course grade penalty of one letter grade and completion of a plagiarism/ethical decision making training course. However, if you have a prior history of misconduct then plagiarism/misconduct on any assignment will result in an E grade in the course.** Very Important: Given that some of the assignments in this course are group assignments plagiarism or misconduct on the group assignments will result in sanctions to the entire group, unless specific individuals come forward and accept personal and sole responsibility for the misconduct and can state that other group members were not involved in the misconduct. Please make sure you read the sections on plagiarism and misconduct in your Student Handbook and the APA manual. It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism and misconduct are 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, SONA Participation Pool, and research project. **The following scale will be used to determine final grades, I will not round up final grades under any circumstances:**

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

Lab Activities-**60 points**

SONA Participation Pool-15 points

Research Proposal - **240 points**

Introduction: 18 points

Method: 18 points

Results: 12 points

Final Paper: 180 points

Group Member Grades: 12 points

Total Points: **615**

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%			

At any time, you may calculate your grade by adding up the number of points earned, dividing that sum by the number of points attempted, and multiplying the result by 100.

Course Policies:

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#).

Late Work and Make ups:

An example: You have been very busy all week so you keep putting off taking that online quiz for your favorite class Legal Psychology. It is finally time for you to take the quiz so you put on your most comfortable Snuggie, crawl into your memory foam bed and turn on your notebook to take the quiz and then you say, “Son of a &^%*&!” because your internet goes out so you have no way of accessing the quiz now. You look at the clock and now there is only 20 minutes before the deadline so you don’t even have time go to a local Starbucks to access the internet. So you email me panicked, telling me about this horrible situation and plead for me to allow you to take the quiz late. Well unfortunately, unlike Lloyd Christmas who famously said “So you're telling me there's a chance. YEAH!”, you have NO chance of earning points for late work so please make sure you turn your assignments in on time. So please, please, please, please be responsible and make sure you do not wait until the last minute to do any of your graded assignments. Of note, if the Canvas website experiences course wide technical difficulties deadlines will be adjusted to allow for completion of assignments.

NO MAKE-UPS WILL BE GIVEN ON ANY MATERIAL FOR THIS COURSE, except for university excused absences with adequate documentation (i.e. doctor's note). You must notify me before the course material is due unless there are extenuating circumstances that physically prevent you from doing so. Doctor's notes etc. must be provided prior to making up the missed assignment. Lastly, make-ups need to be completed no later than a week after the material was due (including weekends and holidays). Thus, if the material was due on Wednesday, then it must be completed by the following Wednesday unless there are significant extenuating circumstances. **Keep in mind that for assignments that are open for multiple days (e.g., lab assignments) make-ups will only be allowed if the documentation for the university approved absence is for more than 50% of the assignment window. For example, if an assignment is open for 1 week you need to provide university approved documentation that you were unable to work for 4 days or more during the assignment window.**

Grade Disputes: For all graded assignments, you will have 1 week from the day your grades are released to dispute your grade, after which your grade will become final and can no longer be disputed. Obviously, just because you dispute your grade DOES NOT mean your grade will be changed in your favor. That is, your grade could go up or down if I have to regrade it. Also, this should not be a default reaction to any low grade you receive, please only pursue this route when you are confident that you can make a case that an error occurred. If you wish to dispute a grade you must email me to inform me that you wish to dispute your grade. Then you must attend office hours and be ready to provide a sound argument based on empirical evidence. Any changes to grades will be made solely at the discretion of your professor.

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 lab lectures (i.e., Thursday class) I reserve the right to remove you from your group and do the project on your own. And this 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://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/> **Most importantly, based on UF policy, found in the aforementioned link, I may prohibit you from coming to class and assign a failing grade if you have excessive absences "After due warning, an instructor can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences."** So, please make sure you attend class regularly but in particular the lab lectures.

U Matter, We Care: Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not

limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

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. If you arrive to class more than 15 minutes late you will not be allowed to attend, so please come on time. 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>. Keep in mind you should only use your laptops for class related work, thus, if I see you using your laptop for non-class related work I will give you a warning the first time. If I see you using it for non-class related work again I will ask you to leave class.

PSY 3213L – Fall 2025
Lecture Class Schedule

Class Date	Topic	Reading	Project Assignments
8/26	Understanding Behavior	Chapter 1	
9/2	Where to Start	Chapter 2	
9/9, 9/16	Fundamental Research Issues	Chapter 4	
9/16, 9/23	Measurement Concepts	Chapter 5	
9/30	Exam 1		
9/30	Survey Research	Chapter 7	
10/7	Experimental Design	Chapter 8	
10/14, 10/21	Complex Experimental Designs	Chapter 10	
10/28	Exam 2		
10/28	Description and Correlation	Chapter 12	
11/4	Statistical Inference	Chapter 13	
11/11	No Class: Veteran's Day		
11/18	Ethics	Chapter 3	
12/2	Exam 3		

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

Research Methods (PSY 3213L) Lab Schedule Fall 2025

Date	Lab Topics	Weekly Assignment
8/21	Overview of Class and Lab Schedule Forming group partners	CITI IRB Training Certificate Due 8/28 at beginning of lab
8/28	APA Style Rules Conducting a Literature Search using psychological databases Paper Writing I: Introduction Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to write an introduction section 	APA Styles Assignment Due 9/4 at beginning of lab. Develop your research question and Hypothesis/hypotheses
9/4	In Lab Work Days Review of APA Style Rules Review of Paper Requirements	Develop your research question and Hypotheses/hypothesis
9/11	In Lab Work Days Review of APA Style Rules Review of Paper Requirements	Confounding Variable Activity Due 9/18 at beginning of lab Develop your research question and Hypotheses/hypothesis
9/18	In Lab Work Days	Title Page, Introduction, and Reference Section Due 9/25 at beginning of lab
9/25	Paper Part II Overview Paper Writing II: Method Section	
10/2	In Lab Work Day	Work on Method Section
10/9	In Lab Work Day: Should leave today with all of your materials ready to collect data Data Collection Week	Method Section Due 10/16 at Beginning of Lab
10/16	Paper Part III Overview Paper Writing III: Results Section Data Collection Week	Experimental Designs Activity Due 10/23 at beginning of lab
10/23	Introduction to SPSS: Descriptive Statistics	Work on Results Section

	Make sure you come next week with your data ready to analyze	Descriptive Statistics Activity Due 10/30
10/30	Introduction to SPSS: Inferential Statistics	Work on Results Section Results Section Due 11/6 at the Beginning of lab
11/6	Paper Part IV Overview Paper Writing IV: Discussion	Statistical Decisions Activity Due 11/13 at beginning of lab
11/13	In Lab Work Day	
11/20	Work on Finalizing Paper	Final Paper including all revised sections Due 12/5 at 11:59pm
11/27	No Class Thanksgiving	
12/4	No Class Reading Day	

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