**PSYCH 302. Research Methods in Psychology**  
*Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Gilman 2305*  
**Instructor:** Lisa Larson, Ph. D., 216 W Lagomarcino  
**Office hours:** Tuesdays, 1 - 3 p.m.  
**Fall, 2012**  
[lmlarson@iastate.edu](mailto:lmlarson@iastate.edu)

**Teaching assistant:** Kathryn Pesch kmpesch@iastate.edu  
**TA Office Hours** - W183 (across from cafe)  
  - Wednesdays 3:10p - 4:00p  
  - Thursdays 1:00p - 2:00p  
*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 independent research project based on your own ideas. Students will generate and complete a research project and present it to the class.

**Prerequisites:** Stat 101; Psych 301

**Required readings:**  

**Evaluation:** A total of 575 points is possible in the course:

- **Quiz**  
  - 100 points (15 points for each of 7 chapters, drop lowest score (90 + 10 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 and Results/Discussion**  
  - 45 points (15 points each for intro, methods, and Results/Discussion)

- **Independent Project:**  
  - 75 points

- **Data Collection**  
  - 30 points (10 points each of 3 days)

- **Class Presentation**  
  - 75 points

- **Feedback on Project**  
  - 20 points (5 points each of 4 presentation days)
Class Participation  
(20 points) (includes attendance and critiquing studies and 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 Tuesdays usually and will generally be multiple choice and short answer, 10 - 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 Blackboard Learn. 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. 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 16th. 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). You must manipulate an independent variable. You will collect data in class. Data collection cannot take more than 12 to 15 minutes. The independent research project should be no more than 15 pages of text. The final independent project is due the Tuesday of finals week Dec. 11 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 in a 15-minute presentation.

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

**Week 1. Aug 21** Overview/ Introduction / Student information sheet

**Week 1. Aug 23** Generating and refining Research Hypotheses Text Chapter 3 / Student Information sheet due; Assignment 1 assigned

**Week 2. Aug 28** Generating and refining Research Hypotheses Text Chapter 3 / Quiz Chapter 3

**Week 2. Aug 30** / Assignment 1 due Chapter 1 Science, Psychology, and You

**Week 3. Sept 4** Literature Searches Chapter 4 Meet in the Library Room 32 Assignment 2 assigned

**Week 3. Sept 6** Measuring and manipulating variables Chapter 5 text / Assignment 2 due

**Week 4. Sept 11** Measuring and manipulating variables Chapter 5 text / Presentation by TA/ Collecting Data Quiz Chapter 5 / Assignment 3 assigned

**Week 4. Sept 13** Internal Validity Chapter 9 text / Assignment 3 due / Assignment 4 assigned / Critiquing a Study / Small Group assignment

**Week 5. Sept 18** Internal Validity Chapter 9 text / Presentation by TA/ Quiz Chapter 9 / Assignment 4 due / Assignment 5 assigned

**Week 5. Sept 20** Introduction to Descriptive Methods and Correlational Research Chapter 7 text / Introduction / Assignment 5 due / Draft of introduction assigned

**Week 6. Sept 25** Introduction to Descriptive Methods and Correlational Research Chapter 7 / Quiz Chapter 7 / Draft of method assigned

**Week 6. Sept 27** The simple experiment Chapter 10 text / Draft of introduction and method due / Peer review of introduction and method

**Week 7. Oct 2** The simple experiment Chapter 10 text / Quiz Chapter 10 / Results, Discussion, and References/ Draft of results, discussion assigned

**Week 7. Oct 4** 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 9** Matched pairs, within subjects, and mixed designs Chapter 13 text / Quiz Chapter 13 text / Sign up for individual meetings / Assignment 6 assigned
Week 8. Oct 11 Working out logistics of independent project

Week 9. Oct 16 Individual meetings with instructor and/or teaching assistant / Assignment 6 due and Final Replication Paper is turned in

Week 9. Oct 18 Expanding the Experiment Chapter 12 text / Rough draft of intro assigned

Week 10. Oct 23 Rough draft of introduction due / Rough draft of method assigned / Instructor review of introduction / Lab *Materials for data collection for people on Oct 25th due

Week 10. Oct 25 Data collection / Materials for data collection for people on Oct 30th due

Week 11. Oct 30 Data collection / Materials for data collection for people on Nov 1st due

Week 11. Nov 1 Data collection

Week 12. Nov 6 Rough draft of methods due / Instructor/TA review of methods /Lab dealing with data entry

Week 12. Nov 8 Validity and Ethics Chapter 2 text / Rough draft of results, discussion, and references assigned

Week 13. Nov 13 Validity and Ethics Chapter 2 text / Quiz Chapter 2

Week 13. Nov 15 Giving presentations / Rough draft of results, discussion, and references due / Peer review of results, discussion, and references

Week 14. Nov 20, Nov 22 Thanksgiving break

Week 15. Nov 27 Presentations (5)

Week 15. Nov 29 Presentations (6)

Week 16. Dec 4 Presentations (6)

Week 16. Dec 6 Presentations (5) /wrap up/evaluation

17. Dec 11 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.