

Laboratory in Social Psychology

PSCH 313

Fall 2021

Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00 am – 12:50 pm

Call Number: 35102, 35103

4 Credit Hours

Professor

Ed Sargis, Ph.D.

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Drop-in Hours: By appointment. I enjoy meeting individually with students. This semester I want to make sure people are scheduled in a way that allows for social distancing. You may also prefer to meet via Zoom rather than in person. Please DO NOT HESITATE to make an appointment with me if/when you have questions about the course material.

Teaching Assistant

Kathryn Howard | khowar24@uic.edu

Course Meeting Location: 2057 BSB

Course Structure

This is a hybrid course that will incorporate both face-to-face and online asynchronous instruction. There will be days you are expected to attend on-campus class sessions during our regular class time. There will also be class sessions that are flexible and you will have class content in the form of narrated PowerPoints to review and/or an exercise to complete. Dates are outlined in the course schedule at the end of this document. Note that regular attendance in class is expected. You will not be able to complete this class remotely. (Of course, if the situation around COVID changes, we will follow university and local guidelines).

Masking: For students attending class, face masks are required. Masks covering both the mouth and nose must be worn at all times by all students, faculty, and staff while on campus and inside any building regardless of vaccination status. If you do not wear a mask, you will be asked to leave the classroom and will not be allowed back in class unless or until you wear a mask. If you have forgotten your mask, you may pick one up from one of the student information desks on campus during the first two weeks of campus. Students who do not comply with the mask wearing policy will be reported to the Dean of Students. Eating and drinking is not allowed in classrooms.

Technology Requirements.

For the most part, the technology needs of the course are basic for any work you may complete outside of class. The vast majority of coursework can be completed on a basic laptop or tablet with an internet connection. We will be using SPSS for a portion of the course work. This may require you to install software on a laptop or other device that will enable you to access a virtual (web-based) version of SPSS (further information will be provided).

Objectives

Although the objective of many courses is to introduce you to *what* psychologists have learned about personality and social behavior, the objective of this course is to expose you to *how* psychologists learn about personality and social behavior. The assignments, projects, readings, lectures, and discussion topics are all aimed at deepening your understanding of the research process, and how this process can inform our understanding of human nature. By the end of the semester you will have learned how to conduct your own studies in social-personality psychology and effectively communicate the results. In addition, you will be better equipped to critically evaluate the work of other researchers.

Prerequisites

Students should already have credit for PSCH 100 (Introduction to Psychology), PSCH 242 (Introduction to Research in Psychology), and PSCH 343 (Statistical Methods in Psychological Science). In addition, you should have credit for or be concurrently enrolled in PSCH 312 (Social Psychology). If you do not have prerequisites, you will be dropped from the course.

Textbooks

There is no required text for the course. Occasional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Communication

Blackboard will serve as the communication hub for the course. Each week I will send an email via Blackboard with information about the week's activities. The information in these emails can also be found in the "Weekly Content" area of Blackboard for the corresponding week. In the weekly message, I will indicate and provide links to any video lectures you are responsible for viewing for the week. I will also remind you of any activities and assignments due for the week (more information below). Copies of any assignments will be provided in the week's folder. I will also include any special announcements. It is your responsibility to read these weekly messages to stay informed about the course material.

Course Requirements

Research Participation Recruitment. By enrolling in the course, you are agreeing to help recruit participants for class projects. Primarily we will be asking you to use your own social networks (e.g., Facebook) to recruit research participants for your studies. You do not need to have Kardashian-level social media contacts. Even simple email requests of a few family members and friends will be enough if everyone in the class contributes to this process.

Lectures and Readings. This is a lab course. There will be relatively few traditional lectures; that is, little time will be devoted to the simple presentation of material by your instructor. There will be a few assigned readings. The assigned readings that we do have will primarily come from articles posted to the course Blackboard site. You will also have to do some supplementary readings to design and report your research projects.

Class Assessments. Your course grade will be based on the following components:

Class Participation. To a greater extent than most other classes, this course requires you to be an active participant. You need to be in class and ready to engage in the course material. You will lose participation points if you are not engaged in the day's activities (e.g., studying for an exam in another class, buried in your phone, etc.). In addition, given the number of studies and demonstrations we will run in class, it is crucial that you show up for class on time.

“Skill Builder” Assignments. Throughout the course, we will complete several assignments designed to hone your basic research and writing skills. These will include things like developing a questionnaire and analyzing data in SPSS. Assignments that include a formal, written component will be graded on a standard percentage scale based on the quality of the completed work. Assignments to be graded pass/fail will be aggregated at the end of the semester and you will receive a total grade based on the percentage of these assignments you complete. At the end of the semester, the pass/fail total will be averaged with each of the individual assignments to determine the total percentage you will earn for your “Skill Builder” assignments.

Research Projects. Because this is a laboratory course in psychology, emphasis will be placed on the quality of your research projects and the papers that result from them. Note that your research ideas and surveys need to be approved by either the instructor or TA. Because this is a course, we do not need to seek IRB approval for our class projects. However we must verify that any work you do with subjects meets ethical standards. **Therefore, if you collect any data using an unapproved idea and/or unapproved measure(s), that project will receive a zero for any subsequent work you turn in (e.g., papers, presentations).** Make sure you have approval before moving forward with any project.

Class Research Project. For this project we will conduct a study as a class working on a common research question. You will each independently write a separate APA style paper (5-10 pages of text) describing the background, methods, and results of our study. More details will be discussed in the first few weeks of class.

Experimental (aka “Final”) Research Project. The final research project will be completed in small groups. The projects will be based on general research questions we provide. For this project you must manipulate an independent variable and measure a dependent variable. Your group will be required to put together an APA-style research poster presentation based on your research. In addition, each of you will be expected to independently write and turn in a final APA-style research paper describing the study.

Feedback and Revision. Because this course fulfills the writing in the discipline for the psychology major, writing will comprise a large part of your course grade. For several assignments over the course of the semester (e.g., Article Summary, Class Research Project Paper, Experimental Research Project Paper), you will receive feedback on your writing with suggestions on how to improve it. You will receive credit for doing this as a

Skill Builder assignment. You should also incorporate this feedback to help you earn additional points on the papers in which feedback is available.

Independence of Writing and Group Work. I believe that people learn how to do research more effectively when working with others. Moreover, the vast majority of researchers do their work in collaboration with others. However, it is extremely important that any written work you turn in be entirely yours. You are permitted to analyze and discuss the interpretation of your results with your labmates and fellow group members. Beyond this point, any written work you turn in must be your own. If we discover overlap in the actual words written between you and your lab partners (which is surprisingly easy to detect), you will fail the assignment with a zero and will receive no opportunity for revision (if it is an initial draft). This will put you at serious risk of failing the course. Please trust me when I say that it would be so much better for your grade to put in an honest effort to write your papers in your own words and do poorly than get caught borrowing words from another. Also note that these consequences apply to everyone involved (i.e., the person supplying the words and the person plagiarizing). If you have any questions about how to express an idea in your own words, never hesitate to contact us. We are more than happy to help you with this issue. (Please also see the discussion of academic dishonesty below.)

Grading

10% Attendance and Participation
25% Class Research Project Paper
10% Experimental Research Study Presentation
25% Experimental Research Study Paper
30% "Skill Builder" Assignments

Late Work. It is essential that you turn your work in on time. Any assignments turned in late will be penalized 10% per day that they are late (effective 1 minute after the date and time it is due). For papers where a revision is allowed, any points deducted for lateness will carry over to the evaluation of the final draft.

Additional Notes

Academic Integrity

This is a highly collaborative course in which I will encourage you to work with your fellow students. While you will be working with others on many aspects of your assignments and projects, it is essential that any written work you turn in be your own. Please understand that plagiarism or any other type of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. **If it is determined that any work you turned in resulted from a lapse of academic integrity you will fail the course.** If you have any questions about how to properly cite someone else's ideas, you are encouraged to see me or your TA in advance of a deadline for help on how to do this. In all cases I find of students who violate academic integrity policies, I will file a complaint with the Dean of Students, who will place a notice about the incident in your student file and you will receive a penalty that will affect your grade in the course. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Also note that lapses in academic integrity often involves at least two students. To be clear, any student who is a party to academic dishonesty will be subject to the penalties outlined above.

Please see the following for additional information about academic dishonesty and student disciplinary procedures.

https://dos.uic.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/262/2020/01/DOS_Student-Disciplinary-Policy-2020.pdf

Emails

I do my best to respond to student emails in a timely manner. I read every email I receive, but sometimes I am unable to respond to students as quickly as I would like. If I do not respond to an email question within 48 hours, please resend me your email.

It will be your responsibility to keep track of your scores in Blackboard. If you notice that a score has been incorrectly entered into Blackboard, you must show the original work with the correct grade to your TA by Monday of finals week.

Disability Accommodations

The University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at UIC. 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 773-649-4535 (VP/Relay) and consult the following: <http://drc.uic.edu/guide-to-accommodations>.

Religious Holidays: Students who wish to observe their religious holidays must notify me by the tenth day of the semester they will be absent unless their religious holiday is observed on or before the tenth day. In such cases, the student shall notify me at least five days in advance of the date when he or she will be absent.

Incomplete Grades: University policy on incomplete grades is very strict and I follow that policy. I will grant an incomplete grade only under the most extreme circumstances. Do not request an incomplete unless the following conditions apply (taken from the undergraduate catalogue):

Course work is incomplete when a student fails to submit all required assignments or is absent from the final examination; incomplete course work will normally result in a failing grade. The IN (incomplete) grade may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due. The instructor must submit an Incomplete report with the final grade roster for the IN to be recorded. This report is a contract for the student to complete the course work with that instructor or one designated by the department executive officer in the way described and by the time indicated on the report. In resolving the IN, the student may not register for the course a second time, but must follow the procedures detailed on the report. An IN must be removed by the end of the student's first semester or summer session in residence subsequent to the occurrence, or, if not in residence, no later than one calendar year after the occurrence. When the student submits the work, the instructor will grade it and change the IN to the appropriate grade. If an undergraduate fails to meet the stated conditions, the instructor will assign an E for the final grade.

Note that you will be graded according to the grading criteria listed above. **Please do not ask to be bumped up to the next highest grade at the end of the semester** (e.g., ask me for a C in the course when you have a 67.7% in the course). I will not do this. The number one factor that puts

students in this situation is missed assignments and quizzes. I am unable to make exceptions for one student that I am not able to make for others in the class.

With this said, **if you have any problems or concerns throughout the class, please come see us during our office hours, before it is too late at the end of the semester.** We are happy to work with you during the semester to help facilitate your understanding of the course material. Please use office hours whenever possible, but we are willing to make appointments if your schedule makes it impossible to make our office hours.

(Extremely) Tentative Topic and Attendance Schedule

I have done my best to provide a schedule that is firm. However, changes can happen. I will communicate any changes in the weekly email to the class. However, it is your responsibility to keep track of these changes and be as flexible as you can.

Please note which days you are expected to attend. On many of these days, you will need to have completed an exercise (please see the Homework Schedule below). It is important for classes on these dates. I will also do my best to remind you in the weekly message to the class.

Week	Date	Activity or Topic	Attendance Required?
1	8/23	Welcome, Course Overview	Yes
1	8/25	Methods Overview	No
2	8/30	Read Eskine et al.; Work on "Find your own article" Assignment	No
2	9/1	Discuss Eskine et al.	Yes
3	9/6	No Class - Labor Day Holiday	No
3	9/8	Brief Report on "Find your own article" Assignment; Statistics Overview	Yes
4	9/13	Work on SPSS Assignment	No
4	9/15	Fix a Problematic Results Section	Yes
5	9/20	Identifying Confounds	No
5	9/22	Limitations, Future Directions for a study.	Yes
6	9/27	Develop a questionnaire Assignment Overview	No
6	9/29	Brainstorm and discuss questions.	Yes
7	10/4	Introduction to Qualtrics	No
7	10/6	Create a Survey	Yes
8	10/11	Class Project Paper study Overview	No
8	10/13	Take a pass at stimulus materials	Yes
9	10/18	Aggregating Variables and Calculating Chronbach's Alpha	Yes
9	10/20	Work on Class Project Intro and Methods	No
10	10/25	Analyze Class Project Data	Yes
10	10/27	Identify limitations and future directions, for Class Project Study.	Yes
11	11/1	Randomizing Stimuli in Qualtrics	No
11	11/3	Introduce Experimental Research Project	Yes
12	11/8	Develop Experimental Research Project Ideas	Yes
12	11/10	Prepare stimulus materials/ Measures	Yes
13	11/15	Prepare stimulus materials/ Measures	Yes
13	11/17	Program Surveys in Qualtrics	Yes
14	11/22	Finalize/Field Surveys	Yes
14	11/24	Finalize/Field Surveys	Yes

15	11/29	Analyze Final Project Data	Yes
15	12/1	Analyze Final Project Data	Yes
Finals	12/8	Turn in Final Papers, Wednesday December 8	

(Extremely) Tentative Homework Schedule

I have done my best to provide a homework schedule so that you can plan. However, changes can happen and probably will. I will communicate any changes in the weekly email to the class. Note that I will also include more details about what each assignment will entail as we move forward. With the exceptions of the Class Project Paper, Experimental Project Paper, and Experimental Project Presentation, the assignments are “Skill Builder” assignments.

Finally, note that many of these assignments will incorporate or summarize what you will be doing “in class”. So many of these assignments will have some class time set aside for you to work on them.

Week	Date	Homework
2	9/1	Read Eskine et al. and Review Discussion Questions. BY CLASS TIME.
3	9/8	Choose, read, and be ready to give a brief report on the article you chose for the “Find your own article” Assignment. BY CLASS TIME.
4	9/13	Article Summary Assignment due Monday 9/13.
4	9/13	Find 3 Articles for Article Integration Paper (Due 9/24)
5	9/20	Fixing a Problematic Results Section Write-up. Due Monday 9/20.
5	9/24	Article Integration Paper due Friday 9/24
6	9/27	SPSS Assignment Due Monday 9/27.
6	9/29	Developing Survey Questions due Wednesday 9/29 BY CLASS TIME.
7	10/8	Create a Qualtrics Survey Exercise Due Friday 10/8.
8	10/13	Possible Stimulus Materials for Class Project Study. Due Wednesday 10/13 BY CLASS TIME.
9	10/22	Aggregating Variables and Alpha Calculating Exercise Due by Friday 10/22.
10	10/25	Draft of Class Project Paper Introduction and Methods due Monday 10/25.
11	11/1	Draft of Class Project Paper Results and Discussion Sections Due Monday 11/1.
11	11/5	Randomize Stimuli In Qualtrics Exercise. Due Friday 11/5.
12	11/10	Choose a research question/ Start literature search. Due Wednesday 11/10.
12	11/12	Complete Class Project Papers Due Friday 11/12.
13	11/15	Final Stimulus Materials Due Monday 11/15.
13	11/17	Draft of Final Project Introduction and Methods Due Wednesday 11/17.
15	12/1	Final Project Research Presentations Due Wednesday 12/1.
Finals	12/10	Final Papers Due Wednesday 12/10.