

PSY 3616: Psychological Statistics and Research Methods II
Spring 2020, #31124

T 5:30-8:50 PM, Lindquist Hall (LH) 302

General Information

Professor: Sarah Herrmann, Ph.D.

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Office Location: LH 374

Office Hours: M 1:00-2:00P, F 9:30-10:20A (Or by appointment)

Course Overview

WELCOME to Psychological Statistics and Research Methods (Semester 2)! The overarching goal of PSY 3615 and 3616 is to train you as a research psychologist—an informed consumer and producer of psychological science. At the conclusion of this course, you should be able to: (1) Ask and answer statistical questions about data, (2) Use SPSS, a statistical software package, to analyze data, (3) Find, understand, and critically evaluate empirical research in psychology, and (4) Design an empirical study and write a research proposal following the conventions of American Psychological Association (APA) style.

Course Objectives

1. Provide an overview of research methods, including the principles of experimental psychology.
2. Discuss the scientific concepts, principles, and ways of thinking that are central to the study of psychology.
3. Learn about the goals of psychological research, ethical issues in the design and implementation of research studies, research design strategies and types of measurement, methods for analyzing and presenting data, and reporting on psychological research studies using the American Psychological Association (APA) format.
4. Provide you with hands-on experience with research design, data collection, data analysis, and research report writing.

Note: Research methods and statistics is a topic that builds upon itself starting from day 1. If you are struggling or falling behind **do not wait** to speak with me. It will only become increasingly difficult to catch up once you have fallen behind. Ask questions in class, come and speak with me after class or send me an email as soon as you feel that you do not understand a concept.

Format

Class meetings will include lectures, demonstrations, exercises, and discussions. To be successful in this course, you must carefully read the course materials and consistently attend lectures. Each week will begin with a lecture, followed by lab, which will focus on the SPSS statistical software package and the research proposal.

Make sure to log on regularly to the course website for important announcements and useful resources. I am most available and will respond as soon as I can via **email**. I encourage you to use office hours to discuss class or exam material, to ask general questions, or provide comments.

Textbooks

Morling, M. (2017). *Research methods in psychology: Evaluating a world of information* (3rd Ed.). New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Co. ISBN: 978-0-393-63024-4

Wilson-Doenges, G. (2014). *SPSS for Research Methods: A Basic Guide*. New York, NY. W.W. Norton & Co. ISBN: 978-0393938821.

Optional: American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th Ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5

For textbooks, any version of the text (e.g., hardback, paperback, e-book) is acceptable.

Required Instructional Materials

Materials posted on Canvas. Consequently, you should have a fully tuned-up internet browser that permits access to all features of Canvas on your computer and/or mobile device.

SPSS. We will be using SPSS to conduct our statistical analyses. Most university computers have SPSS installed. You can access SPSS from home using the Virtual Lab. If you intend to access SPSS remotely, please attempt to do so now before any computer assignments are due. To use Citrix, you need to download a file that allows the program to launch from your personal computer (<https://www.weber.edu/virtuallab>). Follow the directions at the site. If you have problems, call the IT Service Desk – (801) 626-7777.

Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft PowerPoint (2010 or 2013). Essentially, you need a word processing program, a spreadsheet program, and a presentation program. All University computers have Microsoft applications and you can download them from the Weber State website (https://www.weber.edu/software/campus_software.html). Mac users can use Pages, Numbers, and Keynote, but please save the documents as the Microsoft counterparts. You can also use the corresponding applications that Google Docs offers (www.docs.google.com), but you might find that you cannot format your APA-styled research report properly.

Grading

Final grades will be calculated based on the following:

Attendance/Participation	= 150 points
Lab Assignments	= 100 points
Project Proposal (One Per Group)	= 50 points
Introduction Section	= 50 points
Methods Section	= 50 points
Results Section	= 50 points
Discussion Section	= 50 points
Project Presentation	= 150 points
<u>Final Paper</u>	<u>= 250 points</u>
TOTAL:	= 1000 points
930 – 1000 pts.	93 – 100% A

900 – 920 pts.	90 – 92%	A-
870 – 890 pts.	87 – 89%	B+
830 – 860 pts.	83 – 86%	B
800 – 820 pts.	80 – 82%	B-
770 – 790 pts.	77 – 79%	C+
730 – 760 pts.	73 – 76%	C
700 – 720 pts.	70 – 72%	C-
670 – 690 pts.	67 – 69%	D+
630 – 660 pts.	63 – 66%	D
600 – 620 pts.	60 – 62%	D-
0 – 599 pts.	0 – 60%	E

Grades are earned, not negotiated, and all students receive every possible consideration to ensure that their final grade reflects their performance in the course. Course grades will be adjusted (if necessary) for the difficulty of the class, based on overall performance. Therefore, borderline grades will not be “bumped up” to the next grade, so please do not ask. This consideration is automatic, so negotiations and appeals to the professor are neither necessary, nor accepted, to ensure fairness to all students.

Exam 4. Rollover from the Fall 2018 semester. It will be worth 10% (100 points) of your final grade.

Attendance/Participation. A vast majority of class time will be devoted to working on your research projects and collecting data. I will be keeping track of whether or not you attend, and your level of involvement and engagement with your group while you are in class. Attendance and participation are worth 15% (150 points) of your final grade.

Lab Assignments. There will be a variety of lab assignments to help you prepare to run your study and to write your paper. Information about assignments can be found on the Canvas page. Unless otherwise instructed, you will turn in these assignments via Canvas. All assignments turned in complete and on time will receive full credit; late assignments will receive a 10% point deduction per day late. Assignments are worth 10% (100 points) of your final grade.

Original Research Project and Paper. One of the major goals of the course is to give you hands-on research experience. To that end, you will be working in groups of 3-4 people, and will be designing and conducting your own research project. This project will culminate with a full APA-style appropriate research paper. Even though you will be working as a part of a “team,” each person must write their own paper.

- 100 points – Project Proposal (ONE PER GROUP)
- 50 points – Introduction Section
- 50 points – Methods Section
- 50 points – Results Section
- 50 points – Discussion Section
- 250 points – Introduction Section

Final Presentation. During the last week of class, your group will be required to give a ~15 minute presentation of your project to the class. You can either use PowerPoint, or make a poster. Everyone in the group must contribute, and everyone must talk. This is a great opportunity to share your ideas and findings with the class. The final presentation is worth 15% of your grade (150 points).

Course Norms

Attendance. Students are expected to be present and on time for all class meetings. In all cases, (a) content delivered in lecture takes precedence over the textbook and other supplementary materials for homework, exams, and so forth; (b) all students are expected to be aware of any announcements made in class. There is no need to contact me if you miss a day of class. If you need to leave class early, please do so quietly.

Classroom Atmosphere. I encourage active participation in the classroom and asking questions to contribute to class discussions. Everyone needs to respect each other and refrain from any disturbances. **Cell phones need to be turned off. Computers are permitted for course work only.**

E-mail Response Policy & E-mail Etiquette. I will respond to all e-mails within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on weekends. It is essential to practice proper e-mail etiquette, especially early in your education and career. When sending emails, please include the following: (1) an appropriate subject line (e.g., PSY 3600—reason for e-mail), (2) Address the recipient (e.g., Hello, Dr. Herrmann), (3) state your question in a full sentence (e.g., Today in lecture you mentioned..., I was wondering about...), and finally (4) End off the e-mail with your name (e.g., Best/Thanks/Sincerely, Jane Doe).

How To Do Well in This Course

1. Attend class

- Lecture presentations will be posted on Canvas so you don't have to write everything down. Use shorthand clarifications.
- Note emphasized items and attend to concepts that are repeated or described in several ways.

2. Ask questions of the instructor and your classmates

- Be in regular contact with me. I am committed to your success and here to help.
- Attend office hours.
- Form study groups; another student's input can really help clarify confusing topics.

3. Don't delay in working on course requirements.

- Do *not* wait until the last minute (e.g., 3 AM before an assignment is due) to get help.
- Do *not* wait until you have scored poorly on multiple assignments/tests before you seek help. If you are not doing well after the first few (2-3) weeks, you need to seek help immediately.

University and Course Policies

Specific Accommodations. Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Services Center (or Room 221 at the Davis Campus). SSD can also arrange to provide course materials in alternative formats upon request. For more information, please see: <http://www.weber.edu/ssd>.

Academic Integrity. Any academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If a student is caught engaged in academic dishonesty in this course, they risk failing the course and being subject to academic discipline including the imposition of university sanctions. Please see the university policy on cheating, which can be found in the WSU Student Code, Section IV, Part D, Paragraph 2.

For the purposes of this course, students are encouraged to work together. Discussing the assignment together will not be considered cheating. However, all submitted work should be original. Any student

caught submitting identical or closely related work will at the minimum receive zero (0) credit for the assignment and at a maximum a failing grade in the course and be turned in to the appropriate university personnel. The types of activities that would be considered academic dishonesty are as follows: actively copying answers or otherwise using the work of another student on an exam; using the answers of another student on an assignment without having done the work yourself; soliciting other students or agencies to complete and submit work for you.

Inclusivity Statement. Pivotal to Weber State University's mission is the need to embrace and value the diversity of its members. Acknowledging the uniqueness of each individual, we seek to cultivate an environment that encourages freedom of expression. Because the University is a community where inquiry is nurtured and theories are tested, every individual has the right to feel safe to express ideas that differ from those held by other members of the community. However, all persons who aspire to be part of our campus community must accept the responsibility to demonstrate civility and respect for the dignity of others. Recognizing that the proper balance between freedom of expression and respect for others is not always apparent or easy to achieve, we must continually challenge ourselves and each other in an atmosphere of mutual concern, good will and respect. Therefore, expressions or actions that disparage an individual's or group's ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, age or disability are contrary to the mission of Weber State University and will be not acceptable in classroom discussion.

Video and Audio Recording. Video or audio recording of any portion of lectures is only permitted in this class upon authorization of the faculty member. If you would like to request authorization to record, please contact me. Unauthorized recording is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, for which a student may be subjected to disciplinary action under PPM 6-22, Student Code. Students who seek to record for purposes of accommodating a disability should contact the Disability Services Office at (801) 626-6413 or dsc@weber.edu. See more info at <https://www.weber.edu/disabilityservices>.

Use of Technology. The use of cell phones, smart phones, or other mobile communication devices is disruptive, and is therefore prohibited during class. Students using cell phones, tablets, or laptops for anything other than course work will be asked to leave. Students are permitted to use devices during class for note-taking and other class-related work only.

Emergency Closure Statement. Due to the applied nature of this course, if for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, class will be cancelled and assignments will be adjusted accordingly. This may include dropping an assignment altogether or rearranging delivery of course topics to cover more in any one class. Look for announcements from the university on Weber e-mail or the website and from the instructor on the course Canvas page. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.

***The syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. By continuing in the course after reading the syllabus, you indicate that you accept the terms of the syllabus.**

Course Timeline*

Wk	Date	Lecture	Due
1	1/7	Fall Semester Review	
2	1/14	Group Discussions of Interests/Group Formation	Group Preference Form
3	1/21	Literature Review/Evaluating Research	PsycInfo Activity
4	1/28	Confirm Group Topic/Work on Bibliography	CITI Certification
5	2/4	How to Write an Introduction	Annotated Bibliography
6	2/11	Review: Types of Experimental Design	Intro Outline
7	2/18	<i>In-Class Peer Review (Bring 2 Hard Copies)</i>	Intro Rough Draft
8	2/25	How to Write a Methods Section, <i>Methods Work Day</i>	Final Introduction, IRB
9	3/2-3/6	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	
10	3/10	<i>No Class – Gather Data</i>	
11	3/17	Statistics/SPSS Review (Gather Data)	
12	3/24	<i>In-Class Work Day (Analyze Data)</i>	
13	3/31	How to Write a Results Section, <i>Data Analysis</i>	Methods
14	4/7	How to Write a Discussion Section / Title, Abstract, References / Presenting Your Work	Results
15	4/14	Presentations	Discussion
16	4/20-23	Revise-and-Resubmits Due 4/21 by 5:00PM Final Paper Due to Canvas 4/23 by 5:00PM	

*This schedule is subject to change.