

PSCH 313: Laboratory in Social Psychology Credit Hours

Prerequisites: PSCH 100, PSCH 242, PSCH 243, PSCH 312 (enrolled)

Fall 2013

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Course Description, Goals, and Objectives

The objective of this course is for you to learn social psychological research by *doing* social psychological research. You will experience *how* psychologists learn about personality and social behavior. The course is aimed at deepening your understanding of the research process, and how this process informs our understanding of human nature. By the end of the semester you will have learned how to conduct different types of empirical studies in social-personality psychology. In addition, you will be better equipped to critically evaluate the work of other researchers. Class time will be devoted to (a) demonstrations, (b) discussions, (c) lectures, (d) planning projects, (e) data collection, (f) entering and analyzing data using SPSS software, and (g) brief Microsoft PowerPoint presentations of research projects by students.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts

There are no required texts for this class. Instead, readings will consist of various research articles that are relevant for the particular research projects that you engage in throughout the course. Other occasional readings may be posted on blackboard.

Recommended Texts or Other Materials

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th Ed.). (2009). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Any basic SPSS reference.

Any undergraduate Social Psychology Textbook.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance Policy

To a greater extent than most other classes, this course requires you to be an active participant. Therefore to a greater extent than other classes, regular attendance and participation are crucial. You will be working with other students on the projects. It is unfair to your fellow collaborators if you miss class or spend class time surfing the internet, reading email, using your cell phone, or engaging in other blatantly non-course-related activity. If this sort of behavior occurs repeatedly, you (but not your collaborators) will **lose points on the assignments and/or you will be asked to leave the class.**

Policy for Missed or Late Work

10% per day (including weekend days) will be deducted for late papers. No papers will be accepted **more than 5 days late.**

Papers are due at the beginning of the class. You cannot show up at the beginning of class simply to turn in your assignment and then leave. You must be in attendance to turn in your paper. Showing up more than 15 minutes late will count as non-attendance and your paper will be considered late!

No papers will be accepted in my or your TA's mailbox. *Electronic copies of papers will NOT be accepted**. You should not expect the psychology office to be open, nor for your TA to be on campus over the weekends. Thus, you may not turn in your papers on a Saturday or Sunday.

Safe Assignment. In addition to handing in a hard copy, submit your paper to safe assignment on the day it is due. Safe assignment is NOT a replacement for a hard copy. Rather, it is proof that you turned in your paper on time, should your hard copy be misplaced.

*Exception only if the student has an *emergency that can be documented* (for example, a car accident). In the case of an emergency, contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements for turning in your assignment.

Missing Class

If you miss class, contact your partner immediately. If you miss several classes, you may be asked to leave the course and/or you will lose points on the assignments.

Electronic Communication

You can ask questions via e-mail. However, please understand that I receive many e-mails in a given day (I have approximately 300 students this semester). Provided you ask a reasonable question and articulate yourself clearly in your message, I will respond. If you email me or one of the TAs, make sure that your message is clear, and include information about who you are and what course you are in. If you follow these guidelines, we will make sure to respond to you within **48 hours.**

Do not email me or your TA about your grades. **We will not respond to emails regarding grades.** If you are concerned about your grades, you must see us in person during office hours or by appointment.

Exception: You may email your TA if there is an error in grade entry (i.e., missing a grade or incorrect grade entered).

Academic Integrity Policy

A student who submits work, at any stage of the writing process, which in whole or part has been written by someone else or which contains passages quoted or paraphrased from another's work without acknowledgment (quotation marks, citation, etc.) has plagiarized. Maintain your integrity when completing assignments and be overzealous to give credit where it is due. If you are ever unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, ask me. Students who are found to have plagiarized work may be subject to various disciplinary actions, including a failing grade on a particular assignment, failure of the entire course, and possible expulsion from the university. In cases of academic dishonesty, my policy is to file a complaint with the Office of the Dean of Students. For more information about violating academic integrity and its consequences, consult the website of the UIC Office of the Dean of Students at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/dos/studentconduct.html>.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/oae/docs/ReligiousHolidaysFY20122014.pdf>

ACADEMIC DEADLINES

<http://grad.uic.edu/cms/?pid=1000222>

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome, but must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). You may contact DRC at 312-413-2183 (v) or 312-413-0123 (TTY).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, METHODS OF EVALUATION, & GRADING POLICIES

Measurement Project. The first project will deal with one of the most important concepts/issues in psychological research—Measurement. You and a partner will pick a social/ personality construct to measure. You will develop a 10-15 item scale to measure your chosen construct and collect data from at least 20 people for your measure along with 2-3 other measures. You will run several statistical analyses to evaluate the psychometric properties of your scale. You and your partner will independently write a separate APA-style paper (5-10 pages of text) describing the construct, your survey methodology, results, and discussion. You will write a first draft and a final draft, each draft will be graded.

Group Archival/ Observational Study. The second research project will involve observational research methods or the analysis of archival data. This study will be designed and carried out by groups of 4 to 5 students. Group presentations, using PowerPoint, will be given in class. These 10 to 15 minute presentations will be graded, so group members should work together to ensure that the presentation is as professional as possible. In addition, each of you will be expected to

independently write and turn in a separate APA-style report about the study. You will write a first draft and a final draft, each draft will be graded.

Final Project. The final project will be completed in two-person teams. The project will be designed by you and your partner. You may choose to pursue (a) something you were curious about based on your other projects, (b) an extension of published research, or (c) a neat idea of your own creation. **Keep in mind that your idea must be rooted in some existing social psychological theory.** You and your partner will give a Power-Point presentation on your research findings. In addition, each of you will be expected to independently write and turn in a final APA-style paper describing the study. You will be graded on only one, final, draft. However, you may turn in a rough draft in advance of the final draft due date to get feedback.

Research Participation. By enrolling in the course, you are agreeing to participate in research conducted by other members of the class, as well as research conducted by members of other psychology lab classes. Research participation is a part of the normal educational practice in this class.

Course grades

Project 1 approval = 10 points

Paper 1 draft = 30 points

Paper 1 final = 60 points

Project 2 approval = 10 points

Project 2 presentation = 40 points

Paper 2 draft = 30 points

Paper 2 final = 60 points

Project 3 approval = 20 points

Project 3 presentation = 40 points

Paper 3 = 100 points

Research participation = 10 points

TOTAL = 410 points

Grade	Points
A	369-410 points
B	328-368 points
C	287-327 points
D	246-286 points
F	245 points or less

CALENDAR OF MAJOR COURSE EVENTS AND DEADLINES

<i>Week/Day/Date</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
Week 3, Monday 9 Sep	Project 1 Approval form due
Week 6, Monday 30 Sep	Project 1 Paper draft due
Week 6, Wednesday 2 Oct	Project 2 Approval form due
Week 8, Monday 14 Oct	Project 1 Final paper due
Week 9, Monday 21 Oct	Project 2 Presentations
Week 10, Monday 28 Oct	Project 2 Paper draft due
Week 11, Monday 4 Nov	Project 3 Approval form due
Week 12, Monday 11 Nov	Project 2 Final paper due
Week 14, Monday 25 Nov	Project 3 Paper draft due
Week 14, Wednesday 27 Nov	Project 3 Presentations
Week 16, Monday 9 Dec	Project 3 Final paper due

UIC RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, don't hesitate to ask for help! Come to me, or if it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your college advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus. You can get a referral to the right place, or help on the spot, from concerned advisor in the Undergraduate Success Center (USC) at usc@uic.edu.

See also:

The Writing Center, located in Grant Hall 105, offers one-on-one consultation with student writers who need help developing ideas, or need advice, guidance or additional instruction on any aspects of writing in any class. Tutors are prepared to spend fifty minutes per appointment, and there is no limit to the number of tutoring sessions you can have each semester. Make an appointment and be on time! Bring the paper on which you're working, as well as any related drafts or notes, and information about the assignment. For an appointment, call the Writing Center at (312) 413-2206, or stop by room 105 of Grant Hall. Visit the Writing Center website at www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing for more information.

Public Computer Labs are available throughout campus where you may write and/or print out your work. For a list of labs and the hours they're open, go to www.acc.uic.edu/pclabs.
NOTE: Do not wait until the last minute to print out papers. Sometimes labs have long lines of students waiting for access.

The Academic Center for Excellence can help if you feel you need more individualized instruction in reading and/or writing, study skills, time management, etc. Phone: (312) 413-0031.

Counseling Services are available for all UIC students. You may seek free and confidential services from the Counseling Center www.counseling.uic.edu. The Counseling Center is located in the Student Services Building; you may contact them at (312) 996-3490. In addition to offering counseling services, the Counseling Center also operates the InTouch Crisis Hotline

from 6:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. They offer support and referrals to callers, as well as telephone crisis interventions; please call (312) 996-5535.

Tentative Course schedule:

Week	Day and Date	Activity	Assignments DUE
1	Monday 8/26	Introduction	
	Wednesday 8/28	Measurement Review; Project 1 Introduced; Construct selection	
2	Monday 9/2	NO CLASS	
	Wednesday 9/4	Project 1 – Find articles; Develop questionnaire items	
3	Monday 9/9	Project 1 – Qualtrics	Project 1 Approval Form
	Wednesday 9/11	Project 1 – Finish Qualtrics; Post questionnaires	
4	Monday 9/16	Project 1 – Data collection; Research participation	
	Wednesday 9/18	Project 1 – Data analysis	
5	Monday 9/23	Project 1 – Data analysis	
	Wednesday 9/25	Archival Research: Project 2 introduced; Fill out approval form	
6	Monday 9/30	Project 2 – Fill out approval form; prepare data collection	Paper 1 Draft
	Wednesday 10/2	Project 2 – Fill out approval form; prepare data collection	Project 2 Approval form (by the end of the day)
7	Monday 10/7	Get feedback; Finalize preparations Paper 1 returned	

	Wednesday 10/9	Project 2 – Data collection	
8	Monday 10/14	Data analysis	Paper 1 Final
	Wednesday 10/16	How to give a presentation; Project 2 – Work on paper and presentation	
9	Monday 10/21	Project 2 – Work on paper and presentation	Project 2 Presentations
	Wednesday 10/23	Presentations Paper 1 returned	
10	Monday 10/28	Experimental Research; Project 3 – Introduced; Work on approval form	Paper 2 Draft
	Wednesday 10/30	Project 3 – Work on approval form Qualtrics	
11	Monday 11/4	Project 3 – Qualtrics Paper 2 returned	Project 3 Approval Form (by the end of the day)
	Wednesday 11/6	Project 3 – Finish Qualtrics	
12	Monday 11/11	Project 3 – Data collection period, Research participation, Work on paper and presentation	Paper 2 Final
	Wednesday 11/13	Project 3 – Data collection period, Research participation, Work on paper and presentation	
13	Monday 11/18	Project 3 – Data analysis Paper 2 returned	
	Wednesday 11/20	Project 3 – Work on paper and presentation	
14	Monday 11/25	Project 3 – Work on paper and presentation	Paper 3 draft
	Wednesday 11/27	Project 3 – Work on paper and presentation	Project 3 presentations

15	Monday 12/2	Project 3 – Presentations Paper 3 returned	
	Wednesday 12/4	Project 3 – Presentations (if needed)	
16	Monday 12/9	NO CLASS	Paper 3 Final