

EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Instructor: Dr. Claudia J. Stanny

Class Meets: 1:00 - 2:15 PM Tuesdays & Thursdays
Room 201 / Bldg 11

Office: Room 214 / Bldg 41

Telephone: 474 - 3163

E-mail: CStanny@uwf.edu

Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday

REQUIRED TEXTS

Goodwin, C. J. (2003). *Research in psychology: Methods and design* (3rd ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

PREREQUISITE COURSES: PSY 2012, STA 2023

COREQUISITE COURSE: EXP 3082L

NOTE: Students must enroll in EXP 3082 and EXP 3082L with the same instructor unless they are taking only one course for grade forgiveness.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Scientific method and experimental techniques in psychology. Fundamental assumptions and principles of scientific observation and research design are discussed. Students learn a number of techniques specific to psychological research. Relevant ethical issues are addressed. Students will learn to interpret and evaluate research and to communicate research findings.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the philosophy and methods of scientific research in psychology. Fundamental assumptions and principles of scientific observation and research design will be discussed. Students will learn a number of techniques specific to psychological research. Ethical issues relevant to psychological research will be addressed. In addition, students will learn to interpret and evaluate research and to communicate their own research findings in APA format.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course should exhibit competence in the following areas:

Understand the role of scientific methodology as the foundation for our knowledge in psychology and appreciate psychology as an empirical discipline.

Describe, understand, and apply methods for making objective, reliable and valid observations and measurements in psychology.

Development of testable research questions that are meaningfully related to a body of knowledge in psychology.

Recognize and understand how to address ethical dilemmas that arise in the conduct of scientific research and publication.

Knowledge and understanding of the methodological tools available for designing empirical research in psychology, including factorial laboratory designs, survey and correlational research, quasi-experimental designs, and small-n designs.

Understand the use of inferential statistics to make decisions about research questions based on empirical evidence.

GRADING

Mastery of course objectives will be measured by three exams. These will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions based on material from lectures and readings. Your score on each exam will be based on a percentage of the highest score in the class. This system corrects for the difficulty of exams and imposes no preconceived distribution on letter grades. Percent scores will be computed as follows:

$$\text{Your Percent Score} = \frac{\text{number correct on your exam}}{\text{number correct on best exam}} \times 100\%$$

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

93% or better	A	77% to 79%	C+
90% to 92%	A-	73% to 76%	C
87% to 89%	B+	70% to 72%	C-
83% to 86%	B	60% to 69%	D
80% to 82%	B-	50% or less	F

Final grades will be determined by averaging the 3 exam grades. Each exam will be given equal weight.

An optional short essay question (the bonus question) will be included on each exam. Students who answer the bonus question can earn up to 5 additional percentage points on their exam. These points are added to the percent score computed for the exam. *Only students who take the exam at the scheduled time will be allowed to answer the bonus question.*

Exams will be administered on the dates indicated in the schedule of readings and exams. Make-up exams will be permitted *only* in case of *serious illness* (that is, one that requires consultation

with a physician). Should you miss an exam due to serious illness, you *must contact me **no later than the first class meeting following the exam.*** Make-up exams must be taken within **one week** of the exam date. You must bring documentation for your absence on the regular exam date. Only one make-up exam will be permitted per student during the term. Students will not be allowed to answer the bonus question when making up an exam.

Students who receive prior approval to miss an exam for a *University approved function* will be permitted to make up the exam, but *must* make arrangements to do so *before the exam date.* These exams must also be taken within one week of the exam date.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT

Honesty in our academic work is vital, and we will not knowingly act in ways which erode that integrity. Accordingly, we pledge not to cheat, nor to tolerate cheating, nor to plagiarize the work of others. (UWF Student Handbook, page 46)

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense and will be taken seriously. Please refer to the UWF Student Handbook (page 48) for information about procedures that will be followed with cases of academic dishonesty.

ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Students with special needs who require specific accommodations for examinations or other course activities should contact Barbara Fitzpatrick, Director of Disabled Student Services (DSS) (e-mail: dss@uwf.edu, telephone: 474-2387). DSS will provide the student with a letter for the instructor that will specify recommended accommodations.

Class Attendance

I do not take attendance. However, performance on exams is strongly correlated with attendance. Students who expect to do well in the course should also expect to attend class regularly. In addition, students who have read the material before class benefit most from attending class. Reading the text first provides an overview of the topics that will be covered and allows you to be selective while taking notes during class. Exams are based primarily on topics discussed in class. Attending lectures will clarify material presented in the text and will help you identify those topics I consider most important. Lectures may also include material that has not been discussed in the text but you will be expected to know.

Classroom Behavior

Classroom courtesy is essential. Students who attend class are motivated to learn and are annoyed when other students engage in disruptive behavior. Cell phones, beepers, chatting with friends, crackling food wrappers, and similar behaviors are annoying and distracting to other students. Please respect the right of each student to hear the lecture and participate in class discussion. Turn off all cell phones and beepers during class (or put them on “buzz” and sit near

the door if you cannot protect your time and must be available to the outside world during class). If you must respond to a call or feel the need to converse with a classmate, please leave the room so that your activities will not disrupt class or interfere with the attention of other students.

LECTURE TOPICS / READING ASSIGNMENTS

Note: Class meetings will be held on all scheduled days during the term. The class dates listed below simply indicate the day on which discussion of a given topic will begin. Discussion of this topic will continue until the beginning date of the next topic.

BEGINNING DATE	TOPIC	READING
Aug 26	Overview/Syllabus	Course Syllabus
Aug 28	Scientific Thinking in Psychology	Ch 1, Goodwin (see also, Intro, Scott et al.*)
Sept 2	Developing Research Ideas	Ch 3, Goodwin
Sept 9	Descriptive Research	Ch 12, Goodwin
Sept 11	Measurement, Reliability, & Validity	Ch 4, Goodwin
Sept 18	Ethics in Research	Ch 2, Goodwin
Sept 30	EXAM 1	
Oct 2	Experimental Research	Ch 5, Goodwin
Oct 9	Control Problems in Experimental Research	Ch 6, Goodwin
Oct 16	Experimental Designs: Single Factor Designs Analysis of Data	Ch 7, Goodwin Appendix C, Goodwin
Oct 28	Experimental Designs: Factorial Designs Analysis of Data	Ch 8, Goodwin Appendix C, Goodwin
Nov 4	EXAM 2	
Nov 6	Correlational Research	Ch 9, Goodwin
Nov 18	Developing a Survey for Research	Appendix B, Goodwin
Nov 20	Quasi-Experimental Designs & Applied Research	Ch 10, Goodwin
Dec 2	Small N Designs	Ch 11, Goodwin
Dec 4	Epilog	Epilog, Goodwin
Dec 11	11:00 AM - 1:30 PM	EXAM 3

* Scott et al. is a recommended text for EXP 3082L