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# EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY – PSY250

**Spring 2018**

**Instructor:** Ralitsa Todorova

**Office Hours:** Th 12:00-1:00; by appointment

**Class Meets:** M 1:10-4:00 HN614, Th 1:10-4:00 HW117

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**Course Description:** This course is designed to be an introduction to psychological research methods. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to, the ethics of conducting research, how to formulate questions and come up with hypotheses, various research methodologies, writing scientific papers, and ultimately, becoming better consumers of information. The most important skill gleaned from this course may be how to critically approach and analyze a psychological research report.

**Prerequisites:** Declared psychology major; ENGL 120 with a minimum grade of C; one semester of acceptable lab science sequence with a passing grade; PSYCH 248 with a minimum grade of C.

# Required Text Book: Schweigert, Wendy. (2011). *Research Methods in Psychology*. 3rd edition. ISBN: 978-1577667193. Approx. Cost: $25; Amazon and at the Hunter College Bookstore.

**Additional Readings**:

# American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, Sixth Edition. ISBN: 978-1433805615. $20.99 on Amazon.

Bookmark for APA: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

There will also be additional readings (handouts and articles) that will be assigned throughout the course. These will be uploaded to Blackboard.

**Learning outcomes:** There are five main learning outcomes that I would like you to come away with from this class. These are: understanding research design and methodology, conducting ethical research, accessing information and demonstrating information literacy, carrying out data collection and analysis, and effectively communicating your results. Through hands-on experiments, you should leave with a better grasp on the research process. Ultimately, this course is not just about learning the material but also about being able to think critically and explore how these theories and research relate to our daily lives.

**Grading:**

**Assessment Percent of Grade**

1. Attendance and participation 10

2. Study questions and quizzes 10

3. Paper 1 10

4. Paper 2 15

5. Paper 3 20

6. Paper 4 25

7. Presentation 10

Total 100

**A+** 97.5-100.0 **B-** 80.0-82.4

**A** 92.5-97.4 **C+** 77.5-79.9

**A-** 90.0-92.4 **C** 70.0-77.4

**B+** 87.5-89.9 **D** 60.0-69.9

**B** 82.5-87.4 **F** 0.0-59.9

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend classes regularly and attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. If you do miss a class, even due to an excused absence, you are still required to make up any work that may have been missed. Use your peers to catch upon any information you may have missed from class. If you miss six or more classes, you may be withdrawn from the course.

Coming to class late is distracting and rude to the rest of us. In addition to taking attendance, I will also be marking if you are late. Being late multiple times will count as a missed class.

**Use of Blackboard and course site:** Students in this course are required to use Blackboard, Hunter’s on-line course management system, primarily for the submission of your papers. The course website will be where you will find the bulk of information and content for this class - **psy250s2018.commons.gc.cuny.edu**. Please bookmark this page and check it regularly for announcements related to the course. I will also email you (through Blackboard) over the course of the semester with reminders or as things come up. Please configure your Hunter email account to ensure that your messages are automatically forwarded to the appropriate place where you typically read your email.

**Use of email:** When emailing me, please always include the course (PSYCH 250) in the subject line of your email, and don’t forget to write your full name in the signature. Emails are for emergencies or questions not covered in class. Please avoid emailing about technical questions which you can address before or after the class. I will not reply to emails with questions whose answers can be found either on the syllabus, the Blackboard page/course website, or from your peers.I will respond to all emails within 48 hours, except on weekends. Also please be mindful of the way you are writing your emails – email etiquette is important.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

\*Please note that this is a tentative schedule that is subject to change.

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| **Date** | **Topic** | **Reading/Assignments** |
| Mon.  1/29 | Introduction to Course | (Chap. 1 optional) |
| Thurs.  2/1 | Introduction to research methods;  Ethics and CITI Certificate | Chap. 2  **Completed CITI by 4pm** |
| Mon.  2/5 | Introduce Study #1; Do Study #1 | Hopewell, Leaver, & Lea (2008)  **SQ1** |
| Thurs.  2/8 | Lit review, reliability, validity, hypotheses; Writing Introduction, method & results | Chap. 3  Gurnell (1996) |
| Mon.  2/12 | **NO CLASS** |  |
| Thurs.  2/15 | Writing APA format papers; Lit review  *Library Session Room 404* | Chap. 4; APA Manual Chap. 2  **SQ2** |
| Mon.  2/19 | **NO CLASS** |  |
| **Tues.**  **2/20** | Analyzing squirrel data; Stats | Chap. 5; Bring copy of 3rd article  **SQ3** |
| Thurs.  2/22 | Between Groups Design;  Discussion | Chap. 6 |
| Mon.  2/26 | Paper #1 workshop | **Bring draft of paper to class** |
| Thurs.  3/1 | Intro to personality types; Intro to study #2 | **Paper #1 due 1pm**  McCrae & Costa (1997) |
| Mon.  3/5 | Surveys and interviews; Design study #2 | Chap 11 |
| Thurs.  3/8 | Surveys and interviews; Design study #2 | Chap 11; Komarraju et al. (2011) **OR** Bidjerano & Dai (2007) |
| Mon.  3/12 | Collect data study #2; Finalize survey | **SQ4** |
| Thurs.  3/15 | Collect survey data study #2;  Within-subject design; *Writing Center* | Chap. 7; Bring copy of 3rd article **SQ5** |
| Mon.  3/19 | Analyze data study #2; Correlation;  Between groups design review | Chap. 9 |
| Thurs.  3/22 | Correlation; Analyze data study #2  *Computer lab* | **SQ6** |
| Mon.  3/26 | Paper #2 workshop | **Bring draft of paper to class** |
| Thurs.  3/29 | Experimental design; Stroop experiment *Guest speaker* | **Paper #2 due 1pm**  *Suggested: Stroop (1935)* |
| **Mon.**  **4/2** | **SPRING BREAK** |  |
| **Thurs.**  **4/5** | **SPRING BREAK** |  |
| Mon.  4/9 | One-Way Analysis of Variance;  Collect Stroop data | Stroop (1935) |
| Thurs.  4/12 | Single-subject design; Case study;  Qualitative Research | Chap 12 **SQ7** |
| Mon.  4/16 | Analyze Stroop data *(Last day to withdraw with grade of W)* | Read Hartley & Adams (1974)  **SQ8** |
| Thurs.  4/19 | Quasi-Experimental & Factorial Design  *Computer Lab* | Chap. 8 (remember Chap. 9) **SQ9** |
| Mon.  4/23 | Statistical approaches and future research  Begin designing paper 4 |  |
| Thurs.  4/26 | Paper #3 workshop | **Bring draft of paper to class** |
| Mon.  4/30 | Participate! Collect, Enter & Analyze Data for Study #4 | **Design form** for final projects due – approved and ready to go!  **Paper #3 due 1pm** |
| Thurs.  5/3 | Gather data, practice presentations, run analyses | **SQ10** |
| Mon.  5/7 | Gather data, practice presentations, run analyses |  |
| Thurs.  5/10 | **Presentations** | Peer review |
| Mon.  5/14 | **Presentations** | Peer review |
| Thurs.  5/24 | **FINAL** | **Paper #4 due 3:45pm** |

**Papers**: Experimental Psychology requires students write four (4) scientific papers that are in a form suitable for submission to a scholarly journal. These papers are based on original research that we will conduct in class, however, you will spend a great deal of time outside of class researching and writing your papers as well. I encourage people work together in class, however, **once it comes to writing you cannot “collaborate”**. The first paper will be worth only 10% of your grade – this is to give you time to master the skill of writing, without getting low grades right from the start. The final paper is worth 25% of your grade and will have required practice. Each paper must be submitted before you can start on the next – that is to say, all papers must be completed or you will not pass the class. Five points will be deducted from the final score of papers for every day that the paper is late. Papers must be submitted through **TurnItIn on BlackBoard**. **You must also bring a hard copy** of your paper to class on the due date.

**Paper Grading Criteria:** (detailed rubric will be provided)

- Title Page (5pts): Proper placement of running head, title, subtitle, name(s), affiliation

- Abstract (5 pts): clarity, formatting, covers main points

- Introduction (25pts): clarity, coherence, appropriateness of references, completeness

- Methods (15pts): clarity, completeness, information in appropriate subsections

- Results (20pts): accurate interpretation of statistics,

- Discussion (15pts): clarity, appropriateness of references, discussion of other research

- General points (15pts): APA style, grammar, references, tables and figures

**Study Questions (SQs):** You will see on the schedule above that there are **10 study questions** that you have to respond to over the course of the semester. You will access and respond to these questions in blog format at **psy250s2018.commons.gc.cuny.edu.** Your responses should be at least a paragraph long. You can choose to comment to your peers' posts, or start your own post, but you must respond at least once for each SQ. Further, you must respond to another student's post at least 5 times over the course of the semester. There are 10 SQs, so this means you should comment on at least half of them. Comments will count as one per SQ (meaning that if you comment 5 times on the last SQ, it will only count as one comment). By the end of the semester, you should have 15 total posts – 1 to each of the 10 SQs plus 5 more responses to others’ comments. Late SQs will not be accepted.

**Academic Integrity:** Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

**The Writing Center:** The Hunter College Writing Center offers free tutorial services to all registered students at the college as well as a variety of other resources to the Hunter College community. They offer both regular weekly tutorial sessions and drop-in assistance. If you would like to schedule regular weekly sessions, please contact the center at the start of the semester. The Reading/Writing Center is located on the 7th floor of the library**.**

**From the Office of AccessABILITY:** In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical and/ or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1124 to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance please call (212-772-4857)/TTY (212-650-3230).

**Sexual Misconduct:** In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College. a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444). b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123. CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/diversityandcompliance/repository/files/cuny-policy-on-sexual-misconduct.pdf