

## Psychology 7: Introduction to Experimental Psychology

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Summer Session A 2010  
MTW 12:30-1:55pm

Instructor:	Lisa Jaremka	TA:	Thery Prok
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Office Hrs:	Tues 2-4pm	Office Hrs:	Thurs 12-2pm
Location:	Psychology 2239	Location:	Psychology 1306 and 1308

**Website:** <http://gauchospace.ucsb.edu>

**Textbook:** Gravetter, F. J. & Forzano L. B. (2009). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) Mason, OH: Centage Learning. (A copy of the textbook will be placed on reserve at Davidson library)

### **Goals of the Course:**

The purpose of this class is to introduce you to the exciting topic of research methodology. This course will focus on some of the major research methods used in *psychological research*, although these same methods are used in many other fields including sociology, political science, and communications. This course will help you understand research in the context of psychology and other behavioral sciences and also become a better consumer of research in your daily life. By the end of the class, you should be able to understand how to construct a hypothesis, how to select participants for a study, the difference between non-experimental and experimental designs, and other topics that are central to effective research methodology.

### **Elements of Your Grade:**

Grades in this course will be based on your performance on two exams and a number of class activities. Good performance on each assignment and exam is important to your overall success in this course. Your *total points* will be based on the following components:

Midterm	40%
Final	50%
Class activities	10%
Research requirement	see below

**Final grades** in the course will be based on your total points and the *Psychology Department Equalization of Grading Policy*, which is described below. Final grades are non-negotiable - grade changes will be made only to correct clerical errors.

### **Exams:**

There will be two closed-book, closed-note exams. Both exams will be multiple-choice with a few short answer and will not be cumulative. Questions will be based on both the lectures and readings - ANY material covered in the lectures or reading may appear on the exam. Some of the material in the reading will not be covered in the lecture and some of the material in the lecture will not be covered in the reading. You are responsible for both!

**Makeup Exams:** Makeup exams will only be provided in the case of illness or personal emergency. Makeup exams will not be provided for any other reason. If you have an illness or personal emergency, you must contact the instructor or TA *prior to, or within one day*, of the missed exam. Before we can schedule a makeup exam, you must provide a *written medical excuse or other verifiable documentation*. Makeup exams may take an alternative form to that taken by the rest of the class (e.g., essay exam).

**Class activities:**

Ten percent of your grade will be based on class activities. There are two types of class activities. The first will take place in class and will involve short written responses to questions asked during class. The second will take place outside of the class and will involve reading an empirical article and answering short questions about the experimental methodology used in the paper. The dates of these assignments are not listed on the syllabus - it is your responsibility to attend class to learn about the dates for each of the activities.

**Research Requirement:**

There is a research requirement for this class. Details about this requirement will be sent to your uemail address. Please contact [wwwsubpool@psych.ucsb.edu](mailto:wwwsubpool@psych.ucsb.edu) if you do not receive this information. If you do not complete the requirement, your grade will be reduced by one increment.

**Psychology Department Equalization of Grading Policy:**

In order to ensure that grading procedures are consistent across all courses required for entrance into the major, the Psychology Department utilizes a grading policy that is applied to all pre-major courses (Psych 1, 3, 5 & 7). This policy ensures that all students will be evaluated consistently across different classes and different instructors.

According to this policy, approximately 10–15% of the class can receive a grade of A– or higher, approximately 40–45% of the class can receive a grade of B– or higher, and approximately 80–85% of the class can receive a grade of C– or higher. Thus, the final distribution of grades in this course will be based on these guidelines and on overall student performance. This means that your final grade will be based both on your *absolute* performance and on your performance *relative* to other students in the course.

**Academic Integrity:**

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable under all circumstances. If you are caught cheating in the class you will receive an “F” in the course and will be referred to the appropriate University disciplinary committee for action. Please do not put your college career at risk!

**Students with Disabilities:**

If you need special academic accommodations, please contact the Disabled Students Program (DSP) at 893-2668 or [www.sa.ucsb.edu/dsp](http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/dsp) *during the first week of class*. The DSP provides academic support services to eligible students with temporary and permanent disabilities.

## Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments

Class	Day	Date	Topic	Reading
1	M	6/21	Class overview and research requirement	---
2	T	6/22	The Science of Psychology	Ch 1 pgs. 6-23
3	W	6/23	The first steps: The research process and idea creation	Ch 1 pgs. 25-33 Ch 2 pgs. 50-66
4	M	6/28	Variable measurement and participant selection	Ch 3 pgs. 72-85 Ch 5 pgs. ALL
5	T	6/29	Ethics in psychological research	Ch 4 pgs. ALL
6	W	6/30	Overview of research designs and data collection methods	Ch 13 pgs. 353-372
7	M	7/5	Holiday - no class	---
8	T	7/6	Review for midterm	---
9	W	7/7	<b>MIDTERM</b>	---
10	M	7/12	Study validity and non-experimental designs	Ch 6 pgs. 156-182 Ch 12 pgs. ALL
11	T	7/13	Experimental designs: The basics	Ch 7 pgs. ALL
12	W	7/14	Experimental designs: Between and within subjects	Ch8 pgs. 221-237 Ch 9 pgs. 247-262
13	M	7/19	Experimental designs: Complex designs	Ch 11 pgs. 300-315
14	T	7/20	Quasi-experimental and developmental designs	Posted on gauchospace
15	W	7/21	Statistics	Ch 15 pgs. ALL
16	M	7/26	Bring it all together: Evaluating research designs	---
17	T	7/27	Review for final	---
18	W	7/28	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	---

\*Schedule and readings subject to change