Psychology 302 -- Research Methods in Psychology  
Course Syllabus

**Instructor:** Shana Carpenter, Ph.D.  
**Office:** Office and Laboratory Building, Room 10  
**Phone:** (515) 294-6385  
**E-mail:** shacarp@iastate.edu  

**Class meeting time:** T Th 9-10:50 am  
**Class location:** Gilman 2305  
**Instructor Office Hours:** T 2-3 pm, Th 2-4 pm

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:** Spurty Surapaneni  
**Office:** Lagomarcino W183  
**E-mail:** ssura@iastate.edu  
**Office Hours:** W 10 am - 12 noon

**Course overview:** This course is designed to provide you with a hands-on experience in conducting research in psychology. Several assignments and projects will be given that allow you to work directly on the types of tasks facing a modern-day research scientist. As a result, you will have the chance to build your skills and proficiency in all aspects of the research process—from generating a research question, reviewing and evaluating published journal articles, formulating hypotheses, collecting, organizing and analyzing your own data, preparing APA-style written reports of your findings, and communicating these results in the form of a conference-style presentation.

**Prerequisites:** Statistics 101, Psychology 301

**Required textbook:** *Effective Writing in Psychology* (2008), B. C. Beins & A. M. Beins.  
**Optional textbook:** *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed.*

**Course work:** There are no exams or quizzes in Psych 302. Your grade will be based on several assignments and projects that you complete throughout the semester, as well as your participation in class activities. Each of these is described in more detail below:

**Assignments 1-5:** These assignments are designed to engage you in the type of thinking that research scientists do, and to introduce you to the tools and resources they use for setting up and carrying out experiments. The art of developing good-quality research in psychology requires a lot of careful thought and hard work, and so you may find that some aspects of the assignments are quite challenging. It’s always a good idea to begin the assignments soon after they are given, just to insure that the workload does not become too overwhelming and you have enough time to ask questions if you need to. More information on these assignments will be provided as the course progresses.

**Replication Project:** This project is designed to familiarize you with all of the steps involved in carrying out a research study. I will provide you with two articles that have been published in psychology journals, and as a class we will re-create the experiments that are described in those articles. You will be required to write up one of these experiments in the form of a complete APA-style paper. To help you monitor your own progress and make the workload
a bit more manageable, at various points I will require you to hand in rough drafts of different sections of your paper (e.g., Introduction, Method, etc.) before the final draft is due. The drafts that students hand in will be read and edited by their classmates.

**Independent Project:** For this project you will put into practice the skills that you learned from the Replication Project, but this time the experiment will be one that you design. You will come up with an idea for a research project, and once that idea is approved by me, you will set up your experiment and carry it out in class using your classmates as subjects. You will be required to write up your experiment in the form of a complete APA-style paper. Just like in the Replication Project, I will require you to hand in rough drafts of different sections of your Independent Project paper (e.g., Introduction, Method, etc.) before the final draft is due. The drafts that students hand in will be read and edited by their classmates.

**PowerPoint Presentation:** This project is designed to provide you with experience in communicating your research to others. Using PowerPoint, you will prepare a 15-minute presentation of your Independent Project to share with the class.

**Class Participation:** Active participation in class activities is essential if you want to do well in the course. The hands-on nature of this course requires that you attend every class and contribute to the discussions, workshops, in-class experiments, and other activities that are intended to provide practice at the skills you will need in order to earn the grade you want. In other words, these activities are designed to make you better at the very things on which you will be graded! Therefore, make the most out of class time and share your thoughts, ask questions, and help out your fellow classmates whenever you can.

All of the information for this course can be found on Blackboard. There you can find an electronic course schedule, copies of everything that has been handed out in class, and additional supplementary information.

**Evaluation:** A total of 420 points is possible in the course:

| Assignments 1-5: | 90 points (15-20 points each) |
| Replication Project Paper: | 100 points |
| Independent Project Paper: | 100 points |
| Drafts of Papers | 60 points (10 points each) |
| PowerPoint Presentation | 50 points |
| Class Participation | 20 points |

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>75-78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>71-74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>67-70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>59-62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>55-58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Deadlines:** Assignments will often be discussed in class on the day 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.

**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.

**Correspondence:** Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you are having problems with any aspect of the course. The easiest way to reach me is through e-mail, but you can feel free to call or stop by my office as well. If you need to meet with me outside of office hours, it is often best to contact me a few days in advance to set up a meeting time.

As a final note, try to enjoy your experience in this course! It is not easy to learn how to do research. However, if you have an inquisitive mind and are willing to work hard, you may find that making new discoveries can be quite exciting. I hope you will experience an excitement about the things you have a chance to discover in this course.
# Tentative Course Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 26 (T)</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 28 (Th)</td>
<td>Hypotheses &amp; operational definitions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sep 2 (T)</td>
<td>Hypotheses &amp; operational definitions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sep 4 (Th)</td>
<td>Literature searches (B&amp;B, Ch. 4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 9 (T)</td>
<td>Parts of a journal article (B&amp;B, Ch. 5)</td>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sep 11 (Th)</td>
<td>Parts of a journal article (B&amp;B, Ch. 5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sep 16 (T)</td>
<td>Replication Project (RP) experiment 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sep 18 (Th)</td>
<td>Replication Project (RP) experiment 2</td>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sep 23 (T)</td>
<td>Analyzing data (B&amp;B, Ch. 8)</td>
<td>Assignment 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sep 25 (Th)</td>
<td>Analyzing data (B&amp;B, Ch. 8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sep 30 (T)</td>
<td>Peer review of RP Introduction (B&amp;B, Ch. 10)</td>
<td>Draft of RP Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct 2 (Th)</td>
<td>Peer review of RP Method (B&amp;B, Ch. 11)</td>
<td>Draft of RP Method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 7 (T)</td>
<td>Peer review of RP Results &amp; Discussion</td>
<td>Draft of RP Results &amp; Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct 9 (Th)</td>
<td>Research ethics (B&amp;B, Ch. 19)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 14 (T)</td>
<td>Independent Project (IP) ideas</td>
<td>Final draft of RP paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct 16 (Th)</td>
<td>Independent Project (IP) meetings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 21 (T)</td>
<td>Independent Project (IP) meetings</td>
<td>Assignment 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct 23 (Th)</td>
<td>Independent Project (IP) preparation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 28 (T)</td>
<td>Independent Project (IP) data collection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct 30 (Th)</td>
<td>Independent Project (IP) data collection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 4 (T)</td>
<td>Peer review of IP Introduction (B&amp;B, Ch. 10)</td>
<td>Draft of IP Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 6 (Th)</td>
<td>Independent Project (IP) data collection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 11 (T)</td>
<td>Peer review of IP Method (B&amp;B, Ch. 11)</td>
<td>Draft of IP Method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 13 (Th)</td>
<td>Independent Project (IP) data analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 18 (T)</td>
<td>Peer review of IP Results and Discussion</td>
<td>Draft of IP Results &amp; Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 20 (Th)</td>
<td>Giving presentations (B&amp;B, Ch. 17)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nov 25 (T)</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 27 (Th)</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dec 2 (T)</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 4 (Th)</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Dec 9 (T)</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 11 (Th)</td>
<td>Course wrap-up, evaluations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 16 (T)</td>
<td>FINALS WEEK – NO CLASS</td>
<td>Final Draft of IP Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 18 (Th)</td>
<td>FINALS WEEK – NO CLASS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that the course schedule is tentative and I may decide to make modifications if the need arises. I will alert you ahead of time if any changes are going to be made.