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: Mondays, 1-3 p.m.
Fall, 2013
lmlarson@iastate.edu

Teaching assistant: Spurty Surapaneni (ssura@iastate.edu)
TA Office Hours - W183 (across from cafe)
  *Tuesdays 1-2 pm
  Wednesdays 11 to 12 pm

*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 (10 points for each of 10 chapters, drop lowest score (+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
Class Participation: 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 the *Research Methods in Psychology* text. They occur on Tuesdays usually and will generally be multiple choice and short answer, 5 to 10 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 22nd. 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. 17 by 5 p.m. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
Class Presentation: Near the end of the semester you will present your independent research project to the class allowing in a 15-minute presentation.

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

NOTE: Quiz dates and Assignment and Paper due dates are always noted first and in Bold Print.

Week 1. Aug 27 Overview / Introduction / Student information sheet Assignment 1 assigned

Week 1. Aug 29 Student Information sheet due / Chapter 1: Psychology is a Way of Thinking AND Chapter 2: Sources of Information: Evaluating, Finding, and Reading Information / Generating and refining Research Hypotheses

Week 2. Sept. 3 Quiz Chapter 1, 2 / Generating and refining Research Hypotheses

Week 2. Sept. 5 Assignment 1 due / Chapter 3: Three Claims, Four Validities: Interrogation Tools for Consumers of Research /

Week 3. Sept. 10 Quiz Chapter 3 / Assignment 2 assigned / Critiquing a Study / Small Group assignment

Week 3. Sept. 12 Assignment 2 due / Chapter 5: Identifying Good Measurement / Literature Searches / Meet in the Library Room 32

Week 4. Sept 17 / Quiz Chapter 5 / Chapter 6: Describing What People do: Surveys, Observations and Sampling / Presentation by TA / Collecting Data / Assignment 3 assigned

Week 4. Sept 19 / Quiz Chapter 6 / Assignment 3 due / Chapter 7: Bivariate Correlational Research / Assignment 4 assigned

Week 5. Sept 24 / Quiz Chapter 7 / Assignment 4 due / Assignment 5 assigned

Week 5. Sept 26 Assignment 5 due / Chapter 9: Introduction to the simple experiment / Introduction / Draft of introduction assigned


Week 6. Oct 3 Quiz Chapter 10 /

Week 7. Oct 8 Draft of introduction and method due / Chapter 11: Experiments with More Than One Independent Variable // Peer review of introduction and method / Results, Discussion, and References/ Draft of results, discussion assigned
Week 7. Oct 10 / Draft of results, discussion, and references due / Peer review of results, discussion, and references

Week 8. Oct 15 Quiz Chapter 11/ Sign up for individual meetings / Assignment 6 assigned

Week 8. Oct 17 Working out logistics of independent project / Instructor/TA assistance with method

Week 9. Oct 22 Assignment 6 due and Final Replication Paper is turned in / Individual meetings with instructor and/or teaching assistant

Week 9. Oct 24 Rough draft of intro assigned Instructor/TA assistance with method

Week 10. Oct 29 Rough draft of introduction due / Rough draft of method assigned / Instructor/TA review of introduction / Materials for data collection for people on Oct 31st due

Week 10. Oct 31 Data collection / Materials for data collection for people on Nov 5th due

Week 11. Nov 5 Data collection / Materials for data collection for people on Nov 7th due

Week 11. Nov 7 Data collection

Week 12. Nov 12 Rough draft of methods due / Peer review of methods / Lab dealing with data entry / Rough draft of results, discussion, and references assigned

Week 12. Nov 14 Chapter 4: Ethical Guidelines for Psychology Research /

Week 13. Nov 19 Quiz Chapter 4 / Rough draft of results, discussion, and references due / Peer review of results, discussion, and references

Week 13. Nov 21 Giving presentations

Nov 26, Nov 28 Thanksgiving break

Week 14. Dec 3 Presentations (6)

Week 14. Dec 5 Presentations (6)

Week 15. Dec 10 Presentations (6)

Week 15. Dec 12 Presentations (6) / wrap up/evaluation

Week 16. Dec 17 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](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.