Psychology 102, Laboratory in Introductory Psychology

Course Syllabus, Fall 2011

Time and Place:
- Section A: Tuesday, 3:10-4:50 PM in Bessey 205
- Section B: Wednesday, 8:00-9:40 AM in Lago E165
- Section C: Tuesday, 1:10-2:50 PM in Mackay 119
- Section D: Thursday, 1:10-2:50 PM in Physics 38
- Section E: Thursday, 3:10-4:50 PM in Town 290

Instructor             Sections    Email          Phone     Office                  Office Hours              Mailbox
Jessica LaPaglia        A,C        kloeppe2 294-6527    Office & Lab 17     T 11-1          Lago W113
Edward Swing     B, D, E   eswing    294-2335   Science I 484      MWF 12-1         Lago W113
Dr. Veronica Dark    vjdark     294-1688   Science I 374        W 11, W 3, R 2          Lago W113

Questions pertaining to this course can be directed to any of the instructors listed above. Questions pertaining to your grade and/or performance need to be directed to the instructor of your section.

Prerequisite
Current or very recent enrollment in Psychology 101 (except section H) is a prerequisite for enrollment in Psychology 102. Please note, however, that the two courses are independent. Performance in one course has no direct effect on performance in the other.

Course Overview
Psychology is a very complex and abstract science with a broad domain: behavior and mental processes; Psychology 101 provides a survey of this broad domain. Psychology 102 is an independently run laboratory class designed to compliment the material covered in the large lecture sections of Psychology 101 by providing the opportunity for hands-on learning in small groups. Laboratory projects are designed to:

1) Probe selected material from the domain of psychology in more depth than is possible in the large lecture sections;
2) Foster development of critical thinking and writing skills, which are crucial for success in education and career work in the field of psychology. Students are introduced to American Psychological Association (APA) writing style.

Semester Overview (This is a tentative schedule only):
- Lab 1: Overview and Methodology
- Lab 2: Statistics & Hypothesis Testing
- Lab 3: Faces, Attention & Perception
- Lab 4: APA Writing Style, Part 1 (writing an APA style paper)
- Lab 5: APA Writing Style, Part 2 (giving & getting feedback)
- Lab 6: Memory Processes
- Lab 7: Gender Differences
- Lab 8: Individual Behavior in a Group
- Lab 9: Measuring Personality, Part 1
- Lab 10: Literature Search & Hypothesis Generation
- Lab 11: Learning & Performance (Mirror Tracing)
- Lab 12: Measuring Personality, Part 2
- Lab 13: Developing a Good Poster & Testing the Hypothesis
- Lab 14: Poster Construction & Practice
- Lab 15: Poster Presentations

Course format
This is a 1-credit laboratory class that meets weekly for 100 minutes. Typically, there is an in-class activity involving data collection and/or data analysis. A worksheet or written report of some aspect of this activity will be assigned as homework due the next week of class. Plan on 1-2 hours of work outside of class for each lab.

Readings
There is no textbook for this course. The information you need in order to complete each lab will be presented in the weekly lectures and lab handouts. Your lab handouts also contain specific instructions for what you need to do to earn full points for that lab. Thus, it is essential that you read each lab handout THOROUGHLY!

Attendance

Attendance is required. The lab sections meet every week, even weeks with a Psychology 101 exam. Students are expected to attend every class and to contribute to the activities; points are earned through participation. You cannot participate (and learn) if you are not present.

Because class attendance is so important, there will be a substantial penalty for missing class: For each unexcused absence after the first, your final course grade based on earned points will be lowered by one grade unit.
Because there are five sections of Psych 102 during the week, you might be able to attend the other section even if you are prevented from attending the section for which you are registered. You must check with the instructor before a planned absence (e.g., a university event) if you want the absence to be "excused;" this will allow your instructor to arrange for you to attend one of the other sections. However, if unexpected circumstances arise such that you must miss your class and you are able to attend a different section, then 1) do go to the other section, 2) ask if you may participate in that lab, and 3) notify your instructor of what you have done. Lab attendance is typically necessary in order to have sufficient information to complete the lab homework.

Do not ASSUME that a given reason for missing class will be excused or unexcused—that's up to the instructor. All absences will be considered "unexcused" unless your instructor decides otherwise (e.g., illness or death in the family). If you unexpectedly miss a lab, you should talk to your instructor as soon as possible after missing the lab. Do not wait until the next class because there may be an opportunity for you to participate in another lab section. If you know that you will miss a lab (e.g., for a university event), then you must talk with your instructor before you miss the lab or it will be counted as "unexcused".

**Homework and Late work**
Homework will be collected at the beginning of each lab session, and it should be stapled when you have more than one page. Homework must be submitted at the beginning of class unless otherwise approved by your instructor. Any homework not turned in at the beginning of class is considered late. All late work will get an automatic 2 point deduction. No late work will be accepted beyond 5:00 p.m. on the second day past the due date for that assignment. For example, if your homework is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, it must be turned in by the next Thursday at 5:00 in your instructor's mailbox.

**In Class Expectations**
Because this class only meets once a week, please respect the time of the other students in the class and the instructor's time. Please feel free to discuss the material with your classmates, but talking about non-related topics during class is disruptive to learning.

**Cheating and Plagiarism**
We encourage discussion among class members about homework assignments, but everyone is expected to complete their own work. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated on any assignments. Any form of cheating or plagiarism will be directly confronted and handled according to the university judicial procedure defined in the ISU student handbook.

**Disabilities**
If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Student Disability Resources (SDR) office, located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076, 515-294-7220.

**Grading**
The average lab is worth 8 to 10 points. The number of points a lab assignment is worth will reflect the amount of time that it is expected to take to complete. There will not be any exams. If you have a disagreement or question about grading, please see your instructor after class or during office hours.

This course is designed to help you build writing and critical thinking skills, and the instructors hope that everyone does well. If you participate in class, take the assignments seriously, and turn them in on time, you should find it easy to earn at least a C. The grading scheme is a form of mastery grading; no curve is imposed on the distribution of scores, so no one has to do poorly. It is theoretically possible for everyone to make an A!

The percentage ranges for each letter grade are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERCENT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93.0-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>80.0-82.9</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>65.0-68.9</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90.0-92.9</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>74.0-79.9</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>61.0-64.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.0-89.9</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>73.0-76.9</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>57.0-60.9</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.0-86.9</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>69.0-72.9</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>0.0-56.9</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>