Psyc 201: Psychological Research

Lecture Time: Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-1:50pm
Lecture Room: Davis Hall, Rm 142
Lab Time: Section 01: Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 – 2:50pm
         Section 02: Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 – 3:50pm
Lab Room: See Below
*Note: Course laboratory rooms will change after the first week of class. For the month of January, lab will meet in Walker Hall, Rm 221. Starting February, lab will meet in Washington Hall, Rm 400 (the penthouse 😊).

Course Professor:
Name: Jenessa Steele, PhD
Office: 433 Russell Hall
Phone: 831-5256
Email: jcesteele@radford.edu
Website: www.radford.edu/~jcesteele
Office Hours: MW 12 – 1pm, or by appointment
*Note: Dr. Steele’s office will move to Washington Hall, B15 (basement) starting January 23rd.

Course Graduate Teaching Assistant:
Name: Lauren Wolkove
Email: lbfleisch@radford.edu
Office Hours: Ms. Wolkove is only available by appointment, please email her.

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

Course Description:
Psyc 201, Psychological Research surveys the principle topics and methods used to perform scientific research in various fields of Psychology. Topics include naturalistic observation, measurement and scaling, qualitative and quantitative description and analysis of behavior, correlational research, survey development, and participant sampling. This class will also cover the basic statistics used in psychology. Students will learn how to calculate and understand statistics by hand as well as using the statistical software package, SPSS 12.0.

Student Learning Objectives:
With the successful completion of this course, students should have a sound understanding of psychological research methodology and basic statistics. Among the learning objectives for this course include the following:
  • Learn to write and read empirical research articles using the American Psychological Association’s (APA) writing format.
• Understand how to use library search tools to accurately find empirical journal articles related to a research topic of interest.
• Understand and apply the basic concepts and principles of psychological research to research article critiques and real world situations.
• Provide a working knowledge of the ethical concerns inherent in social research
• Develop specific, directional hypotheses related to psychological research questions.
• Learn the decision rules required to determine the appropriate research design needed to answer a specific hypotheses (e.g., study sample, study design, study analytical techniques).
• Experience via a hands-on approach the development and application of a research study from study design, participant recruitment, data collection and entry, data analysis, and research report write-up.
• Learn and understand how to carry out statistical computations by hand as well as using an electronic statistical software package; SPSS 12.0.
• Gain a basic understanding of how to present research findings and search for grant funding for psychological-related research projects.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Course Textbooks**

There are **two required** textbooks for this course.


There are **two recommended** textbooks for this course.

**Class Attendance and Participation**

• Students are required to complete assigned readings **before** the class in which they will be discussed. There will also be outside readings to be completed for the course.
• Students are required to bring the Schacht and Aspelmeier (2005) textbook to all classes (lecture & lab).
• Students are required to bring an actual calculator to all classes (lecture & lab).
• You will need to print handouts and articles to bring to lecture and/or lab, so please keep your printing account credited.
Class attendance and participation is expected. Students will be encouraged to contribute regularly through class discussions and activities. Although the textbook will help students' understanding of research methods, in-class lectures and discussions will provide additional and testable material. Thus, students are encouraged to attend and participate in every class. Part of students' evaluation is based on class attendance and participation (see grading scale). Students may obtain up to 30 points for attendance and participation. Students will not know if a class day is for attendance/participation points until the instructor passes around an attendance sheet or indicates a class activity is ‘for points’ towards attendance/participation. Each announced activity/participation day is worth 3 points.

Class Assignments
Students will be required to complete 6 in-class and/or take-home assignments. Each assignment is worth 15 points, totaling 90 points for the semester. Specific directions related to each assignment will be provided at a later date. Late assignments will be deducted 5% of the total points each day the assignment is late. EACH ASSIGNMENT IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE INSTRUCTOR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASS DAY IT IS DUE.

Research Papers
Students will be required to write two complete lab reports which correspond to studies conducted in lab. Each research report will be worth 80 points, totaling 160 points for the semester. Each lab report will consist of three parts: (a) Introduction with 4 primary references (15pts), (b) Data collection (15pts), and (c) Final report including method, results, and discussion sections (50pts). Papers will be written following the APA format (I would highly recommend purchasing the APA text on this writing format). Papers will be graded on whether APA format was strictly followed (thus, papers will be graded somewhat hard). Due to learning a new writing format, students will have the opportunity to re-write their research papers to gain back up to one-third (30%) of the points deducted from the first version. Due dates for the re-writes are posted on the last pages of this syllabus. Details for completing research papers will be provided in class. Late lab reports will be deducted 5% of the total points each day it is late. EACH LAB REPORT SECTION IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE INSTRUCTOR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASS DAY IT IS DUE.

Quizzes and Exams
Students will be given a 20-point quiz approximately every two weeks. There will be a total of 6 quizzes for the class, totaling 120 points for the course. Students will be given 15 minutes at the beginning of class to complete quizzes. Students may bring with them ONE 5 x 7 note card including information to use to complete the quiz. Questions on quizzes will include information covered in class, assignments, and the text books. The purpose of the quizzes is to verify that students are continually studying and actually understanding the information discussed in class. By nature, this course is cumulative. Thus, it is imperative that students learn and understand all steps of the research process. In order to verify that all students are on the same page, regular quizzes will be given.

There will be one cumulative, part in-class, part take-home midterm and one cumulative in-class final exam for the course. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Exams will require students to integrate and display knowledge concerning information covered in course readings, lecture, laboratory, class handouts, and assignments. The in-class portions of the midterm and final exam will be open book, open notes. However, you must STUDY for the
exams, as there will not be enough time to continually search course information, find formulas, tables, etc. needed to finish the exam. Each exam will include a combination of multiple choice, identification, short answer questions/essays, and computational problems. The final exam date and time is posted on your Course Schedule (see p. 6).

**Extra Credit**
Students may earn a maximum 20 points of extra credit in the course. You will have the opportunity to earn extra credit toward your grade in exchange for participating in research projects conducted by psychology students and faculty. Participation is voluntary. Every ½ hour of research participation will earn you 1 point of extra credit. You will be able to sign-up for approved studies using an on-line scheduling system (Experimetrix). Details about Experimetrix and research participation will be presented in class. If you do not wish to participate in research, but would like to earn extra credit for the course, you may complete up to two research article critiques (10 points each). All extra credit MUST be completed by 5pm on Friday, April 28\textsuperscript{th}.

![Image](image.png)

**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>(Approx) Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Assignments (6 x 15pts)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (6 x 20pts)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Reports (2 x 80pts)</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>600</td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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### Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Point Scale</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (90 - 100%)</td>
<td>540-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (80 - 89%)</td>
<td>480-539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C (70 - 79%)</td>
<td>420-479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D (60 - 69%)</td>
<td>360-419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F (≤ 59%)</td>
<td>≤ 359</td>
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### Policies:

**Makeup Policy**

**Class Attendance.** If a student is unable to attend a class for a **legitimate and documented reason** (i.e., athletics, illness, etc.), please contact the instructor for any missed materials and to make up missed work. Otherwise, if class is missed, it is suggested the student confers with his or her classmates for missed information.

**Class Assignment/Paper Due Dates.** Students will not be able to make up, as students will be given plenty of time to complete all assignments in advance. If you cannot turn the assignment in on time, you will have to accept the 5% point daily deduction for any late assignment. Students are advised to start all assignments earlier rather than later. Please ask the instructor about any questions or concerns early on to avoid last minute confusion regarding a particular assignment. Students will only be accommodated if the student has a **legitimate and documented reason** for why an assignment was unable to be turned in on time.

**Quizzes and Exams.** If a student has a **legitimate and documented excuse** for missing an in-class exam or quiz, the student must talk to the instructor, in person (not email or phone), as soon as the absence is known. The instructor may ask for documentation for the absence if applicable (i.e., athletics, illness, etc.). Makeup quizzes and in-class exams will be given on a **single date** for all students who have missed an exam. This date will likely be Thursday, April 27th at 11:00am. If an exam or quiz is missed and no make-up exam is taken, a zero will be given for that exam or quiz.

**Students with Special Concerns**

Students with special needs are encouraged to see the instructor by the end of the first week of class to discuss the special materials and/or resources required for the successful completion of course requirements. Students with special concerns are encouraged to contact the BGSU Disability Services for Students at 372-8495, or visit the website at, http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/disability/

**Academic Honesty**

There will be zero tolerance for cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or attempting to assist others in any of these activities. If you have any question as to whether or not you are at risk for Academic Dishonesty, please refer to your student handbook or ask your instructor. Below is the link to the BGSU Student Handbook that outlines the Codes of Conduct to ensure Academic Honesty: [http://www.bgsu.edu/catalog/Acad Policies/Acad Policies2.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/catalog/Acad Policies/Acad Policies2.html)
*Class topics are listed in order, but are subject to a day or two of flexibility given that it may take longer to complete some topics than others. Assignment and exam dates will NOT change unless extraordinary circumstances are presented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings, Assignments, and Other Important Dates</th>
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</table>
| Jan 9   | **Class:** Syllabus Introduction  
          **Lab:** No Lab                                   | No reading                                       |
| Jan 11  | **Class:** Intro to Methods  
          **Lab:** Intro to PsycInfo                        | C1                                               |
| Jan 16  | **Class:** Scientific Method  
          **Lab:** PsycInfo, ILLIAD                          | C2, C4, C9                                       |
| Jan 18  | **Class:** Research Process  
          **Lab:** Develop Study 1 Hypotheses              | C2, C4, C9 Quiz 1                               |
| Jan 23  | **Class:** Intro to Statistics  
          **Lab:** Intro to SPSS – define, enter variables | SA1 Due: Homework 1                               |
| Jan 25  | **Class:** Intro to Statistics  
          **Lab:** SPSS – Sums and Frequencies              | SA1                                               |
| Jan 30  | **Class:** Summation and Notation  
          **Lab:** Writing Article Critiques/The Intro | SA2                                               |
| Feb 1   | **Class:** Summation and Notation  
          **Lab:** Writing the Intro & Hypotheses           | SA2 Quiz 2                                       |
| Feb 6   | **Class:** Summation and Notation  
          **Lab:** Develop Study 1 Methods                 | SA2 Due: Homework 2                               |
| Feb 8   | **Class:** Observation  
          **Lab:** Data collection and entry                | C6 Due: Study 1 Intro                             |
| Feb 13  | **Class:** Observation  
          **Lab:** Data collection and entry                | C6 Due: Study 1 Data                              |
| Feb 15  | **Class:** Hypothesis Testing  
          **Lab:** Data analysis                            | SA10 Quiz 3                                       |
| Feb 20  | **Class:** T-test, Chi Square  
          **Lab:** Data analysis                             | SA10, SA13                                       |
| Feb 22  | **Class:** T-test, Chi Square  
          **Lab:** Writing the Final Report                 | SA 10, SA13, C12, C13, C14, Cpg272-302 Due: Homework 3 |
| Feb 27  | **In-Class Midterm**                                         | In-Class Midterm                                   |
| Mar 1   | **Class:** Measures of Central Tendency  
          **Lab:** Writing the Final Report                | SA4, C12, C13, C14, Cpg272-302                     |
<p>| Mar 3   | <strong>Take-home Midterm DUE. May drop off between 3-5pm in Dr. Steele’s office OR early during class on Wed., Mar 1st.</strong> | Take-home Midterm DUE. May drop off between 3-5pm in Dr. Steele’s office OR early during |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class:</th>
<th>Lab:</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 1st</td>
<td>Measures of Central Tendency</td>
<td>SPSS examples of Variability</td>
<td>class on Wed., Mar 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Mar 6      | **Class:** Ethics        | **Lab:** SPSS Examples of Variability | C3  
            | Due: Study 1 Final Report |                                            |
| Mar 13     | SPRING BREAK             |                             |                                            |
| Mar 15     | SPRING BREAK             |                             |                                            |
| Mar 20     | **Class:** Ethics        | **Lab:** Develop Study 2 Focus | C3  
            | Due: Study 1 Final Report Rewrite | Due: Homework 4                           |
| Mar 22     | **Class:** Survey Research | **Lab:** Study 2 Hypotheses | C5,7  
            | Quiz 4                    |                                            |
| Mar 27     | **Class:** Survey Research | **Lab:** Study 2 Methods & Measures | C5,7  
            | Due: Study 2 Intro        |                                            |
| Mar 30     | **Class:** Survey Research | **Lab:** Study 2 Data Collection and Entry | C5,7 |                                            |
| Apr 3      | **Class:** Measures of Variability | **Lab:** Study 2 Data Collection and Entry | SA5  
            | Due: Data Due             |                                            |
| Apr 5      | **Class:** Measures of Variability | **Lab:** Study 2 Data Analysis | SA5  
            | Quiz 5                    |                                            |
| Apr 10     | **Class:** Correlation and Regression | **Lab:** Study 2 Data Analysis | SA10, C12, C13, C14, Cpg272-302  
            | Due: Homework 5           |                                            |
| Apr 12     | **Class:** Correlation and Regression | **Lab:** Study 2 Data Analysis | SA10, C12, C13, C14, Cpg272-302 | Due: Homework 5 |
| Apr 17     | **Class:** Correlation and Regression | **Lab:** Writing Study 2 Final Report Review | SA10  
            | Quiz 6                    |                                            |
| Apr 19     | **Class:** Presenting Research | **Lab:** Presenting Research | Due: Study 2 Final Report                  |
| Apr 24     | **Class:** Introduction to Grants | **Lab:** Searching for Grants | Due: Homework 6                           |
| Apr 26     | **Class:** Review        | **Lab:** Review              | Due: Study 2 Final Report Rewrite          |
| May 1-5    | In-Class Final Exam      |                             | In-Class Final Exam                       |
|            |                         |                             |                                            |