

**Psychology 200**  
**Research Methods**  
**Spring 2002**

**Instructor:** Dr. Sharon Lewis  
**Office:** 214C Seney, Tel 4-8374  
**Office Hours:** - M : 10:30-12:30  
                                 2:00 – 3:00  
                                 T/TH: 3:15 – 4:15  
 (These hours are subject to change.  
 Other times by appointment;  
 anytime by LL)

## Texts

Required: Mitchell and Jolley, Research Design Explained (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)

Recommended: Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association

## Class Organization

There will be two 100-pt. exams, five lab exercises (150 pts.), and one write-up of an experiment (200 pts.) for a total of 550 pts. Your final grade will be based on the total number of points you accumulate as well as your participation in class. If you gain a total of between 495-550 points, you will receive an A, 440- 494 points a B, 385-439 points a C, 330-384 points a D and anything below 330 points you will receive an F. Normally I do not require attendance but for this particular class, **attendance is required** on days when we are running experiments or conducting small-group discussions. During most of the semester you will be working cooperatively with others in the class to develop your research hypothesis, refine your method, and analyze and interpret your results. In addition, attendance on these required days will result in possible extra credit points. Class attendance also will help you at the end of the semester when I add up your points. If you are 2-3 points below a higher grade, excellent attendance, as well as participation, will earn you this higher grade. Make-up tests will be allowed only for officially excused absences. Please make sure you are familiar with the College's Honor Code.

## Research Experiment

Each student will team up with another and design, execute and write up a research experiment of their choice. You will work on this throughout the semester and turn in the final typed write-up of your project on Tuesday, April 16 (See the attached **Calendar** for further details). You should feel free to discuss the experiment with me but only after first going to the library and obtaining some familiarity with your topic. The **Research Experiment** handout will describe this project in more detail.

## Labs

1. Using PsycLit and Content Analysis (45 pts.)
2. Design Critiques (25 pts.)
3. Questionnaire Construction and Evaluation (30 pts.)
4. Statistics Quiz (25 pts.)
5. Rival Hypotheses and Ethical Issues (25 pts.)

## Psychology 200 Course Outline

### I. Chapt. 1 - Psy. and Science

Chapt. 2 - Generating and Refining Research Hypotheses

Chapt. 3 - Measuring and Manipulating Variables

Chapt. 4 - Beyond Reliability and Validity

**On Reserve:** “Can Experimenters unintentionally bias outcomes?”

“Do experimental results vary as a function of aspects of Es other than expectancies?”

Rosenthal articles - “Exp.’s Hypotheses”, “Interpersonal Expectancy effects - A 30 yr. Perspective”, and “Critiquing Pygmalion”

Snow - “Pygmalion and Intelligence”

Chapt. 5 - Internal Validity

Chapt. 6 - The Simple Experiment

Chapt. 7 – Expanding the Simple Experiment: The Multiple Group Experiment

On Reserve - “How does being experimented on affect the behavior of Ss?”

“Where do we go from here?”

Orne article - “Demand Characteristics”

“Introduction - “Naturalistic Viewpoints in Psychological Research”

Chapt. 13 - Survey Research

### **\*Exam I\***

### II. Chapt. 9 - Within-Subjects Designs

**On Reserve:** “The albino rat: A defensible choice or bad habit?”

“Who serves as Ss in psychological experiments and are they representative?”

Pp 1-32 - Cultural Influences on Research Methods and Statistics

Sample Student Paper

Chapt. 8 – Expanding the Simple Experiment: Factorial Designs

Chapt. 10 – Reading and Evaluating Research

**On Reserve:** “The Achilles heel of human cognition” - Stanovich

“Guilt by fabrication” - Buckhout

“Seeing is deceiving” - Girgus and Cohen

“Memories of research on memory” - Peterson

“Issues to consider in conducting non-sexist psychological research” -  
McHugh, Roeshe, Frieze

“Feminist Research Methods” - Campbell and Schran

“The continuing unethical use of placebo controls” - NEJM

Chapt. 11 - Single-n Designs and Quasi-experiments

Chapt. 12 – Introduction to Descriptive Methods

Chapt. 14 - Putting it All Together

- **Exam II : May 7 – 10:00-12:00\***

