

Research Methods in Psychology  
Psychology 100  
Summer 2017

Class Meetings: July 31 - September 1

Lecture: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00-12:30  
Location: Soc Sci 1 110

Professor: Benjamin Storm, Ph.D.

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TA: Sarah Harsey

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Section: A

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Section: B

TA: Lee Taber

Office hours: Mondays, 1:00-2:00pm  
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Section: C

\*Please visit us!!! The professor and TAs will be more than happy to meet with you to answer any questions you might have about the course or about psychological research in general. Feel free to drop by during office hours or set up an appointment.

The Required Textbook: Goodwin and Goodwin, *Research in Psychology: Methods and Design*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, Wiley. The book is available at the Bay Tree Bookstore and can also be rented or purchased online (often for a much cheaper price). You are also encouraged to purchase or borrow the APA Publication Manual. Additional readings, class materials, and homework assignments will be made available on canvas.

Course Description:

The course provides an introduction to research methods used to investigate human psychology. It emphasizes critical thinking, designing and conducting research, analyzing and interpreting data, and writing a professional research report. (Formerly course 3)

Prerequisites: Entry Level Writing and Composition requirements; Applied Mathematics and Statistics 2 or 3 or 6; Mathematics 3 or higher level Mathematics course; and course 2 or Applied Mathematics and Statistics 5 or 7/7L.

### Enrollment Information:

To take the class you must be enrolled in lecture and an associated section. You must attend the section in which you are enrolled. If you absolutely need to switch sections you can fill out the section waitlist form on the first day of class. We will do our best but most of the time switching will be impossible and if you cannot attend the section in which you are enrolled you will need to drop.

### Basic Course Information:

Psych 100 is designed to give you initial exposure to research methods in psychology. The course has three main goals. First, it will give you a basic understanding of some of the most important methodological approaches and considerations in the study of psychological science. Second, you will be given the opportunity to experience first-hand what it is like to conduct psychological research. Specifically, you will learn to formulate a testable hypothesis, design a study to test that hypothesis, analyze and interpret the results of your study, and communicate the results of your study in a manner that is appropriate for the discipline. Finally, we hope it will provide you with a new sense of intellectual excitement for the power and potential of scientific research to answer some of the biggest questions we have about ourselves.

As an introductory research methods course in psychology, we will focus on covering the methods most frequently used to address psychological questions. Thus, if you become a research psychologist yourself, you should find this course to be a valuable and informative introduction into how scientific research is conducted in psychology. That said you should find what you learn about research in this course to be transferable to the practice of good research in any domain. Moreover, regardless of whether one's future career path involves direct participation in research activities, everyone needs to be able to evaluate the results of research, and this course will help you to be a more informed and critical evaluator of research.

The course is highly work-intensive. Because it is a 7-credit course the workload is going to be greater than a typical course, something which is only going to be exacerbated by the rapid pace of summer session. In fact, according to university guidelines, combining across in-class and out-of-class activities, you should expect to devote up to 42 hours per week to the class (6 hours per credit). We are telling you this because we want you to take the class seriously from the start. If you fall behind early you will find it difficult to catch up, and you could end up failing the course. Attend all of the lectures and sections, keep up with the readings, and turn in all assignments on time. We want everyone to do well in the

course, and we will work with you to help make that happen, but you will need to put in the necessary time and motivation as well.

## Evaluation

Final course grades will be determined based on your performance on two major writing assignments (i.e. a preliminary paper and a final report), various section activities, and tests.

**IMPORTANT.** To pass the class you must earn a satisfactory overall score (70% or better) on both the Test portion of the class and on the Writing/Section Activities portion of the class. Specifically, you must earn a 70% or better averaging across the final exam and quizzes, and you must earn a 70% or better averaging across the writing and section activities. If you do not pass one of the components you will not pass the class regardless of how well you do on the other component.

## Tests (50%)

Quizzes (25%). There will be three quizzes: August 7<sup>th</sup>, August 14<sup>th</sup>, and August 21<sup>st</sup>. Each quiz will take place from 9-10 in the morning and consist of 25 multiple-choice questions and cover all material from the course, including lectures, readings, and discussion sections. The first quiz will focus on material covered week 1; the second quiz will focus on material covered week 2; and the third quiz will focus on material covered week 3.

Only two of the three quizzes will count towards your final grade. In other words, your lowest score will be dropped. Because of this policy there will be no early, late, or makeup quizzes allowed, regardless of the reason for missing a quiz. Students who miss a quiz (even for a very good reason) will need to drop the quiz they miss and have the other two quizzes count towards their final grade. I'm sorry, but there will be no exceptions to this rule. If you know you will miss more than one of the three quizzes you should not take the class.

Do not be tempted to skip the first quiz or fail to prepare for it. You do not want to put yourself in a situation where you must do extraordinarily well on the last two quizzes to do well in the class. Instead, think of the third quiz as an important back-up opportunity to help you raise your grade after taking the first two quizzes. That said you should also take the third quiz seriously even if you do very well on the first two quizzes. Preparing for and taking a test can help you do better on future tests of the same material, such as on a final exam.

Students will be allowed to bring one 8x11 sheet of paper to each quiz. You can write/type anything you want on both sides of the paper as long as it is your own writing/typing. Be sure to also bring a green scantron (#882-E) and at least two sharpened pencils.

Final Exam (25%). The final exam will be cumulative and cover all material from the course. It will consist of 75 multiple-choice questions and be

administered on the final day of lecture, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Students will once again be allowed to bring a single 8x11 sheet of paper to the final exam. Be sure to also bring a green scantron (#882-E) and at least two sharpened pencils.

### Research/Section Activities (50%)

The second portion of your final grade will be determined by your performance on the following components: attendance/participation, homework/assignments, a preliminary paper, and a final research report.

Attendance/Homework/Participation (15%). You are expected to be an active participant during section discussions and activities. The most important thing for you to do is attend your section. Missing one section is the equivalent of missing two weeks of class during the regular year, and with the way the course is structured it will be extremely difficult for you to catch up. Thus, you are expected to show up on time for every section of the session. If you miss a section meeting (or if you arrive late or leave early), up to three points will be deducted from your final grade. Note however that missing a section is likely to hurt your grade in many ways above and beyond the three points. Finally, your TA will also have the ability to deduct attendance points if you engage in any type of disrespectful behavior during section, either towards the TA or towards other students in the class. Please treat each other with respect and help us to create a safe and productive learning environment.

If you are absent or miss an assignment due to a medical, psychological, or legal reason, you may request an approved absence or extension. To do this, you must see your TA (or Professor Storm) in person in their office. You may email us to request an appointment, but please do not send an explanation of your excuse by email. Although absences or late work may be approved, students will not be excused for more than a single missed section. If a medical or personal emergency leads to missing more than a single section, the student may need to arrange for a withdrawal from the course through their College Advising Office.

Attendance will also be taken in lecture on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Points will be deducted if you are absent, late, or leave early, on that day as well.

Activities and homework will be assigned throughout the session to help you become more familiar with the methods and concepts covered in the class. Grading will be credit/half-credit/no-credit. Late assignments will not be accepted for credit. Take the homework assignments seriously. Do not simply copy your classmate's answers. You might get the points but you will be robbing yourself of the opportunity to learn.

Preliminary Paper (10%). Students will work with their group to select a topic, review relevant literature, and develop a specific research question or hypothesis. Each student will prepare their own individual APA-style preliminary paper, consisting of an introduction, a method section, and a reference section. An extensive writing guide will be made available on canvas and feedback will be provided. The preliminary paper is due by 9am on Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Late

papers will be accepted, but points will be deducted (15% will be deducted if the paper is even a minute late; 30% will be deducted if the paper is more than 24 hours late). Students who do not turn in a preliminary paper by 9am on Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> will receive a zero.

Final Research Report (25%). Each student will write an APA-style research report as if prepared for possible publication in a professional psychology journal. The paper will include a title page, an abstract, an introduction, a method section, a results section, a general discussion, and a reference section. Portions of the final paper will include revised sections from the preliminary proposal (i.e., the introduction and method section), but significant revisions will be expected. An extensive writing guide will be made available on canvas. You must turn in your paper by September 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:30pm. Late papers will be accepted, but points will be deducted (15% will be deducted if the paper is even a minute late; 30% will be deducted if the paper is more than 24 hours late). Students who do not turn in a final paper by September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30pm will fail the class.

Please turn in both papers using the canvas submission system. If the system isn't working then you should turn in your paper via email to your TA. Either way, please save your file in the format of doc or docx.

#### Additional Information:

Students with Disabilities: Any student who thinks they may need accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to submit their Accommodation Authorization and discuss specific needs, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. Please contact the Disability Resource Center at 831-459-2089 in room 146 Hahn Student Services or by e-mail at [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu) to coordinate the accommodations.

Distribution of Lecture Notes: Students may be disciplined for selling, preparing, or distributing course lecture notes for any commercial purpose, whether or not they were the person taking the notes. The unauthorized sale of lecture notes (and handouts, readers or other course materials) is a violation of campus policies, state law, and may also constitute copyright infringement subject to legal action.

Academic Integrity: Scholarship and academic integrity are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCSC community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Students who plagiarize or cheat on any assignment will be subject to various disciplinary actions including a failing grade on an assignment, failure of the entire course, and possible expulsion from the university. Be sure to follow appropriate citation practices and be sure to familiarize yourself with the University's Rules of Conduct.

Dates	Topic (Reading)	Assignments Due
July 31	Intro to Psychological Science (Ch. 1, 3)	
August 2	Measurement and Data Analysis (Ch. 4)	
Section 1 (August 2 or 3)	Introduction and Create Research Groups Discuss Response Papers	Response Papers
August 7	<b>Quiz #1</b> (9am) Intro to Experiments (Ch. 5, 6)	<i>*Bring printed copy of HT/CE #1</i>
August 9	Experimental Designs (Ch. 7, 8)	<i>*Bring printed copies of HT/CE #1 and #2</i>
Section 2 (August 9 or 10)	Writing Introduction/Method Sections Work in Groups to Design Studies	APA Style HT/CE #1 Journal Article Review
August 14	<b>Quiz #2</b> (9am) Correlational Research (Ch. 9)	
August 16	Quasi-Experimental Designs (Ch. 10) Survey/Observational Research (Ch. 12)	<b>*Prelim Paper:</b> Due Wednesday, Aug 16 <sup>th</sup> at 9:00am
Section 3 (August 16 or 17)	Work in Groups to Prepare for Data Collection Group Proposal Final Approval	HT/CE #2 Group Proposal
August 21	<b>Quiz #3</b> (9am) Ethics in Psychological Research (Ch. 2) Prepare for Data Collection	
August 23	Data Collection Day!	
Section 4 (August 23 or 24)	Coding and Analyzing Data Writing Results/Discussion Sections Preparing Group Presentations	
August 28	Publishing/Professional/Career Review Session for Final Exam	
August 30	<b>Final Exam</b>	
Section 5 (August 30 or 31)	Group Presentations	<b>*Final Report:</b> Due Friday, Sep 1 <sup>st</sup> at 12:30pm