



Experimental Psychology

PSY 3017, CRN 80485
Fall 2011

Credit hours: 3
Class time: Friday 11:00 AM – 1:45 PM
Class location: Griffin Hall 205

Instructor: Elena Stepanova, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology
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Phone: 239-590-1513
Office: Modular 1, Rm. 9
Office Hours: 3:00-5:00 PM, Thursday and Friday, and by appointment

Required Text

Kantowitz, Roediger, & Elmes (2009). *Experimental Psychology* (9th Edition). Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

Course Prerequisites

PSY 2012 with a minimum grade of C and STA 2023 with a minimum grade of C
STA 2023 may be taken concurrently with this course

Course Description

This course is “designed as an in-depth examination of the basic principles of psychological evidence; coverage given to areas of learning, perception, physiological, social, developmental and cognition.”

Course Overview

This course will introduce you to the principal research methods used in psychology; teach you some of the skills necessary to conduct research, and discuss the available research on a variety of topics in psychology. It will also cover various statistical methods used in psychological research.

Course Objectives and Outcomes

As a result of taking this course, you will

- Learn the principal research methods used in psychology
- Learn some of the skills necessary to conduct research in psychology, which include (a) how to formulate testable research questions; (b) how to approach the statistical analysis of the data and (c) how to communicate the purpose or rationale of your study and how it was conducted in a manner that it is both clear and consistent with formally accepted standards of scientific reporting. You may find it helpful to approach this course as one would a language course, because in many ways the purpose of this course is to teach you the “language” of psychology
- Get introduced to experimental psychological research in various areas of psychology, including learning, perception, physiological, social, developmental and cognition
- Share with others the intellectual excitement that can come from the pursuit of knowledge

- Learn to apply information obtained to your future endeavors, academic or not

Course Web Site

Syllabus, announcements, hand-outs, EC opportunities and other course-related information can be found on ANGEL.

On-line Workbook (free)

http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=9780495595335&token=

Course Format

This course will consist of a combination of lectures, discussions, lab work, illustrations, debates and games to help you master the content.

Grading

Grades will be based on **two exams, a lab report, a brief description of a research topic, and a research proposal**. Also, a number of extra-credit opportunities will be available throughout the semester. Your grade will be calculated as a percentage (out of 200 points) on the basis of the following scoring:

1. Two exams (100 total, 50 points each)
2. A lab report (30 points)
3. A brief description of research proposal topic (10 points)
4. A research proposal (60 points)

Minimum percentage points (and actual points) required for each final grade are as follows: A = 93 (186), A- = 90 (180), B+ = 88 (176), B = 83 (166), B- = 80 (160), C+ = 78 (156), C = 73 (146), C- = 70 (140), D+ = 68 (136), D = 63 (126), D- = 60 (120). If you are taking this class Pass-Fail you must earn a C- or better to earn a passing grade.

A grade of incomplete is normally not given, unless there are highly extenuating circumstances that are documented in a timely manner. When such circumstances occur prior to the deadline for dropping a course, students are encouraged to drop the course rather than request an incomplete.

The instructor will be posting your exam scores, lab report scores and EC points throughout the course of the class on ANGEL. In an event of a grade dispute, email the instructor and arrange an appointment. Note that instructor will *not* engage in a grade dispute over the phone.

All written assignments should be turned in at the beginning of the class on the day they are due unless otherwise indicated. All written assignments should be turned in as hard copies, no emails. There is a 10% penalty for each day an assignment is late, without exception, with the first penalty occurring at 11:15 AM and each subsequent penalty occurring at 24-hour intervals thereafter. Note: do not turn in late assignments under an office door or in a mailbox – it might be several days before someone finds it, and the penalty will be assessed based on when your instructor first sees it. Make sure to physically hand your written assignments to the instructor.

Exams

As shown on the course calendar, the course has been divided into two units. There will be one exam per unit. The exams will only cover material presented in their respective units. Also, there is no cumulative final exam. All exams will consist of a variety of formats, including, but not limited to: multiple choice, matching, true-false, and short answers. Students are expected to take all exams during class on the announced exam dates. In an event of highly extenuating circumstances (e.g., death of a close relative or serious personal

illness), please contact the instructor. You will be asked to provide a written documentation, and a make-up might be arranged. Minor illness, death of a person other than a close relative, etc., is *not* excused.

Lab Report

As a group, we will conduct an experiment when studying *Statistics* and *Reading and Writing Research Reports* topics. You will write-up results of our experiment according to the American Psychological Association style under the guidance of the instructor.

Research Proposal Topic

Your research proposal topic should be a succinct description (1 page, double-spaced) of a research question you will be addressing in the final research proposal paper. Guidelines for the research proposal topic will be provided in class and placed on ANGEL. The deadline to submit it is **Oct. 28**.

Research Proposal

You will also write a research proposal that will enable you to learn how to ask an unaddressed question in psychology within areas addressed in this course. Your research question should be supported by *at least 5 research papers/chapters* relevant to the topic that you chose. In completing this assignment, you will review the relevant literature, formulate the hypothesis that you want to test, identify the independent variables you want to manipulate, specify how you will measure the dependent variable, describe the method to be used, and state what statistical procedures you will employ to analyze your data. Guidelines for the research proposal will be discussed in detail in class and placed on ANGEL. A sample research proposal will also be placed on ANGEL to assist you in writing your proposal. Please approach the instructor with any questions you might have regarding this proposal during office hours. The deadline for submission of this proposal, **Dec. 9**, will be strictly enforced.

Extra Credit (Grade Insurance)

A number of EC opportunities will be available and will be described throughout the course and placed on ANGEL. Note that you cannot earn more than 5% (10 points) of your grade on all your extra-credit assignments.

Important Recommendations

Mastering “language of psychology” requires that students work regularly and avoid procrastination and cramming. Attend every class session. Read the text and complete assigned homework prior to the lecture that covers the material. Come to the instructor’s office hours for extra help.

Regular class attendance is strongly recommended but not required. Some of the material discussed in class is *not* covered in your textbook. Students missing class are responsible for all material presented in class and for any modifications to the course calendar that are announced in class. If you expect to miss a class, make arrangements beforehand *with a classmate* who takes good class notes.

Prior to each exam, a review session will be held during regular class time. This session is *not* intended to replace class attendance and doing the homework on a regular schedule. *Prior* to the review session, you should have identified your areas of weakness and formulated your questions.

Academic Behavior Standards and Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to demonstrate honesty in their academic pursuits. The university policies regarding issues of honesty can be found in the FGCU Student Guidebook under the ***Student Code of Conduct and Policies and Procedures*** sections. All students are expected to study this document which outlines their responsibilities and consequences for violations of the policy. The FGCU Student Guidebook is available online at <http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/judicialaffairs/new.html>

Disability Accommodations Services

Florida Gulf Coast University, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the university's guiding principles, will provide classroom and academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you need to request an accommodation in this class due to a disability, or you suspect that your academic performance is affected by a disability, please see me or contact the Office of Adaptive Services (<http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/adaptive/>). The Office of Adaptive Services is located in Howard Hall 137. The phone number is 239-590-7956 or TTY 590-7930. You can e-mail Adaptive Services at adaptive@fgcu.edu

Student Observance of Religious Holidays

All students at Florida Gulf Coast University have a right to expect that the University will reasonably accommodate their religious observances, practices, and beliefs. Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances. Where practicable, major examinations, major assignments, and University ceremonies will not be scheduled on a major religious holy day. A student who is to be excused from class for a religious observance is not required to provide a second party certification of the reason for the absence.

Important Dates to Remember

Friday, August 26, 5 pm - Last Day to Drop/Withdraw via Gulfline with 100% Refund.

Friday, November 4, last day to drop course without academic penalty.

Friday, December 16, last day to apply for grade forgiveness.

Other Policies

- Use of cell phones and PDAs in the class is not permitted, unless there is an emergency justification for such use. In that case, cell phones should be set to vibrate during class periods.
- Students are allowed to bring laptops to class and use them for educational purposes only (e.g., notes taking). Emailing, instant messaging, social networking, gaming and other irrelevant activities are not permitted.
- Please do not wait until the last minute to contact the instructor regarding questions you have about exams or assignments. Always check the syllabus, handouts and materials on ANGEL for an answer to your question before contacting the instructor.
- **All course related emails should have "PSY 3017" somewhere in the subject header.**

Course Schedule

Class Date	Topic	Reading Assignments	Other Assignments
Aug. 26	Introduction Course Overview Explanation in Scientific Psychology		
Sept. 2	Observation and Correlation	Chapters 1-2	
Sept. 9	Experiments	Chapter 3	
Sept. 16	Ethics	Chapter 4	
Sept. 23	Statistics	Appendix B	
Sept. 30	Reading and Writing Research Reports	Chapter 5	
Oct. 7	Exam 1 Lab-Conducting an Experiment/Reporting Results		
Oct. 14	Psychophysics	Chapter 6	Lab Report (Results) due
Oct. 21	Perception and Attention	Chapters 7-8	
Oct. 28	Memory	Chapter 10	Research Proposal Topic due
Nov. 4	Conditioning and Learning	Chapter 9	
Nov. 11	NO CLASS (Veteran's Day)		
Nov. 18	Social Psychology	Chapter 13	
Nov. 25	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)		
Dec. 2	Individual Differences and Development	Chapter 12	
Dec. 9	History of Experimental Psychology	Appendix A	Research Proposal due
Dec. 16	Exam 2, 10:30 AM, BHG 205		

This schedule and the procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances; in that case, the instructor will provide as much advance notice to students as is possible.