

Research Methods in Psychology 1
Psychology 2855G
Winter 2018

Class Meetings

Lecture: Tuesdays, 3:30 – 5:30 PM, BR-19
Lab: Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:30 PM, BR-19

Course Instructor

Caroline Strang

Office: UH 354

Email: cstrang@uwo.ca

Office Hours: By appointment and we can always talk before/after class

Material

Required: Myers, A., & Hansen, C. (2012). *Experimental Psychology (7th edition)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Optional: American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author.

Course Website

Registered students will see the course listed on their Owl page.

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the variety of ways research is conducted in psychology. Topics to be covered include the scientific approach, ethical issues in human and animal research, specific experimental and non-experimental designs, and APA writing style.

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in a 1000 level Psychology course

Antirequisite(s): Psychology 2800E, Psychology 2820E, 2840F/G; Health Sciences 2801A/B

2 lecture hours, 2 laboratory hours, .5 course

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- analyze the published experiments on a given topic in psychology and communicate methodology and findings orally and in writing
- critique published experimental work in psychology and formulate new research ideas based on this work
- demonstrate knowledge of and ability to apply APA writing style
- recognize and compare experimental and non-experimental designs in psychology and appropriately interpret the findings resulting from those designs

- demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues surrounding research with humans and animals and how these issues are handled in a research setting

Course Format

This course provides an introduction to the way in which research is planned, conducted, and communicated in psychology. In addition to providing instruction in research techniques needed for digesting scientific findings in psychology, it is expected that Psychology 2855G will contribute significantly to the development of critical thinking skills that students can apply to their future courses, careers, and everyday life. In particular, the skills gained will be foundational to written work and oral presentations required in upper-year psychology courses.

The course consists of a combination of class meetings and interactive labs. Note that the distinction between lab and class is not absolute and it is expected that information introduced in one setting will carry over to the other setting.

Class meetings

Our class meetings will be a mixture of lecture, discussion, and in-class activities. Topics will follow the schedule given below, although lectures will also introduce material that is not in the Myers and Hansen textbook. You are responsible for all of the material from class meetings and the material in the text. Any exceptions will be announced in class. If you miss class, you should arrange to borrow notes from another student. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class and on Owl.

Labs

The lab is an important component of this course and is meant to give you hands-on experience with understanding research design and how it is implemented in psychology. You will gain experience working with primary research articles in psychology and communicating studies orally and in writing. You will also propose an original research study based on prior published work and complete ethics documents for the study.

Evaluation

Evaluation consists of two components: exams over class material and lab work. Each is worth 50% of the course final mark. **Students must pass both the class component and the lab component to receive a final passing mark in the course.**

Lecture component

Exams over class material: There will be two non-cumulative tests in this course. Tests are based on lecture material and the course textbook (Myers & Hansen, 2012). Tests are equally weighted, so each contributes 25% to the final course mark (2 exams x 25% = 50% for class component). Exams may include questions in several formats, including multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, definitions, and short answer. All exams are closed book with no aids allowed. Without exception, students are required to take both exams in the course in order to earn a passing overall mark. Make-up exams require approval by an academic counselor. Make-ups may consist of any of the above question formats or essay questions.

Lab component

Oral presentation – 8%

The oral presentation will be performed in groups to be assigned by the instructor. Each group will pick a primary research article to present to the class using PowerPoint. In addition, the group should note any shortcomings in the study's design and the interpretation by the authors and propose new research to address shortcomings and/or extend the work to a further research question of interest. Every member of the group will receive the same mark. Each member of the group must participate (i.e. talk) in the presentation.

Research proposal & Ethics documents – 38% total

In the second half of the course, each student will individually generate an original research proposal of 8-10 pages. The proposal will follow APA style guidelines and build on published research on a topic in psychology of the student's choice. There will be time allotted during lab for feedback on your proposal from your peers. You will also prepare ethics documents for your study. All written work in this course must be submitted in hard copy for and through dropbox on the OWL site.

The proposal will be completed in a series of assignments

1. **Statement of Topic & list of 5 relevant references** (with justification for their inclusion) = 3%
2. **Introduction outline**, including brief discussion of proposed methodology = 10%
3. **Final proposal**, including ethics documents = 25%

Participation – 4%

Students are expected to attend all lab meetings, although the participation mark is not an attendance mark per se. The mark is based on your active participation in lab and lecture activities, including asking questions and actively providing feedback during group oral presentations, and reporting on your progress and soliciting feedback for your proposal in small groups and with the instructor. Please note that "participation" is not simply talking a lot in class; it is providing *thoughtful* comments and feedback in a way that does not monopolize the discussion.

In addition, attendance at oral presentations by other groups is mandatory, as feedback and discussion of research are an integral part of the research process and skills you are expected to acquire in this course.

Late policy

Due dates in this course will be strictly enforced. Work to be turned in (both hard copy when required and electronic copy) is due at the start of our meeting (no later than 15 minutes after the start of class). Items that are submitted after the 15-minute mark will be considered late and subject to a 10% mark deduction.

For example, for a Tuesday due date:

Work submitted later than 15 minutes beyond the start of class on Tuesday or later that day: -10%

Work submitted Wednesday: -20%

Work submitted Thursday: -30%

Work submitted Friday: -40% (weekends count as 1 day)

All work submitted after a meeting has ended should be taken to the receptionist in the Brescia registrar's office. You should request both a time/date stamp from the receptionist and that she place the work in the instructor's mailbox.

Accommodation for late work, missed exams, absence from your group's article presentation or absence from a class in which other groups are presenting their articles will only be provided with the approval of an academic advisor. There are no exceptions to this rule. Such accommodation must be requested before, on or near (within a few days of) the due date.

SCHEDULE – subject to change, see Owl and announcements in class for updates

Lecture (Tuesdays in BR-19)	Topic	Text	Lab (Thursdays in BR-19)	
Jan 9	Overview/Scientific Method	1	Jan 11	Psychology as a Science
Jan 16	Research Ethics	2	Jan 18	The literature of Psychology; group assignments
Jan 23	Non-experimental designs	3	Jan 25	How to present an article (1 hour), Literature Review tutorial in computer lab (1 hour)
Jan 30	Surveys & Sampling	4	Feb 1	Group meetings
Feb 6	Correlational research	5	Feb 8	Article presentations (8%)
Feb 13	Introduction to computer programming for research		Feb 15	Article presentations (8%); Research proposal requirements
Feb 20	Reading Week		Feb 22	Reading Week
Feb 27	Exam 1 (25%) during class; covers chapters 1-5 + lectures		Mar 1	Proposal topic & list of 5 relevant articles (3%) due; Outlining
Mar 6	Formulating the Hypothesis/ Experimentation pt. 1	6,7	Mar 8	APA format; Plagiarism
Mar 13	Experimentation, pt. 2	7	Mar 15	Outline due (10%); small group study design discussions
Mar 20	Controls	8	Mar 22	Ethics: process and package requirements
Mar 27	Basic between-subjects design	9	Mar 29	Proposal Checklist
Apr 3	Why we need statistics	13	Apr 5	No lab
Apr 10	Research proposals & Ethics packages (25%) due; Course Debrief			
April Finals period	Exam 2 (25%; chapters 6-9, 13 + lectures)			

2017-18 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official dates <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg7.html>). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg130.html>)

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment.

Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html>).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices

(http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf and http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf).

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental_Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.