

PSY 395: Measurement & Research Design Summer Session I, 2015

Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:40-2:30

Room 120, Psychology Building

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:40-2:30

Room 012, Olds Hall

Instructor:

Ms. Jennifer Lawlor

Office: 15A, Psychology

Email: lawlorje@msu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday, 3:00-4:00 or by appointment

About the instructor:

I am a fourth year graduate student in the ecological-community psychology program. My research interests focus around understanding the social network structures that underlie community change efforts and how community stakeholders can shift them to achieve desired community outcomes. Recently, I have applied this perspective to the study of early childhood education and regional food systems in Michigan. If you have any questions about community psychology, graduate school, or getting involved in research, I'm happy to chat with you!

Course Overview:

In this class, we will explore the process of evaluating psychological research. Specifically, we will focus on three aspects of research evaluation: (1) the research process, (2) issues in research, and (3) approaches to research (see below for the course structure). By the end of this course, you will be a better consumer of psychological information, both inside and outside of academia.



Course structure:

We'll have two lectures each week and two lab sessions. The lectures will primarily be a space for exploring key concepts in research and the labs will provide a space for applying these concepts in practice. Lectures and labs will be participatory and include both individual and

small-group activities.

Learning Objectives:

We'll cover specific learning objectives for each class session, but these are the overall objectives for the course. You'll be evaluated based on your ability to do each of the following (modified from O'Connor, 2013):

1. Given a factual question about research methods such as the stages of the research process or the elements of a study, choose the most accurate factual answer according to the text or lectures.
2. Given a theoretical term such as replication or quasi-experimental research, choose the correct definition, best example, or correct application in a case according to the text or lectures.
3. Given a theory or real-world problem, develop research questions, generate specific hypotheses, choose a research design, and operationalize psychological constructs to test the research question according to the principles discussed in the text or lectures.
4. Given a data set, choose the appropriate statistical test, and report and interpret basic descriptive and inferential statistics according to the principles discussed in class.
5. Given a chosen research question, design, conduct, analyze, interpret, and report the results of a basic correlational, experimental, and archival/observational study.
6. Write each component of a lab report in APA style.
7. Find, read, and critique academic research and popular media that use research.

Prerequisite:

PSY 295 is a prerequisite for this course; however, statistics will not be a main focus in this course (though we will use some basic statistics in our lab work). If you are concerned about being prepared to apply statistical concepts in this course, please contact me early in the semester. I want to see every student succeed and I am happy to connect you with additional statistics resources to complete course work.

Materials:

Textbook: Morling, B. (2012). *Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of Information*. (2nd ed.) New York: Norton & Company.

Software: We will be using SPSS to conduct analyses for some of our labs. The software is available on almost all campus computers and we will have access to it in our lab, so you do not need to purchase a license for the software.

Assignments:

** All written assignments should be submitted via D2L using the dropbox function before the start of class (12:40) on the day they are due. The file name should include both the assignment name (e.g. Lab 6, article review, etc.) and your last name. For example, my submission for the first lab assignment would be **Lab1Lawlor.doc** **

Exams (15% each, 30% overall): We will have 2 exams (a midterm and a final), consisting of a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions. These exams will test your understanding of the concepts covered in class and your ability to apply course concepts to examples. The midterm will be on 6/9 and the final will be on 7/2.

Labs (10% each, 30% overall): We will have 3 lab assignments throughout the semester. These assignments will help you practice the skills necessary to conduct and assess research quality. You will have time in class to complete most of the work for your labs, but you may need to spend some time outside of class to fully write up your work. The labs will feature a mix of individual and group work. Labs will be due on the date listed below by the start of class (12:40).

Homework assignments (5% each, 20% overall): we will have four homework assignments allowing you to practice concepts covered in class in greater depth. These will be a mix of individual and group assignments. Homework assignments will be due on the date listed below by the start of class (12:40).

In-class activities (10%): We will have 8 in-class assignments on random dates to assess how well you understand the material. These assignments cannot be made up; however, I will only count the 6 highest graded assignments toward your final grade in the course.

Grading:

Percentage	Grade
90-100	4.0
85-89	3.5
80-84	3.0
75-79	2.5
70-74	2.0
65-69	1.5
60-64	1.0
55-59	.5
< 59	0

Late assignments:

Late assignments will not be accepted without a documented emergency. If circumstances arise that will affect your performance in the course, contact me as soon as possible, so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Attendance:

While attendance is not mandatory, it is essential that you be present for every class session. Summer courses move very quickly and it will be easy to get behind if you miss even one or two classes. We will also be doing a number of lab and in-class activities for which you must be present to fully engage with the material. If you are concerned that attendance could be an issue, please contact me as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity:

Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." The Department of Psychology adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, *Protection of Scholarship and Grades*; the all-University Policy on *Integrity of Scholarship and Grades*; and Ordinance 17.00, *Examinations*. For extensive details see *SpartanLife: Student Handbook and Resource Guide* and/or the MSU Web site.

Academic dishonesty in any form is not acceptable in this course. In cases of academic dishonesty, I will determine the appropriate consequences, up to and including a failing grade for the course or assignment. If you have any questions about plagiarism please contact me.

Accommodations for Disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability, contact the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities to establish reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a counselor, call 353-9642 (voice) or 355-1293 (TTY). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.

Commercialized Lecture Notes:

Distributing any materials or lecture notes from this course for commercial purposes is prohibited.

Course Schedule:

The following calendar represents a general overview of readings and due dates throughout the course. You will be expected to have completed the assigned reading for each class session prior to the start of class and be prepared to discuss the material. I reserve the right to adjust the schedule as necessary throughout the semester.

Day	Readings	Assignments
Week 1: Intro to psychological science & ethics		
5/18		
5/19	Morling, chapters 2 & 3	
5/20	Morling, chapter 4	
5/21		
Week 2: Research process & issues		
5/25	Memorial day * Class will not meet *	
5/26		Homework 1 due by 12:40
5/27	Morling, chapter 5	
5/28		
Week 3: Research process & issues		

6/1	Morling, chapter 6	
6/2		Homework 2 due by 12:40
6/3	Morling, chapter 7	
6/4		
Week 4: Approaches & claims		
6/8	Morling, chapter 8	
6/9		Midterm Exam
6/10	Morling, chapters 10 & 11	Homework 3 due by 12:40
6/11		
Week 5: Approaches & Claims		
6/15	Morling, chapter 13	
6/16		Lab 1 Due by 12:40
6/17		
6/18		
Week 6: Applied research, evaluation, & dissemination		
6/22	Morling, chapter 14	
6/23		
6/24		
6/25	Group work time on lab 3 & Homework 4 *Class will not meet*	Lab 2 due by 12:40
Week 7: Wrap Up & Final Thoughts		
6/29		
6/30		Homework 4 due
7/1		
7/2		Final Exam; Lab 3 due