PSYCH 302. Research Methods in Psychology
Mondays and Wednesdays 1:10 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. W272 Lagomarcino
Instructor: Lisa Larson, Ph. D., 216 W Lagomarcino
Office hours: Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.
Fall, 2011
lmlarson@iastate.edu

Teaching assistant: Kathryn Pesch kpesch@iastate.edu
TA Office Hours - W183 (across from cafe)
Mondays 3:00p - 4:00p
Thursdays 11:00a-12:00p
*If neither time works for you, please email TA in advance to set up a meeting.

Course overview: Discussion of and experience in designing research studies, collecting and analyzing data, and preparing research reports in psychology.

Course goals:
1. Development of skills and confidence in basic research design.
2. Practice in the writing of a research manuscript. Students will replicate an experimental study and write up the results in the form of a research manuscript.
3. Development of an original research proposal based on your own ideas. Students will write a research proposal and present it to the class.

Prerequisites: Stat 101; Psych 301

Required readings:

Recommended:

Evaluation: A total of 600 points is possible in the course:

Quizzes: 100 points (12 points for each chapter for 96 + 4 points)
Assignments 1-6: 90 points (15 points each)
Draft of Replication Paper: 45 points (15 points each for draft of introduction/references, methods, and Results/Discussion)
Replication Project Paper: 75 points
Draft of intro/references and Methods: 45 points (15 points each for intro, methods, and
Results/Discussion

Independent Proposal: 75 points
Proposal Presentation 75 points
Feedback on Proposals 25 points (5 points each of 5 days)
Class Participation 70 points
  (includes critiquing studies assignments during class)

Final letter grades will be determined based on the following scale:

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**Deadlines:** Assignments will often be discussed in class on the day before they are due, and many of the assignments will build off of previous ones. Therefore, assignments must be handed in on the due date. Assignments will be accepted in hard-copy form only.

**Class Participation:** This component includes coming to class, discussing during class, and providing feedback to peers.

**Chapter Quizzes:** Chapter quizzes will be from lectures and the *Research Design Explained* text. They occur on Mondays usually and will generally be multiple choice and short answer, 10 to 15 questions.

**Assignments:** The assignments 1 to 5 break down the components of the replication paper project and Assignment 6 helps with the independent project. Assignments will be made available on WebCT. We will also be working on the assignments during class.

**Replication Project:** The experiment is a cognitive study that we will administer during class time. The students will serve as the participants in the class and then we will use the data from the class for your results. We will be working on the components of the paper using the *Biens and Biens book*. You will receive 15 points for each component (e.g., intro, methods results/discussion. The final replication project will include the title page, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, and references. The final paper is due on October 17th. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. THE PAPERS WILL BE DUE BY class time.

**Independent Research Project:** The independent research project will be based on an original idea you have. You will receive 15 points for each component (e.g., intro, methods results/discussion. The independent research project should be no more than 15 pages of text. The final independent project is due the Monday of finals week Dec. 12 by 5 p.m. NO LATE
PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

**Class Presentation:** Near the end of the semester you will present your proposal to the class allowing some time for oral discussion and feedback of your proposal.

**Weeks, Topics, Readings, and due dates in the course:**

**Week 1. Aug 22** Overview/ Introduction / Student information sheet

**Week 1. Aug 24** Generating and refining Research Hypotheses Text Chapter 3 /Student Information sheet due; Assignment 1 assigned

**Week 2. Aug 29** Generating and refining Research Hypotheses Text Chapter 3 / Writing in Psychology Chapter 1 (Beins & Beins, 2008) / Quiz Chapter 3

**Week 2. Aug 31** Literature Searches Chapter 4 (Beins & Beins, 2008) / Assignment 1 due; Assignment 2 assigned Meet in the Library Room 32

**Week 3. Sept 5 Labor Day – Enjoy the holiday!**

**Week 3. Sept 7** Measuring and manipulating variables Chapter 5 text / Assignment 2 due, Critiquing a study / Small Group exercise

**Week 4. Sept 12** Measuring and manipulating variables Chapter 5 text / Presentation by TA/ Collecting Data Quiz Chapter 5 / Assignment 3 assigned

**Week 4. Sept 14** Internal Validity Chapter 9 text / Assignment 3 due / Assignment 4 assigned / Critiquing a Study / Small Group assignment

**Week 5. Sept 19** Internal Validity Chapter 9 text / Presentation by TA/ Quiz Chapter 9 / Assignment 4 due / Assignment 5 assigned

**Week 5. Sept 21** Introduction to Descriptive Methods and Correlational Research Chapter 7 text / Introduction Chapter 10 (Beins & Beins, 2008) / Assignment 5 due / Draft of introduction assigned

**Week 6. Sept 26** Introduction to Descriptive Methods and Correlational Research Chapter 7 / Quiz Chapter 7 / Method Chapter 11 (Beins & Beins, 2008) / Draft of method assigned

**Week 6. Sept 28** The simple experiment Chapter 10 text / Draft of introduction and method due / Peer review of introduction and method

**Week 7. Oct 3** The simple experiment Chapter 10 text / Quiz Chapter 10 / Results, Discussion, and References Chapter 12 - 14 (Beins & Beins, 2008) / Draft of results, discussion assigned
Week 7. Oct 5 Matched pairs, within subjects, and mixed designs Chapter 13 text / Draft of results, discussion, and references due  Peer review of results, discussion, and references

Week 8. Oct 10 Matched pairs, within subjects, and mixed designs Chapter 13 text / Quiz Chapter 13 text / Sign up for individual meetings / Choosing own Topic Chapter 2 and 3 (Beins & Beins, 2008) / Assignment 6 assigned

Week 8. Oct 12 Working out logistics of independent project

Week 9. Oct 17 Individual meetings with instructor and/or teaching assistant / Assignment 6 due and Final Replication Paper is turned in

Week 9. Oct 19 Expanding the Experiment Chapter 12 text / Rough draft of intro assigned

Week 10. Oct 24 Expanding the Experiment Chapter 12 text / Rough draft of introduction due / Rough draft of method assigned / Peer review of introduction / Quiz Chapter 12

Week 10. Oct 26 Data collection

Week 11. Oct 31 Data collection / Rough draft of methods due / Peer review of methods

Week 11. Nov 2 Data collection

Week 12. Nov 7 Validity and Ethics Chapter 2 text / Rough draft of results, discussion, and references assigned

Week 12. Nov 9 Giving presentations Chapter 17 (Beins & Beins, 2008) / Rough draft of results, discussion, and references due

Week 13. Nov 14 Validity and Ethics Chapter 2 text / Quiz Chapter 2 / Peer review of results, discussion, and references

Week 13. Nov 16 TBD

Week 14. Nov 21, Nov 23 Thanksgiving break

Week 15. Nov 28 Presentations (5)

Week 15. Nov 30 Presentations (5)

Week 16. Dec 5 Presentations (5)
Week 16. Dec 7 Presentations (5) /wrap up/evaluation

17. Dec 12 Finals Final independent projects are due by 5 p.m. No late papers will be accepted. No exceptions.

Academic Integrity: Please respect the work of others by giving them the credit they deserve. Plagiarism or cheating of any sort will not be tolerated and will be dealt with on an individual student basis. For more information about ISU’s policy on academic integrity, see: http://www.lib.iastate.edu/commons/resources/facultyguides/plagiarism/dishonest.html

Accommodations: If you have a documented disability and think that you may need accommodations in this course, please let me know as soon as possible. Contact the Disability Resources Office and arrange to have a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) sent to me that specifies your disability and what accommodations you will need.

Exam Makeup and Paper deadline extension policy: A student may be unable to take the exam on the scheduled date or turn in a paper on the assigned date. A makeup date for the exam and an extension deadline for the paper will be given under the following conditions: (a) serious illness (e.g., flu, H1N1 virus) or (b) death in the family. I need documentation except for unusual circumstances.