

Experimental Personality and Social Psychology
PSY 418 sections P, QY
TUE & THURS 11-12:15
LAB THURS 12:30 – 3 pm
Flipse 535

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Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to expose the student to the research process in personality and social psychology by having the student develop a research idea, design and carry out an original study. The course will include readings, laboratory experiments and demonstrations relevant to social psychology. Experimental design, methodology, implementation, analysis, and interpretation of research with scientific report writing and computer applications will make up the course content. Moreover, the student will present all relevant research information to an in-class audience. By the end of this semester the student will be well versed in the research process and have a hands-on understanding of the demands of social psychological research methods.

Course Evaluation

There will be two exams for this course, a midterm and a final. In addition to the exams, you will be evaluated as follows: A series of assignments, a final research paper and an in-class presentation. Your final grade breakdown is: midterm and final 15% each, assignment average 30%, final paper 30% and the presentation 10%.

Assignments:

You will have lecture assignments and lab assignments that must be completed and turned in. The lecture assignments require that you read each chapter before coming to class and write a minimum of 2 questions to hand in and discuss during class. These questions are to reflect any doubts or difficulties you may have had with the reading. The lab assignments are found on the lab schedule. *All assignments are to be typed; no handwritten assignments accepted. No late assignments accepted.*

It is important that you do these assignments and turn them in when required as these will help you with the writing of your final research paper. Although some assignments are done as a team, these are still to be handed in by each team member individually for a grade. You cannot hand in one assignment per team. Since the assignments are cumulative and work toward the completion of your research, if you do not keep up with the assignments you will fall significantly behind and may not complete your research before the end of the term. Therefore, no late assignments will be accepted.

Final research paper:

You will be required to carry out an original research project and write a professional, APA-style manuscript. Although you will do much of the research as a team, each team member is responsible for writing his or her own manuscript. Each paper will be graded individually and the writing is expected to be done individually. Late papers will lose one letter grade for each day late, no exceptions therefore plan accordingly. Papers more than 2 days late will not be accepted.

In-class presentation:

Your research team will present its results to the class in a presentation to be held at the end of the semester. Although this will be done as a team, each individual will be graded separately for his or her work. Because an audience is needed for your presentation, no late presentations will be scheduled if you cannot present on the assigned day.

Attendance and project participation:

Because of the nature of the lectures and the extensive class discussions, attendance in this class is mandatory. Attendance will be taken and excessive unexcused absences penalized. Laboratory attendance is also mandatory. Please be punctual and keep your allotted appointment time. Since you will be working on the bulk of your research as a team, I will individually evaluate each team member for his or her participation. Anyone not contributing his or her share will be penalized.

Academic Honesty and Cheating Policy:

Because of the nature of this class a good deal of work will be done together although each team member is required to carry his or her own weight and will be graded individually for all assignments. The data analyses and the final paper are completely individual projects and **each student will be required to turn in the final paper with the following signed pledge: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received any aid on this paper.”** In addition to the paper, all exams will be taken individually.

Administrative information:

This syllabus is provided for your information and may change during the course of the semester at my discretion. You are responsible for the material in the syllabus as well as anything that may be added during the semester.

I will hold office hours Monday & Wednesday from 12:30 to 3:30 pm in Flipse 459. If you need to speak to me outside of office hours, please email me or leave me a message with the TA or with the psychology department assistant.

Required Readings and Text:

You are responsible for all assigned reading. The required texts can be found in the bookstore. These are:

Bordens, K.S. & Abbott, B.B. (2004). Research Design and Methods: A process approach (6th ed.)
Boston, MA: McGraw Hill

American Psychological Association (APA). (2001). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association .

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COURSE SCHEDULE

Lab dates in bold font denote actual in-class meeting during Thursday lab time.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment due
1	8/23	Syllabus and Introductions / team selections		
1-LAB		Library research		
2	8/28	Topics in social psychology		
2	8/30	Explaining behavior: The steps of the research process	Ch. 1	Questions from reading
2-LAB		Introductions / explain team meetings / teams get acquainted and discuss their ideas together.		
3	9/4	Ideas for Research / selecting your variables of interest and turning it into a research question	Ch. 2	Questions from reading
3	9/6	Teams by appointment		<i>2 article reviews on your topic of interest. Research question with 2 variables of interest highlighted. 1</i>
3-LAB		Teams by appointment		
4	9/11	Reviewing the literature	Ch. 3	Questions from reading
4	9/13	Teams by appointment		<i>2 more article reviews on your topic of interest. Preliminary hypothesis. 2</i>
4-LAB		Teams by appointment		
5	9/18	Choosing a research design	Ch. 4	Questions from reading
5	9/20	Teams by appointment		<i>2 more article reviews on your topic of interest. Final hypothesis for approval. 3</i>
5-LAB		Teams by appointment		
6	9/25	Making systematic observations	Ch. 5	Questions from reading
6	9/27	Teams by appointment		<i>Informed Consent 4</i>
6-LAB		Teams by appointment		
7	10/2	Selecting your sample / Ethics	Ch. 6	Questions from reading
7	10/4	Teams by appointment		
7-LAB		Teams by appointment		
8	10/9	MIDTERM EXAM		
8	10/11	Between and Within Subjects Design	Ch. 9	Questions from reading
8-LAB		NO LAB THIS WEEK		
9	10/16	Describing Data	Ch. 12	Questions from reading
9	10/18	Teams by appointment		<i>All measures due for final approval. 5</i>
9-LAB		Teams by appointment		
10	10/23	Inferential Statistics	Ch. 13	Questions from reading
10	10/25	Introduction to using SPSS		
10-LAB	IN CLASS	Exercises in SPSS -importing data files		

		-running descriptives - reading the output - creating / reading graphs and figures		
11	10/30	Statistics in SPSS Correlations	Reading posted on BB	
11	11/1	Statistics in SPSS T-tests	Reading posted on BB	Assignment posted on BB 6
11-LAB	IN CLASS	Exercises in SPSS -running correlations and t-tests -reading the output -writing up results		
12	11/6	Statistics in SPSS ANOVA	Reading posted on BB	
12	11/8	Statistics in SPSS Chi-Square	Reading posted on BB	Assignment posted on BB 7
12-LAB	IN CLASS	Exercises in SPSS -running ANOVAs and Chi-Square analyses -reading the output -writing up results		
13	11/13	Reporting your results	Ch. 15	Questions from reading
13	11/15	Data analyses	<i>Bring data file! Bring a typed report detailing all the analyses that must be done for your study. Include any measurement scoring and/or reverse scoring and how that will be done; all descriptives you plan on running; and the analyses you will use for your hypothesis testing explaining why that is the analysis of choice. In your explanation be sure to include the nature of your variables of interest. Are these continuous or discrete?</i> 8	
13-LAB	IN CLASS	Data analyses		
14	11/20	NO CLASS		
14	11/22	HAPPY THANKSGIVING		
15	11/27	Presentations		
15	11/29	Presentations		
15-LAB		Presentations		FINAL PAPER DUE!

Final exam will be on final exam day the week of Dec 5-12. Check MYUM for schedule.

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