



Psychology 4050

Research Methods in Psychology

Fall 2002

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Office Hours: WF 10:30-11:20, Tu 1:00-2:00, and by appointment.

This is one of two foundation courses for the [psychology major at Villanova](#). You must have declared your major in psychology and have taken Psy 1000 to enroll in this course.

Scope and Goals of the Course

The course is concerned with the PROCESS of psychological science. We will be examining the philosophical foundations of the scientific approach to understanding behavior and the mind, the conceptual and practical tools used by research psychologists, and the logic used in the interpretation of psychological data and the development of psychological theories. These issues will be described in the reading and lecture material. You will gain practice using these skills from a series of projects.

Structure and Requirements of the Course

Your responsibilities as a student in this course will be distributed among three basic elements: 1) the material covered in the class lectures & discussions, 2) the material covered in the readings, and 3) the laboratory projects. History proves that it is impossible to do well in this class without attending class very regularly, keeping up with the reading, and working on the projects in a prompt and efficient manner. As a student in the class, it is YOUR responsibility to be aware of current reading assignments, project due dates, & exam dates. The schedule of reading assignments and exams provided below is tentative and subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class. Approximately 9 lab projects will be assigned over the course of the semester. Some of the work for these projects will be done during the Wednesday (Section 003) or Friday (Section 004) lab meetings. *Students are required to make and keep copies of all projects prior to submitting them.*

Class meetings held on Monday will generally consist of the formal presentation of material in

the form of lectures. Class meetings held on Wednesday (Section 003) or Friday (Section 004) will be smaller groups of students. On those days, we will generally be engaged either in more interactive discussion of the material or in the laboratory and writing projects that constitute a major portion of the course.

Except under the most extraordinary of circumstances, you must communicate with me about any perceived need for a make-up exam AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE the class period in which the exam is scheduled. I can usually be reached by phone during "business" hours (leave a message if I am not in). In all cases you must have a legitimate excuse for requiring a make-up. Late projects will be penalized by 1 point per day. Students in this course are bound by the university [Code of Academic Integrity](#), the psychology department document *Plagiarism Defined* (handed out in class), and the university [Academic Integrity Policy](#). All students in the course must read and understand these documents prior to beginning the first course assignment.

Texts

1. [Shaughnessy, J.J. & Zechmeister, J.S.. \(2000\). *Research Methods in Psychology*](#). New York: McGraw-Hill. (Fifth Edition)

2. [American Psychological Association. \(2001\). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*](#) (5th ed.) Washington, D.C.: Author.

3. A number of assigned readings will be distributed in class or will be on reserve at Falvey Library.

Grading

Your grade will be based on two main ingredients: performance on three exams and the quality of the projects which you will be doing over the semester. The "recipe" for your grade will be as follows:

Exam #1: 20%	Exam #2: 20%	Exam #3: 20%
Projects: 40% (15% of your grade will be based on the Final Project)		

Your performance will translate into grades according to the following system:

93% - 100% : A	73% - 76% : C
90% - 92% : A-	70% - 72% : C-
87% - 89% : B+	67% - 69% : D+
83% - 86% : B	63% - 66% : D
80% - 82% : B-	60% - 62% : D-
77% - 79% : C+	<60%: F

Psych 4050: Syllabus

PSYCH 4050: TENTATIVE SCHEDULE 2002

(Note: This schedule is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class. A weekly [Syllabus Update and Deadline Reminder](#) is also Available)

WEEK OF:	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT	LAB / PROJECT	EXAMS
Aug 26	Orientation & Preview of Course & Psych Major The Nature of Knowledge	Handouts	Psych as a Major & Career	
Sept 2 (Labor Day)	Epistemology, Empiricism, & Science	Hume (Handout)		
Sept 9	The Psychological Literature	S & Z: Chap 1	Project #1: Library Resources (5 pts)	
Sept 16	Observational Research	S & Z: Chaps 3 & 5, Appendix B	Exploring Psychology on the Web	
Sept 23	Correlational Research	S & Z: Chap 4	Project #2: Observing Behavior (10 pts)	
Sept 30	Exam #1		Project #3: Wildcat World I (5 pts)	Exam #1: Sept 30
Oct 7	Interpreting Correlations	Handouts	Project #4: Media Reports of Correlations (5 pts)	
Oct 21	Experimental Research	S & Z: Chaps 6 & 7	Project #5: Wildcat World II (5 pts) Discussion of Final Project	
Oct 28	Experimental Research (continued)		Final Project Design Meetings	
Nov 4	Complex Designs	S & Z: Chap 8	Project #6: Wildcat World III (5 pts), Project #7, Critique of Journal Articles (10 pts)	

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Nov 11	Exam #2		Video & Lab Tour	Exam #2: Nov 11
Nov 18	The Logic of Interaction	APA Publication Manual	APA style	
Nov 25 (Thanksgiving: No Labs)	Theory Testing	S & Z: Chaps 9 & 10	Happy Thanksgiving!	
Dec 2	Applied Research		Project #8: Theory Testing (5 pts)	
Dec 9	Psychology & Society	S&Z:Chap 2	Final Project Due Dec 11 (30 pts)	Final Exam: as scheduled by Registrar

Notes: S & Z = Shaughnessy and Zechmeister

Anything show in **red print** is a correction made since the paper syllabus was distributed in class



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