

PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY LAB

PSYC BC2124
Barnard College
Department of Psychology
Fall 2024

Pre-requisites: PSYC BC1001 Introduction to Psychology; PSYC BC1101 Statistics; PSYC BC1020 Research Methods

Co-requisite: PSYC BC2125 Personality Psychology

Time, venue & instructor

Monday 10:10-1PM, Milbank 410

Instructor: Dr. Rob Brotherton (rbrother@barnard.edu)

Office hour: Wednesday 10-11AM, Milbank 415M

Course overview

This lab will usually be taken concurrently with BC2125 Personality lecture. It will expand upon some of the theoretical, methodological and analytic issues introduced there, as well as giving you the opportunity to explore topics of your choosing from within (or beyond) those covered in the lectures in greater depth through hands-on experience with research design and data analysis.

The semester is broken into 3 projects, each involving an analysis of existing data. The first will involve planning and executing a correlational analysis. The second will involve performing a regression analysis. For the third project, you will design your own analysis to explore a topic of your own choice. Through these projects you will gain experience in formulating psychological research questions relating to personality; analyzing and visualizing data; and interpreting and communicating your findings. Projects will be undertaken in groups; group members will collaborate on design and analysis. Each project will culminate in an in-class group presentation and submission of a brief individual write up of your project.

Class format & participation

Labs are substantially more interactive and discussion-based than the traditional lecture format, and depend on everyone's active participation in class discussions and activity as well as group work focused around the projects. Your active participation across the semester will therefore contribute a substantial portion of your grade.

If you have questions, thoughts, or ideas you want to share, feel free to do so at any time (while keeping within the bounds of polite conversation, obviously—don't interrupt or talk over other people! But do feel free to respond to others without having to raise your hand or wait to be called on). Everyone will get the most out of this lab when the discussion can develop organically and everyone feels free to be part of the conversation if & when they have something to add.

Being part of the in-person discussion is one obvious way to participate, but it's not the only way. Different people have different styles of participation, and the lab is designed to try and accommodate and encourage different approaches. Your level of engagement with your project partner(s), your TA and Prof. Brotherton as you work through your projects is also an important form of participation. You can also participate by coming to office hours.

At a minimum (i.e. for a passing grade), I'll be looking for some form of participation (loosely defined) from you every week. Higher participation grades will be earned through regular, enthusiastic, productive participation (note that quality is more important than quantity).

Workload

As a general rule for the amount of time students should expect to commit to classes, the college suggests three hours per week in or outside of class per credit. Since this class is worth 1.5 credits, that corresponds to 4.5 hours per week, split between time in the classroom and time spent completing the associated assignments.

Final Grades

Your numeric score for the course is a product of your scores for each assignment, weighted as follows:

| | Weight (%) |
|---|------------|
| Participation (over the course of the semester) | 10 |
| Presentations | 30 |
| Reports | 60 |

Final grades are determined according to the following boundaries:

Letter grade: A+ A A- B+ B B- C+ C C- D F
Numeric score: 97 93 90 87 83 80 77 73 70 60 <60

Course policies

Attendance & timeliness

In-person attendance of every lab session is expected, and you should expect to stay for the full duration of the lab. Normally it is departmental policy to remove students who miss more than two lab sessions from the course; however, given ongoing revisions to college-wide health-related policies, exceptions may be made. If you are feeling unwell, you should not come to class and notify me of nonattendance before class if possible.

When you are attending, please arrive on time for class. Frequent lateness will impact your participation grade.

Assignment deadlines & late policy

Assignments are listed in the class schedule next to the class in which details about completing the assignment will be provided. The assignment must be completed and submitted before the following class, i.e. requirements for the first presentation slide will be explained in class on 9/30, and the slide must be submitted before the next class on 10/7.

For the written project reports, a grade penalty of 5 points will be applied for each day (or part thereof) that an assignment is late (up to a maximum of 6 days; work not submitted before the next lab will receive a score of zero). For example, if your work is A+ quality but is submitted a day-and-a-half late, you will only receive a B+. This policy is intended to incentivize timely submission while easing the stress of genuine emergencies. When things come up that prevent timely submission you can prioritize accordingly, knowing that a small penalty on one assignment for this lab will not tank your final grade.

Late submission for the presentation slides will not be possible; failure to submit a link to your slides in advance of the presentation will obviously limit your presentation grade.

Academic integrity

Students are expected to follow the Barnard Honor Code, available at <https://barnard.edu/honor-code>.

Note that while you will collaborate with group members on the design, analysis, and presentation of research projects, you may not collaborate on the written report: each group member must write their own individual reports.

Academic accommodations and general wellness

It is always important to recognize the different pressures, burdens, and stressors you may be facing, whether personal, emotional, physical, financial, mental, or academic. The faculty and administration recognize this, and are prepared to provide assistance to students in need. I encourage you to seek advice from your advisor, Dean, the [Center for Accessibility Resources & Disability Services \(CARDS\)](#), or [Barnard Health & Wellness](#) as needed. Please let me know of any issues you wish to share with me that you feel are impacting your ability to complete the course to the best of your ability. Though it isn't always easy, it is better to proactively seek help rather than letting problems build up.

Class schedule

| Date | Topic | Assignment* |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 9/9 | Course overview | |
| Project 1: t-test | | |
| 9/16 | Project planning | |
| 9/23 | Data cleaning | |
| 9/30 | Analysis | Presentation slide |
| 10/7 | Presentations | Project 1 report |
| Project 2: Correlation | | |
| 10/14 | Project planning | |
| 10/21 | Data cleaning & analysis | |
| 10/28 | Visualization & reporting | Presentation slide |
| 11/4 | <i>No class (academic holiday)</i> | |
| 11/11 | Presentations | Project 2 report |
| Project 3: Regression | | |
| 11/18 | Project planning | |
| 11/25 | Data cleaning & analysis | |
| 12/2 | Visualization & reporting | Presentation slide |
| 12/9 | Presentations | Project 3 report |

* due by the following class