

PSY312-01: Experimental Psychology

Maryville College

Fall 2021

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday at 10:00-10:50

Wednesday at 1:00-1:50

133 Science Sutton Center

Instructor: Dr. Zachary Himmelberger

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Office: 129D Sutton Science Center

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday from 11:00-12:00. I am also available by appointment most afternoons.

General Information

Prerequisites: PSY101 (Introductory Psychology) and STA120 (Introductory Statistics)

Required Texts:

Navarro, D. (2011-ish) *Learning Statistics with R: A Tutorial for Psychology Students and other Beginners* (Version 0.6).

Available for free at <https://learningstatisticswithr.com/>.

Price, P. C., Jhangiani, R., Chang, i. A., Leighton, D. C., & Cuttler, C. (2017) *Research Methods in Psychology* (3rd American edition).

Available for free at: <https://opentext.wsu.edu/carriecuttler/>.

Course Website: This course will use Tartan Blackboard (<http://mctartan.com>)

Syllabus: As the instructor of this course, I reserve the authority and discretion to revise this syllabus and course schedule. Although the content of the syllabus may change, the exam and assignment dates will likely stay the same. I will notify you of any changes as early as possible.

Course Description: This course is designed to acquaint you with the methodological approach to psychological investigation. Although the course concentrates on methodology, statistics, and the writing of research reports, attention is also directed to such content areas as philosophy of science and ethics in research.

Course Objectives: The primary objective of this course is to provide you with a basic understanding of how to design and interpret the findings of a psychological research study. The course is also designed to teach you how to write a manuscript for a psychological research journal. Furthermore, this course should prepare you to take more advanced courses of interest in psychology by equipping you with the necessary foundational information to appreciate research in the discipline.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify key issues surrounding psychological testing, including, but not limited to, the scientific method, ethical considerations, and experimental design.
 2. Demonstrate effective communication and critical thinking skills.
 3. Understand the connection between research methodology and statistics.
 4. Create a research study proposal using an experimental or nonexperimental research method.
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Course Requirements

Exams (100 pts): There will be two exams during the semester. Although the exams are not explicitly designed to be cumulative, some foundational material may appear on both. Each exam is worth a total of 50 points toward your final grade.

Research Labs (100 pts): There will be five research lab assignments due throughout the semester to help prepare you for the research proposal. Each lab is worth 20 points. In the lab assignments, you will complete a reading, answer conceptual questions, complete an applied statistical problem, and report the results using APA format.

Research Proposal (100 pts): The course will culminate with a formal research proposal. It will be based on an original research idea and may use an experimental or nonexperimental research design. More detail will be provided in class.

Assigned Readings: It is expected that you will complete the assigned readings before the class in which they are discussed. This will enable you to participate more fully in class discussions and activities and strengthen the connections you make to new material presented in class. Because of the great breadth of material covered in this course, I will not cover everything in the readings. You may be evaluated on all assigned readings, regardless of whether they are were also discussed in class.

Extra Credit Opportunities: I believe that efforts to interact with and learn about the material covered in the course should be rewarded. Therefore, I may offer several ways to accumulate extra credit points throughout the semester. The number of points and how they will be applied to your grade will be announced as they emerge.

Grading

Research Labs	/100
Exam 1	/50
Exam 2	/50
Research Proposal	/100
Total	/300

Grading Scale

A	93%	B-	80%	D+	67%
A-	90%	C+	77%	D	63%
B+	87%	C	73%	D-	60%
B	83%	C-	70%	F	<60%

Course Policies and Professionalism

Attendance: Attendance is both required and expected. Being prepared and attending class is critical for student success. However, I also understand that there are valid reasons for missing class (e.g., illness, official college functions, death in the family). Therefore, missing four classes will result in a 10-point reduction in your final grade with a further reduction of 5-point for every additional class missed.

Excused absences will not be included in the three allowed absences. For an absence to be excused, you must be required to represent the college as an official member of a college-sanctioned group or have a note from a doctor stating that you cannot attend class for medical reasons. Please see the instructor with any questions.

Remember, it is your responsibility to complete all work for the class, whether an absence is excused or unexcused. It is also your responsibility to be aware of the attendance policy and keeping track of your absences.

Zoom Policy: If the class needs to go online, you will be expected to be attentive and professional during all Zoom sessions. This includes having your camera turned on, being dressed appropriately, and actively contributing to class. I also acknowledge that there will inevitably be situations where this will not apply, such as a restroom break or distraction in the room. You are expected to be professional and reasonable during these times.

Phones: The expectation is that you will not use your phone in class. I understand the need to keep your phone on in case of emergencies, but please be respectful of others and leave the classroom if you need to use your phone.

Class Time: Please arrive on time. I would rather you come late than not at all, but if you arrive late, please enter as quietly as possible to minimize distractions. However, habitual or excessive tardiness will result in being marked absent for that class.

Grade Disputes: Disputes regarding grading should be addressed by making an appointment with me within one week of receiving the grade.

Late Assignments: It is up to the instructor's discretion to accept late assignments (with or without a penalty). For the late work to be considered, the student must contact the instructor prior to the due date.

Statement on Diversity & Nondiscrimination: As an academic community, our educational mission is enhanced by the robust exchange of ideas that occurs between a diverse student body, faculty, and staff within a respectful and inclusive learning environment. I expect all students to respect the ideals of individual worth and human dignity, and to maintaining a nurturing and respectful learning environment.

Maryville College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, ethnic or national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability, or political beliefs in provision of educational opportunities and benefits (MC Statement of Non-Discrimination).

Code of Academic Conduct Statement: I expect all Maryville College students ‘to act with integrity in all interactions – academic, personal, and beyond’ (MC Covenant). All acts of academic dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct and will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, self-plagiarism (including the submission of assignments that have previously been submitted to this class or another), fabrication of information, misrepresentations, and abetting any of the above.

Academic Support Center, Disability Services, & Accommodations

Students with a disability requiring accommodations or any student who believes that they will require accommodations due to a disability should contact (via phone or email) Kim Ochsenbein, 865-981-8124, Kim.ochsenbein@maryvillecollege.edu or Debbie Stietenroth, 865-981-8120, Debbie.stietenroth@maryvillecollege.edu in the Academic Support Center located in the lower level of Thaw Hall. Students are encouraged to make contact before or during the first week of classes.

MC Academic Support will be largely (and safely) in-person this Fall 2021 semester in the Academic Support Center COL.LAB, Thaw Hall Library, and other campus support venues. While in-person support will be available for MC Group Study, Content & Language Tutoring, Writing Center, Math Tank, Supplemental Instruction, and the KT COLLABORTIVE (new evening guided study & tutoring programming), all MC Academic Mentors will be available via school email, Microsoft Teams, ZOOM, or Google Hangout. Vaccinated or not, masks are required in any of our indoor academic support programming. Please contact noah.bowman@maryvillecollege.edu for any academic support-related questions or requests.

Located in the Academic Support Center COL.LAB and in Thaw Hall Library during select times this fall semester, the Writing Center is a high-quality resource for all MC students. The consultants there are trained to help with all stages of the writing and speech preparation process, including brainstorming for topics, developing ideas, evaluating organization, revising final drafts, and practicing delivery. While consultants will NOT edit your essays, they can help you to identify problems with grammar and mechanics, organization and development, and delivery. Walk-ins are welcome; you can also make an appointment ahead of time to work with a specific consultant. More information and hours can be found here: <https://www.maryvillecollege.edu/campus-life/student-services/academic-services/writing-center/>.

Course Schedule

Date	Day	Topic	Reading	Due
08/25	Wed.	Syllabus and Course Introduction		
Lab		Finding Research Articles		
08/27	Fri.			
08/30	Mon.	Scientific Method	Price: Chapter 1	
09/01	Wed.			
Lab		Reading Research		
09/03	Fri.		Price: Chapter 2	
09/06	Mon.	No Class – Labor Day		
09/08	Wed.	Research Ethics	Price: Chapter 3	
Lab		IRB Training		Lab 1
09/10	Fri.			
09/13	Mon.	Psychological Measurement	Price: Chapter 4	
09/15	Wed.			
Lab		Writing an Introduction		
09/17	Fri.			
09/20	Mon.	Experimental Research (2 conditions)	Price: Chapter 5	
09/22	Wed.			
Lab		Work on Lab 2		Lab 2
09/24	Fri.			
09/27	Mon.	Statistics Review	Price: Chapters 12 & 13	
09/29	Wed.			
Lab		Introduction to R		
10/01	Fri.			
10/04	Mon.	<i>t</i> -tests		
10/06	Wed.			
Lab		Work on Lab 3		Lab 3
10/08	Fri.	No Class – Fall Break		
10/11	Mon.	Review		
10/13	Wed.	Exam 1		
Lab		Go over Exam 1 / Introduce Final Project		
10/15	Fri.	Writing a Methods Section		
10/18	Mon.	Experimental Research (3+ conditions)		Brainstorm Ideas
10/20	Wed.			
10/22	Fri.			
10/25	Mon.	ANOVA		
10/27	Wed.			

		Work on Lab 4		Lab 4
10/29	Fri.			
11/01	Mon.	Factorial Designs	Price: Chapter 9	Outline Final Project
11/03	Wed.			
		Writing a Results Section		
11/05	Fri.			
11/08	Mon.	Factorial ANOVA		
11/10	Wed.			
		Writing a Discussion section		
11/12	Fri.			
11/15	Mon.		Navarro: Chapter 16	
11/17	Wed.			
		Work on Lab 5		Lab 5
11/19	Fri.	Nonexperimental Research and Generalization	Price: Chapter 6	
11/22	Mon.			
11/24	Wed.	No Class – Thanksgiving		
11/26	Fri.	No Class – Thanksgiving		
11/29	Mon.	Review		
12/01	Wed.	Exam 2		
		Go Over Exam 2		
12/03	Fri.	Workshop		
12/06	Mon.	Workshop		
12/08	Wed.	Workshop		
		Workshop		
12/13	Mon.			Final Paper Due