

**PSYCHOLOGY 120L:  
LAB IN ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS**

**SUMMER 2015 – SESSION A  
SYLLABUS**

**INSTRUCTOR: ALEXANDER SWAN**

OFFICE: BLDG 434, RM 124

OFFICE HOURS: MW 2 – 3 PM

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**COURSE INFORMATION**

LECTURE: MW 3:30 – 4:55 PM

LOCATION: NH 1105

**LABS** (ALL LABS IN PSY-E 2822)

TA	LAB (TR)	OFFICE HOURS	EMAIL
LAB 1	9AM TO 12PM	W 12 – 2 PM PSYCH 2226	
LAB 2	12PM TO 3PM	T 3 – 5 PM PSYCH 2117	
LAB 3	3PM TO 6PM	TR 2 – 3 PM PSYCH 2225	

**PREREQUISITES:** Psychology or Biopsychology Major Status AND Senior Standing

**COURSE WEBSITE:** GauchoSpace

**COURSE MATERIALS:** All course materials will be posted on GauchoSpace, including tutorials, guides, readings, lab handouts, and lecture slides. **THERE IS NO TEXTBOOK FOR THIS COURSE.** It is important you consistently check GS for any additional materials that might help you progress through the course.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

This is both a lecture and a learn-by-doing course. There will be lecture twice a week that reviews the basics of research methods and introduces advanced concepts. In addition, there are twice-weekly labs during which you will be able to apply what you have learned over the course of your psychology major. Your grade will be based on several requirements, detailed below.

By the end of this course, you will be able to conduct psychological studies, from selecting the best methods to test your research questions, through the communication of results. During this course you will gain insight into the scientific process as a whole – its advantages, difficulties, and limitations. As such, you will be able to better evaluate the knowledge science can provide, and integrate that knowledge into a broader worldview.

**COURSE STRUCTURE**

**A. LECTURE**

During lecture, we will briefly review fundamentals from your methods and statistics course. More

importantly, though, we will practice turning abstract ideas into testable hypotheses, and deciding the best ways to test and analyze our research questions. We will also practice identifying design and methodological components of other studies. In order to succeed in this course, you are expected to attend (and pay attention in) lectures. In addition, there will periodically be articles posted to GauchoSpace that you are required to read.

## **B. LAB**

Lab sections are the most important aspect of PSY 120L. You are expected to attend all lab sections and to build relationships with your classmates and with your TA. In lab, you will develop research questions, design studies, analyze data, and communicate your findings with your peers. In addition, there will periodically be articles posted to GauchoSpace that you are required to read.

Data for your research projects will be obtained from studies designed by you and your group members and completed by participants recruited by your group members. You will have several topics to choose from, but the ultimate design of the studies will be decided by you, with guidance from your instructor and teaching assistants. You will work in groups of 2-3 (perhaps 4, depending on the size of lab sections) to formulate one or more hypotheses to test, operationalize your variables, and collect data. After a review of statistics, you will then conduct the necessary analyses to test your hypotheses and interpret your findings.

## **C. COMMUNICATION**

One of the most important parts of science is the dissemination (or communication) of our findings to our peers. As such, you will gain practice discussing your work in two ways.

- 1. PAPERS:** You will be responsible for writing two APA style research papers, each on a different project. The projects will be collaborative, but it is essential that the papers are *written individually*. More detail about the structure and style of these papers will be reviewed in lecture/lab.
- 2. GROUP PRESENTATION:** On the last Thursday of lab, you and your group will create a presentation based on your second research project. This 15-minute presentation will be delivered to the entire lab, and will be followed by 5-10 minutes of questions. Each group member is responsible for speaking during the presentation, and grades will be composed of both group and individual components.

## **D. FINAL EXAM**

There will be a final exam, held during the final lecture – Wednesday, July 29, 3:30 – 4:55 PM. The exam will be multiple choice and short answer, and will cover information from both lecture and lab. This exam will be closed-book, closed-note, and cumulative.

On exam day, lateness will not be tolerated – **you may not take the exam (and will earn a 0) if you arrive after the first exam has been turned in.**

## **E. PARTICIPATION**

The remainder of your course performance will be measured by active your overall active engagement in the course. Learning is not a passive endeavor—merely being present in lecture or lab (although a great first step) is not enough. Some of the ways you can participate include: participation in class discussion, taking notes (I recommend by hand and not computer), or thinking about some of the

questions I pose or those posed by students, even if you don't want to say anything. How to NOT participate: reading the newspaper, surfing the Internet, doing other coursework, texting or conversing, listening to headphones, sleeping... you get the point.

Participation will be assessed as follows:

1. **LECTURE:** Periodically, I will be asking for questions, feedback, or reflections during lectures, and this will comprise your lecture participation score. The dates and times of these assignments will not be disclosed, so it is your responsibility to attend lecture in order to earn these points. Additionally, there will be periodic quizzes on GS, which count toward your lecture participation score.
2. **LAB:** First, your TA will keep a record of your attendance and timeliness to lab sections. They will also evaluate your level of effort and engagement during class activities and group work time. In addition, each student will also confidentially evaluate the contributions and efforts of their group mates, which will also factor into your lab participation score.

## GRADES

The grading structure for this course is an absolute performance scale. Each assignment will be given a raw point value and a weighting. This is NOT a curve; it is entirely possible that each person can receive an A in the course. Below is the breakdown of the assignment weightings.

Per University policy, final grades are non-negotiable. Grade changes will be made *only* to correct for grading errors.

### Breakdown of Weightings

- Paper 1: 15%
- Paper 2: 30%
- Group Presentation: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%
- Lab Participation: 10%
- Lecture Participation: 5%

## COURSE POLICIES

### 1. GRADE DISPUTE POLICY:

If you disagree about how a specific assignment was graded, you must dispute the issue *in writing* (not email). Write a paragraph about why you think your answer was correct/sufficient and turn it (with the original assignment) in to the instructor at the lecture following the return of the relevant assignment. Only reasonable and well-justified complaints will be considered, and all decisions are final. **Please note that if you submit a complaint, the instructor will regrade the entire assignment, and your grade could increase, decrease, or remain the same. This policy does not apply to final course grades.**

### 2. CLASS ETIQUETTE:

- Please do not use your cell phones during class. I would prefer them to be put on silent or off. If your cell phone goes off during class or an exam, please silence it immediately; do not let it ring through. I will remind everyone prior to exams to make sure their phones are turned off. Please refrain from text

messaging during class. I know you think you're being subtle; I assure you that I can see you texting.

- Please do not leave the class partway through unless it is an emergency; it is very disruptive. If you must leave, please sit in the back and at the edge of an aisle so as to not disrupt your fellow classmates.
- Please have respect for the class, your peers, and yourselves by being fully present in the class. Please avoid anything not relevant to the class, such as sleeping, surfing the Internet, or doing homework for other classes.
- **LATENESS:** Please try to arrive a few minutes before the start of lecture. We will begin promptly at 3:30 PM, and it can be distracting to me and to your peers if you arrive late. I will not keep you late.

### 3. MAKE-UP POLICY:

Exams must be taken on the date scheduled. Vacation is NOT a valid excuse, nor is an exam scheduled at the same time. If you must miss an exam due to some emergency, then you can make it up by taking an essay exam. A doctor's note or some other formal verification of absence is required to make up an exam. This is the ONLY condition under which we will give a make-up. All make-up exams are ESSAY in format and must be taken during a make-up period scheduled for a time convenient for the instructor or lab TA. Make-up exams must be completed prior to the final exam.

### 4. LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

Unless otherwise stated, all assignments are due **at the beginning of the lab** for that day. Electronic submissions of papers will not be accepted. Late assignments will be accepted *at the cost of a full letter grade (or 10%) per day late*. So, an A- assignment turned in after lab begins or the next day will receive a B-, two days late a C-, and so on.

### 5. GETTING INFORMATION:

**PROTIP:** I use email for almost all communication. If you do not check your UCSB email often, forward it to an address you do check.

**Office Hours:** If you have classes during my office hours, email me for an appointment. In your email, give me a wide range of days/times when you are available. I will do my best to accommodate you.

**Contacting Me or TAs:** The best way to contact me is always via email. If you cannot come to office hours and/or decide to send an email, be sure to use the following format so that we can help you:

To: [swan@psych.ucsb.edu](mailto:swan@psych.ucsb.edu)

Subject Line: "PSY 120L: (insert your topic here)"

From: your full address

*Dear (insert name of person you are contacting here)*

*Hello, my name is (your full name here) and I am a student taking 120L. I have a question regarding (insert your question here).*

*(Considerate closing of your choosing),*

*Your full name*

A word of caution: We will do our best to reply within 48 hours. Depending on the nature (and popularity) of your question, our answers may be direct OR posted as a general class announcement on GauchoSpace. Please hold off on resending a message until 48 hours have passed.

## **STUDENT RESOURCES**

### **1. DISABLED STUDENTS PROGRAM (DSP):**

The DSP provides academic support services to eligible students with temporary and permanent disabilities. You must register with DSP prior to receiving any special course accommodations. If you require additional time on an exam, please schedule your own proctor through the DSP. Please contact the DSP office for information and assistance (2120 Student Resource building, 893-2668, [www.sa.ucsb.edu/dsp](http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/dsp)).

### **2. COUNSELING SERVICES:**

If you are experiencing any difficulties meeting class requirements, or any difficulties in your personal life, please contact Counseling Services (located in Building 599). Counseling Services offers individual and group counseling, crisis counseling, stress-management workshops, self-help information, and connections to off-campus mental health resources. For information, please call (893-4411) or visit their web site ([www.counseling.ucsb.edu](http://www.counseling.ucsb.edu)).

### **3. CAMPUS LEARNING ASSISTANCE SERVICES (CLAS):**

If you do not feel comfortable visiting a counselor but still would like to talk to someone about how best to succeed in your classes, consider visiting CLAS. For more information, visit their website at

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, improper citations, or misrepresenting your work in any way. Students caught behaving in such a way will receive an automatic “0” on the assignment or an “F” in the class, depending on the extent of the infraction. At the discretion of the instructor, students may be referred to Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.

Plagiarism occurs when someone misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgement, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or alter work that a student then submits as his or her own. Although projects in this class will be completed in groups, all writing must be the work of the student whose name is on the assignment, and that student alone. If you are at all uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, please see your TA or the instructor—do not risk your grade or integrity!

Please familiarize yourself with the university’s policy on academic dishonesty here:

<http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu/PDF/academicintegflyer.pdf>

Week	Date	Lecture	Date	Lab	Important Assignment Due Dates
1	6/22	Course Overview	6/23	Introductions HSC Training Research Questions Project 1 Questions	
	6/24	Research Designs	6/25	Google Scholar PsycINFO Literature Review	
2	6/29	Stats Review	6/30	Excel Basics SPSS Basics Excel/SPSS Activities	Paper 1: Three (3) Articles DUE 6/30 by 11:59 PM
	7/1	Writing an APA Paper I	7/2	Project 1 Data Analysis Reporting Results Paper 1 Guidelines	
3	7/6	Writing an APA Paper II	7/7	Paper 1 Peer Review Project 2 Groups/Idea Generation	Paper 1: Draft DUE 7/6 by 11:59 PM
	7/8	Theories/Hypotheses/ Operationalization TA Guest #1	7/9	Avoiding Plagiarism Project 2 Hypotheses/Design	Project 2: HSC Protocol DUE 7/10 by 12:00 PM
4	7/13	Consuming Research I TA Guest #2	7/14	Project 2 Prep 20-min TA Meetings	Paper 1: DUE 7/13 by 11:59 PM
	7/15	Consuming Research II TA Guest #3	7/16	Project 2 Prep Begin Data Collection	
5	7/20	No Lecture/Data Collection	7/21	Project 2 Data Entry/Analysis	
	7/22	No Lecture/Data Collection (Alex at Conference)	7/23	Project 2 Analysis	Must Finish Data Collection by 7/22
6	7/27	Final Review Session	7/28	Project 2 Finish Analysis Prep Presentation	
	7/29	Final Exam	7/30	Project 2 Group Presentations	Paper 2: DUE 7/30 by 11:59 PM