

Experimental Methods & Statistics – Spring 2015

Lab Syllabus

Nick Jones, M.S, Lab Instructor

Office: Sharpless 402

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-3:30; Thursday 10:00-11:00; By appointment & open door policy

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General Information:

Location: KINSC H204 (Hilles Computer Lab)

Time: Wednesday, 2:30-4:00PM – OR – Thursday, 1:00-2:30PM (please come to the lab section for which you have registered)

Required Text: None

Other Readings: TBD

- There are no pre-determined readings for this class. However, you should expect to have a small (2-3 journal articles) assignment due for the Week 9 lab session to prepare for brainstorming an experiment topic. Any additional readings will be assigned at least one week in advance (i.e., a reading assignment will be given in lab a for next week's lab).

Course Objectives:

This course serves as an introduction to the experimental method and its use in the study of behavior, coupled with an in-depth treatment of statistics as applied to psychological research. Statistical topics include principles of probability, central tendency, variability, hypothesis testing, and statistical inference. Lab exercises focus on designing experiments, collecting data, applying statistical methods (using SPSS), and presenting data through written assignments.

By the end of the semester you should be able to design both experimental and questionnaire studies, think critically about psychological methodologies, understand and use (with SPSS) the basic statistical tests frequently employed by psychologists, and write a research report in APA style.

Attendance:

Please come to the lab section to which you are enrolled. Switching lab sections mid-semester will not be permitted. We will work on a number of different projects during this semester that will develop differently for the two lab sections – so you will not be able to simply slip into the other lab if you miss a day. If you must miss a lab section, please contact me **before** the day you will miss. On a case-by-case

basis you may be permitted to join the other lab that week; however, because the content of your projects will differ, you are still responsible for getting up to speed on your own lab's project.

Assignments & Grading:

There will be seven SPSS Activities throughout the semester. We will work through material during lab and you will have the opportunity to start working on the exercises. Each Activity is due the following week and is to be turned in during lab.

Each of the Activities will be graded on a 5-point scale, which is part of the homework grade for the lecture portion of the class (see Lecture Syllabus for details). There is *no* separate grade for the Psych 200 lab.