**PSYC 4431: EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**

Fall 2018, CRN 80013

Class Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:45 AM

Location: HHS II; Room 244

Instructor: Judy Orton Grissett, Ph.D.

Office: HHS II (Psychology and Sociology Building); Room 228

Phone: 229-931-4647

Email: judy.grissett@gsw.edu

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday- 10:45 AM-12:00 PM (and by appointment)

Note: Elements of this syllabus may be modified. Students will be notified of any changes.

**Course Description**

This course is a study of the rationale of experimentation and techniques for the isolation and measurement of variables. Experience is provided in the construction, execution, and interpretation of scientific experiments on behavior and mental processes. Prerequisites: PSYC 1101 or PSYC 1101H, PSYC 3310 or SOCI 3331.

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

* Conduct an efficient literature search on a topic or research question.
* Define important terms related to experimental design including independent, dependent, control and confounding variables, quasi-experimental designs, and within vs. between group designs.
* Select the appropriate statistical analysis for different research designs.
* Understand how theories are tested with the scientific method.
* Be capable of designing, executing, and analyzing a basic psychological experiment.
* Understand the differences between non-experimental, quasi-experimental, and experimental research.
* Learn to write a research proposal in APA style.

**Required Text**:

Anonymous. (2016). *Research methods in psychology*. University of Minnesota Libraries. <https://doi.org/10.24926/8668.2201> (ISBN: 9781946135223)

NOTE: This is an online, open text that is *free of cost* to you. You may download the .pdf to access the textbook off-line. Textbook chapters are also available online in each week’s learning module. A live link to the textbook is at <http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/>

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance is required. People who attend class do better in the class than those who do not regularly attend. Attendance will be taken into account regarding your grade. **If you miss more than six class periods, your grade will be dropped by one letter grade.** **If you miss more than eight classes, whether excused or not excused, you will receive an F in the course. By the same token, if you do not miss *any* classes, two points will be added to your final letter grade. If you only miss one class, one point will be added to your final letter grade.** University sanctioned absences do not count as absences.

**Assessments**: Your grade will consist of four exams, four homework assignments, and a research proposal.

a) *Exams.* You will have four exams. The exams are listed on the schedule below. Exams will be multiple-choice and short essay questions. Some of the exam questions will come from the text and some will come from material covered in class. If you are going to miss an exam, you must contact me ahead of time. If you miss an exam you will have to take an alternate make-up exam as scheduled by the instructor. Exams will be about 60% of your final grade.

b) *Homework Assignments.* You will complete four homework assignments during the course. A link on the course site ([GeorgiaVIEW](https://gsw.edu/GeorgiaVIEW/index)) provides full details of the homework assignments. You will turn in a hard copy of homework assignments at the beginning of class on the due date. **Assignments turned in late will receive up to half credit.** Homework will be about 20% of your final grade.

c) *Research Proposal.* You will write a 10-12-page Research Proposal in APA (6th edition) format. A link on the course site ([GeorgiaVIEW](https://gsw.edu/GeorgiaVIEW/index)) provides full details of the Research Proposal assignment. **Late assignments will lose 10% for each day late.** The Research Proposal will be about 20% of your final grade.

The distribution of grades will be based on a standard criterion-referenced grading system.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grading System** | | | **Sources of Points** | | |
| **Grade** | **Percent** | **Points** | **Type of Activity** | **Points %** | |
| A | 90% to 100% | 537-600 | Exams (90 pts. x 4) | 360 60% | |
| B | 80% to 89% | 477-536 | Homework (30 pts. x 4) | 120 20% | |
| C | 70% to 79% | 417-476 | Research Proposal | 120 | 20% |
| D | 60% to 69% | 357-416 |  |  | |
| F | < 60% | < 357 |  | | |
|  |  |  | **TOTAL** | 600 100% | |

**Withdrawing from the Class**

If it looks like you may not earn a passing grade for this course, you have the option to withdraw without academic penalty by **Friday,** **October 12th.** If you have a failing grade and withdraw after this date, it will negatively impact your GPA. I will give you feedback from several assignments before the last day to withdraw. Please consult with me early in the semester if it looks like you may not earn a passing grade, so we can discuss options, such as study tips, tutoring, and supplemental instruction.

**Policies**

*Academic Integrity*

All GSW policies pertaining to student life and conduct, including student conduct and academic integrity, apply to this class. Cheating on exams, plagiarism, or any other type of academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this course. Here are the forms of academic integrity outlined in the GSW Student Handbook:

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, asking someone to write part or all of an assignment, copying someone else's work (published or unpublished), inadequately documenting research, downloading material from electronic sources without appropriate documentation, or representing others' works or ideas as one’s own.

Cheating on Examinations:

Cheating on an exam includes, but is not limited to, giving or receiving unauthorized help before, during, or after an in-class or out-of-class exam. Examples of unauthorized help include using unauthorized notes in either hard copy or electronic form, viewing another student's exam, taking pictures of exams with cell phones or other electronic devices, allowing another student to view one's exam, and discussing an exam or sharing information on an exam’s content with other students after the exam has occurred in one section but not in another.

(To reiterate the policy above, all electronic devices, including cell phones and smart watches, are forbidden during exams. If a cell phone or similar device [e.g., smart watch] is being used during an exam, your exam will be collected and you will earn a zero. Please be proactive and turn off and put away all cell phones and other devices during this time [smart watches should not be used at all during exams, including checking the time.])

Unauthorized Collaboration:

Unauthorized collaboration includes giving or receiving unauthorized help for work that is required to be the effort of a single student, such as the receiving or giving of unauthorized assistance in the preparation of a laboratory or writing assignment, on-line exams, etc.

Falsification:

Falsification includes, but is not limited to the fabrication of citations or sources, of experimental or survey results, and of computer or other data.

If a student in this class violates the academic integrity policy on any assignment, at my discretion, the student may be given a score of zero on the assignment in question, may be required to rewrite the assignment, and/or may be given a grade of F in the course. [Turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com/) will be used to ensure that Academic Integrity Policies are being adhered. Once registered for turnitin.com the website retains an electronic copy of all materials submitted in their database.

*Accommodations*

A student requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must notify me within the first two weeks of the semester. If the student has not already done so, he or she must contact the [Office of Disability Services](https://gsw.edu/academics/academic-resources/disability-services/index) in order to receive these accommodations and modifications. The Office of Disability Services is located on the third floor of Sanford Hall, and the phone number is 229-931-2661.

*Title IX Policy*

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in any federally funded educational program or activity.  By policy, I’m required to report to our Title IX Compliance Officer any observed or reported incidents that could interfere with someone’s ability to complete their education based on their sex, including but not limited to sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, exhibitionism, voyeurism, physical and verbal sexuality-based threats, and discrimination or harassment based on sex, gender identity, and/or gender expression.  **Please note that this means I will have to report incidents that happened off-campus or before beginning college, such as prior sexual abuse.** Please visit <https://www.gsw.edu/resources/facultyandstaff/hr/titleixcompliance/policy-and-procedures> for more information.

*Absences*

If you must be absent for religious reasons, because you are involved in University-level athletics, or some other excused reason, inform me of the conflict **BEFORE** your absence. Keep in mind that absences will affect your grade, including missed class-participation points and possibly a lower grade in the course. If you miss an exam, you will have to take the exam on the scheduled make-up exam day (see Course Schedule).

*Tutoring*

Individual and group tutoring are available for this course. Tutoring is free and can be a beneficial way to work with someone who has previously done well in this course. If you are interested in receiving tutoring services for this course, please visit the Academic Resource Center, located in the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) building (Building #16 on your GSW map). You can also call (229-931-2724), email ([ARC@gsw.edu](mailto:ARC@gsw.edu)), or visit the ARC webpage at <https://gsw.edu/academics/academic-resources/academic-skills-center/tutoringservices>.

*Writing Center*

The University Writing Center is a helpful resource for all students through all stages of the writing process, from generating ideas to drafting a final copy and proofreading. At the writing center, undergraduate peer writing consultants use discussion-based strategies to help you improve your writing at any level and in any subject. Appointments are held either online or in person, and walk-ins are welcome. The center is located on the first floor of the James Earl Carter Library. You can find more information and hours at gsw.edu/writingcenter

*Library Services*

The library offers a range of services for all your courses. Should you need help for any of your courses, please consider setting up a meeting with Mr. John Wilson, GSW Reference Librarian. Here is a blurb from the library: “Are you struggling to find sources for your paper? The GSW Library’s Reference Department will gladly help you with your research needs, regardless of what course you’re in. We’re here to help you succeed. To schedule an appointment, email john.wilson@gsw.edu or call 229-931-2850. In the body of your email, let me know what your topic is, and I’ll reply as soon as possible. Let’s give your instructor a great paper.”

*Respect for Others*

We must work together, in a cooperative way, if this class will be a successful one. GSW has established a policy that prohibits disruptive student behavior in classes. See <https://www.gsw.edu/campus-life/resourcesinformation/studenthandbook/student-conduct-code>. Other policies can be found at<https://www.gsw.edu/campus-life/resourcesinformation/studenthandbook/academic-information>.

**\*\*\*Cell phones must be turned off and be out of sight during class time.**\*\*\*

**Course Schedule**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Chapter** | **Topic** | **Due** |
| 8/14/18 | 1 | [The Science of Psychology](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-1-the-science-of-psychology/) |  |
| 8/16/18 | 1 | [The Science of Psychology](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-1-the-science-of-psychology/) |  |
| 8/21/18 | 2 | [Getting Started in Research](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-2-getting-started-in-research/) |  |
| 8/23/18 | 2 | [Getting Started in Research](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-2-getting-started-in-research/) |  |
| 8/28/18 | 3 | [Research Ethics](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-3-research-ethics/) |  |
| 8/30/18 | 3 | [Research Ethics](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-3-research-ethics/) | **Homework 1 Due** |
| 9/4/18 | 3 | [Research Ethics](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-3-research-ethics/) |  |
| 9/6/18 |  | **Library Day- Meet in Library** |  |
| 9/11/18 |  | **Exam 1 (Ch. 1, 2, & 3)** |  |
| 9/1318 | 4 | [Theory in Psychology](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-4-theory-in-psychology/) |  |
| 9/18/18 | 4 | [Theory in Psychology](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-4-theory-in-psychology/) |  |
| 9/20/18 | 5 | [Psychological Measurement](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-5-psychological-measurement/) |  |
| 9/25/18 | 5 | [Psychological Measurement](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-5-psychological-measurement/) | **Homework 2 Due** |
| 9/27/18 | 6 | [Experimental Research](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-6-experimental-research/) |  |
| 10/2/18 | 6 | [Experimental Research](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-6-experimental-research/) |  |
| 10/4/18 |  | **Exam 2 (Ch. 4, 5, & 6)** |  |
| 10/9/18 | 7 | [Nonexperimental Research](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-7-nonexperimental-research/) |  |
| 10/11/18 | 7 | [Nonexperimental Research](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-7-nonexperimental-research/) |  |
| 10/16/18 | 8 | [Complex Research Designs](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-8-complex-research-designs/) |  |
| 10/18/18 | 8 | [Complex Research Designs](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-8-complex-research-designs/) | **Homework 3 Due** |
| 10/23/18 | 8 | [Complex Research Designs](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-8-complex-research-designs/) |  |
| 10/25/18 | 9 | [Survey Research](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-9-survey-research/) |  |
| 10/30/18 | 9 | [Survey Research](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-9-survey-research/) |  |
| 11/1/18 |  | **Exam 3 (Ch. 7, 8, & 9)** |  |
| 11/6/18 | 11 | [Presenting Your Research](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-11-presenting-your-research/) |  |
| 11/8/18 | 12 | [Descriptive Statistics](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-12-descriptive-statistics/) |  |
| 11/13/18 | 13 | [Inferential Statistics](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-13-inferential-statistics/) |  |
| 11/15/18 | 10 | [Single-Subject Research](http://open.lib.umn.edu/psychologyresearchmethods/part/chapter-10-single-subject-research/) | **Homework 4 Due** |
| 11/20/18 |  | **Thanksgiving Break- No Class** |  |
| 11/22/18 |  | **Thanksgiving Break- No Class** |  |
| 11/27/18 |  | Presentations | **Research Proposal Due** |
| 11/29/18 |  | Presentations |  |
| 12/4/18 |  | Presentations |  |
| Monday, December 10 @ 8:00 AM | | **Final Exam/Exam 4 (Ch. 10, 11, 12, & 13)** |  |