

PSYCHOLOGY 235a
Research Methods in Psychology
Writing Intensive

Fall 2017
Tuesday, Thursday 11:35-12:50

Professor

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DESCRIPTION & GOALS

Psychology 235 is a hands-on approach to research design and data collection to enhance your critical thinking skills regarding empirical research. This course also seeks to familiarize you with current research in psychology and to bolster your scientific writing skills.

This course has been identified as a Yale College Writing [WR] course. Students will receive detailed feedback on writing throughout the semester. I also encourage all students to take advantage of the free writing tutoring services offered by the Yale College Writing Center, now located in Sterling Library; for more information, see <http://ctl.yale.edu/tutoring/writing-tutoring>.

REQUIRED READING

Cozby: Cozby, P.C. & Bates, S.C. (2015). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (12th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill. [A pdf version is available on CANVAS]

There will also be additional required reading made available on the course web page and/or in class.

ATTENDANCE

Class attendance and participation are required. Much of the work for the class will take place during in-class activities and discussions, hence it is essential that all students take the course seriously, fully commit, and come to each class ready to participate.

REQUIREMENTS

Exam. There is one exam that will take place in the latter 3rd of the semester. It will be administered in class and will cover the content of the lectures and readings. The exam will be a mix of multiple choice and short answer. You are invited to contribute questions for possible inclusion on the exam. The exam accounts for 25% of your grade.

Research Reports. There are **two** research project reports that we will complete in this course. Each person will collect data that we will pool in small groups and analyze together. Each student will write his/her own full reports in APA format. The reports will account for 40% of your grade (P1 = 15%, P2 = 25%). Details about each project, including the base readings, will be posted on the course website.

Homework. There are 4 short homework assignments. The homework assignments are due at the beginning of class (or earlier!). The assignment must be uploaded to CANVAS. Late assignments will not be accepted. Together, they will account for 20% of your grade.

Extra Credit. The psychology department has excellent “current works” talks in several psychological subfields (e.g., social, cognitive, developmental, clinical, neuroscience, etc.), as well as a colloquium series (see <http://psychology.yale.edu/> for dates, times, and locations). If you attend one of these talks and write (no more than) a 1-page paper that summarizes the talk and connects it to a research methods topic we discussed in class, you can earn up to 2 points on your final grade. The papers must be uploaded to CANVAS within 48-hours of the talk. You can submit for this EC opportunity only once.

GRADING

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Attendance/Participation	15%
Exam	25%
Research Reports	40%
Homework	20%

Note. Taking this course Cr/D/F does NOT fulfill the research methods requirement for the Psychology major.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS & POLICIES

Absences. Much of the work in this course takes place in class. Hence, numerous absences will significantly reduce your grade. Please also notify me and/or the TAs if you anticipate missing class. If you anticipate missing the exam, for whatever reason, notify me as soon as you can (even if only the very morning of the exam). Individuals with predictable, yet acceptable reasons for missing the midterm should make arrangements as soon as possible to take it at another time. Indeed, every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate individuals who must miss the exam (e.g., if you are an athlete and have an away game). There will be no make-up exam; if you miss for an illegitimate reason, you will receive a zero.

Plagiarism. Students are expected to be familiar with Yale’s policies on plagiarism and [academic dishonesty](#). Yale punishes academic dishonesty severely, ranging from failing grades on specific assignments to suspension from the university. For this course, you should write your research project reports independently. It is also NOT acceptable to have another person heavily edit your work prior to submission. Yes, having someone read through your paper for clarity and/or to find typos is perfectly fine, having someone else participate in the writing of the paper, including actually rewriting some of the text is not ok. Furthermore, all homework assignments and the exam should be completed independently. You can find a more in-depth discussion of using sources and avoiding plagiarism on the [Writing Center Website](#).

Late assignments. Assignments are due before class on the specified date due, except for where a different deadline is either posted or announced in class. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Accommodations for academic disabilities. I encourage students with disabilities, including "invisible" disabilities, to identify themselves to me as soon as possible. I am happy to coordinate appropriate accommodations with the [Resource Office on Disabilities](#).

FALL 235 CLASS SCHEDULE*

DATE	TOPIC	Assignments
Aug 31	Introduction/Overview	
Sept 5	Scientific Method & Hypothesis Testing I	Chapters 1
Sept 7	Scientific Method & Hypothesis Testing II	Chapter 2 (pp. 1-27)
Sept 12	Observational Research	Chapter 6 Homework 1 due
Sept 14	Research Ethics	Chapter 3; [Appendix B] Middlemist, Knowles, & Matter (1976)
Sept 19	Variability & Measurement I	Chapter 4
Sept 21	<i>Survey Project Intro</i>	Survey project base reading(s)
Sept 26	Non-experimental Research & Correlations I	Chapter 5 Homework 2 due
Sept 28	<i>Survey Project II</i>	Chapter 7
Oct 3	Variability & Measurement II	
Oct 5	<i>Survey Project III</i>	
Oct 10	Non-experimental Research & Correlations II	Chapter 12 Homework 3 due
Oct 12	<i>Survey Project IV</i>	Chapter 13 (pp. 285-288); Chapter 2 (pp. 39-41); [Appendix C (pp. 392-394 i.e., correlation section)]
Oct 17	<i>Survey Project—Paper Writing Workshop</i>	Bring draft of survey paper to class!
Oct 19	Fall Break	Final Survey Papers due by 5pm on Monday Oct 23
Oct 24	Experimental Research I	Chapter 8
Oct 26	Experimental Research II	Chapter 9
Oct 31	Experimental Research III	Chapter 10 Homework 4 due
Nov 2	Exam	
Nov 7	<i>Experimental Project— Intro</i>	Experimental project base reading(s)
Nov 9	<i>Experimental Project Development</i>	Chapter 13 (pp. 283-285)

Nov 14	<i>Experimental Project Development</i>	
Nov 16	<i>Experimental— Data analyses</i>	Chapter 13 (pp. 266-283); [Appendix C (pp. 381-392 i.e., t-test/Anova section)]
	Thanksgiving Recess	
Nov 28	<i>Experimental Results</i>	
Nov 30	<i>Experimental Results</i>	
Dec 5	<i>Experimental Wrap up & Paper Prep</i>	
Dec 7	<i>Experimental Wrap up & Paper Prep</i>	
Dec 12-14	Reading Period	Work on Experimental Papers!
Dec 15		Experimental Research Papers due by 12pm

*Assignment and readings are due on the date they are listed by class time, unless otherwise indicated. Optional readings are in brackets. We reserve the right to alter this schedule and/or any readings, as the semester unfolds.