

PSYC 342l: Laboratory in Social Psychology

Fall 2015

Tuesday 1:15-4:15pm

Hall of Sciences, S3B

Instructor: Kristina Howansky
Email: Kristina.howansky@gmail.com
Office: TBA
Office hours: By arrangement

“The social psychology of this century reveals a major lesson: often it is not so much the kind of person a man is as the kind of situation in which he finds himself that determines how he will act.” -Stanley Milgram

Course Description:

The goal of social psychology is to understand how our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, and implied presence of others. At the heart of social psychology is the recognition that our responses are dramatically influenced by social situations. Perhaps you have laughed at a joke you didn't get because others around you were laughing. Maybe you have noticed you act one way when you are around one group of people, say your family, but act a different way when you are around others, like your friends. Our responses are not simply the products of our individual personalities but rather are shaped and molded by the social context around us, often times without us even realizing it. Indeed, the current social situation can influence how we perceive, evaluate, remember, and act within our environments.

This laboratory course, to be taken after or in conjunction with Social Psychology (PSYC 342), will explore the methodological and measurement practices commonly employed in social psychological research. These skills are particularly relevant for students wishing to pursue a graduate career in social psychology or other related fields.

This course will also draw heavily on material covered in the research methods sequence (MATH 117, PSYC 110, and PSYC 211); you are expected to be familiar with psychological writing and statistical analyses. We will likely review much of this material, but you should be comfortable with basic concepts.

Course Goals:

Over the course of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand various methodological practices employed by social psychologists
2. Identify the type of methodological approach necessary to answer specific research questions
3. Be able to effectively communicate social psychological empirical research findings
4. Read, understand, and evaluate statistical methods used in published research and
5. Think critically about media reported phenomena and be able to identify potentially misleading reports

Course Requirements:

Assigned readings: Assigned readings, detailed in the schedule, will be available on the Moodle website for the course. It is expected that all reading assignments are to be completed prior to class. Come to class prepared to discuss the articles read in detail.

Participation: As an adult, it's your decision how you use your time. But our time together is designed to help you learn, and to be fun and interesting. I will elaborate on concepts from the readings, introduce new material, conduct demonstrations, and show videos. Your projects will be based on all of this material, so regular attendance will help you earn a higher grade. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out from a classmate, not from the instructor, what occurred in class. The participation component of your grade will be based on the quality of your contribution to class discussion.

Report Assignments: Over the course of the semester, you will complete a lab report, draft a press announcement, and complete a poster communicating your findings to a fabricated audience. You will receive feedback from me and your peers about these projects, and it is expected that you will incorporate this feedback into your final drafts.

Academic Integrity: You are expected to abide by the University standards for academic honesty and integrity in all aspects of this course. I take academic honesty very seriously. If you are unclear what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism, consult the academic integrity web page (<https://uknow.drew.edu/confluence/display/Handbook/Academic+Integrity>) and/or see me. Not abiding by these standards is grounds for failure of this course.

Accommodations: Students who require accommodations are instructed to contact the Office of Accessibility Resources (formerly Office of Disability Services), BC 119C, 973-408-3962, for a private, confidential appointment. Accommodation Request Letters are issued to students after documentation, written by a qualified professional, is reviewed and accommodations are approved by OAR. Accommodations are implemented by faculty only after the student presents the Accommodation Request Letter issued by OAR. Letters should be presented to the faculty at least one week before the accommodation is needed. No accommodation can be implemented retroactively. Requests for accommodations for Fall 2015 should be submitted to OAR by September 15, 2015, but ideally within the first two weeks of class.

Grading

Your grade for this course will be based on the following areas:

20 Participation in discussion (attendance is assumed)

60 Lab Report
 5 Item development
 5 Data collection and analysis
 10 Intro and methods
 10 Results and discussion
 30 Final lab report

20 Press Release

70 Final Project
 10 Proposal
 5 Item development
 5 Data collection and analysis
 10 Intro and Methods
 10 Results and discussion
 30 Final project

30 In-class Mini Assignments

Anticipated Course Schedule (subject to change)

Date	Lecture	Readings	Assignment Due
9/1	<i>Introduction, scientific method</i>		
9/8	<i>Experimental design</i>		
9/15	<i>Writing Workshop #1,</i>		
9/22	<i>Survey research, Literature search</i>		
9/29	<i>Anxiety/Optimism, SPSS Workshop #1</i>	<i>Anxiety/Optimism papers (see Moodle)</i>	
10/6	<i>Writing Workshop #2, SPSS Workshop #2, Data</i>		<i>AO data</i>
10/13	<i>NO CLASS</i>		<i>AO intro, methods</i>
10/20	<i>Peer review</i>		<i>AO results, discussion</i>
10/27	<i>SPSS Workshop #3, Proposal discussion</i>		<i>Final project proposal</i>
11/3	<i>Implicit measures</i>	<i>Implicit measures papers (see Moodle)</i>	<i>AO Final lab report</i>
11/10	<i>Scientific Integrity & Research Ethics</i>		<i>Press Release Due</i>
11/17	<i>Poster Workshop, How to present</i>		
11/24	<i>Peer review, Hot topics in Social Psych</i>		<i>Final data, intro, methods</i>
12/1	<i>Peer review, TBA</i>		<i>Final results, discussion</i>
12/8	<i>Peer review</i>		
12/12	<i>----</i>		<i>Final project due</i>