Psy 116: Introduction to Psychology Laboratory Methods

Spring 2010

Class Time: Weds. 3:00-4:40 PM (longer if we take a break);
Home Room: SH-323; Computer Classroom: SH-306
Psychology Laboratory: SH-213.

Professors and Responsibilities

Dr. Jody Illies; TESTING AND GRADEBOOK
Phone: 308-5772; e-mail: jillies@stcloudstate.edu
Office: WH 201A, Hours: M 10-3, W 10-12, F 10-11, or by appointment

Dr. Chris Jazwinski; SYLLABUS, D2l, AND WWW
Phone: 308-3271; e-mail: chjazwinski@stcloudstate.edu
Office: WH-209, Hours: M, W 10-12; T 10-11, F 10-1, or by appointment;
home page: http://web.stcloudstate.edu/chjazwinski

Dr. Marlene Devoe; GRADING AND WORKSHEETS
Phone: 308-5368; e-mail: mailto:mdv@stcloudstate.edu
Office: WH-207, Hours: M 1-3, T 1-3:30 3:45-5:15, R 1-3:30 3:45-5:15; or by appointment;

Course Description and Goals

Psy 116 is for intended psychology majors. PSY 115 (Introduction to Psychology), or an equivalent course, should be taken prior to Psy 116. The goal of Psy 116 is to give students early, hands-on exposure to psychology as a science. Students will be able to see interesting psychological phenomena at close range and will develop an understanding of how psychologists generate data. Students will also learn the relevance of psychological principles to their own and others’ behavior by being involved in data collection.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

A complete list of student learning outcomes for psychology majors is available at http://www.stcloudstate.edu/psychology/outcomes.asp The course learning objectives and their relationship to the most critical student learning outcomes for majors are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 2: Research Methods in Psychology</th>
<th>Goal 6: Information and Technological Literacy</th>
<th>Goal 7: Communication Skills</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• understand the scientific method and the nature of science</td>
<td>• use Microsoft Excel to present data in graph format</td>
<td>• learn some elements of APA presentation format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• use the scientific method</td>
<td>• conduct a PsychInfo literature search</td>
<td>• understand presentation of data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• differentiate among different research methods</td>
<td>• learn how to read and create tables and graphs</td>
<td>• describe the results obtained in labs in verbal, written form</td>
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<tr>
<td>• differentiate among those designs that permit causal inference and those that do not</td>
<td>• practice handling raw data and summarizing them mathematically</td>
<td>• demonstrate effective writing skills and professional writing conventions</td>
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<td>• learn basic concepts in measurement, statistics and methodology</td>
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Required Materials


**Simple calculator**: bring to each lab

**Graph Paper**: You will need at least several sheets of graph paper (for the Practice Lab). Graph paper can be purchased at a college bookstore, or at any store that carries office supplies (e.g., Target or Office Max). Additional graph paper will be needed if computer software is not used for creating graphs in later assignments.

**Pencils and ruler**: You will also need several pencils and a ruler for drawing tables and graphs.

SCSU e-mail policy

It is now official SCSU policy that e-mail communications between HuskyNet e-mail accounts constitutes the official record of communication between students and professors. The primary reason for this is that the HuskyNet provides a highly reliable back-up record and because all students have an account and may access it from anywhere. We will use students’ HuskyNet addresses to initiate all course-related e-mail communications. Therefore, it is imperative that you check your HuskyNet e-mail appropriately often.

Attendance

Students are required to attend class and to be on time. Labs are completed during class, and so it is essential that students be present during the entire lab (come on time and stay for the entire class) in order to participate. Attendance will be taken at each lab. *If you are late for a lab, please be prepared to be turned away at the door*. Students must participate in the labs in order to obtain credit for lab worksheets — worksheets (from specific labs) will not be accepted from anyone who misses those classes. Our policy is: no attendance = no credit.

We do not allow makeup labs. Each student can miss up to one lab (for those who miss none, we will drop the lowest score). In the case of a second missed lab, we will review petitions accompanied by a doctor’s note (or other official verification) on a case by case basis. Please reserve the one allowed absence for emergencies! Except in extreme cases, *students will not be allowed to make up missed labs!* Use the on-line Student Inquiry Form (http://web.stcloudstate.edu/psy/psy116/documents/studentinquiry.html) to contact the course instructors regarding issues related to attendance.

Learning, Course Ethics, and Plagiarism

When completing your worksheets it is important for you to think through the question yourself, discuss it with others if necessary, and then to write the answer on your own. Independent work provides much greater educational benefits than copying answers from others and it is the ethical thing to do. *Points will be subtracted (50% or more) from worksheets that are highly similar to each other!*

Assessments

1. **Worksheets**
   
   should be handed in stapled (each worksheet stapled separately) and labeled with your name. Tables and graphs must be in APA format (including a figure caption). You must write legibly and it is recommended that you write your name on each page (on the back of sheets with figures) to insure that you receive credit for all of your work. Tables and graphs may be done using computer software (Microsoft Word for tables and Excel for graphs). However, all of the requirements of following APA format still apply (excuses related to software problems will not be accepted). One worksheet (missing or lowest scoring) will be automatically dropped. Please reserve this course feature for emergencies!

   Late worksheets (those handed in after the beginning of class on a due day) are discouraged and will receive a penalty of 3 points per every day late (0 points will be granted after 4 days late). Bring your late worksheet to the Psychology Department Office and make sure that office personnel immediately *time and date stamp it*. Drop each late worksheet into the correct box (labeled with the name of a lab) to receive credit.

2. **Tests**

   Tests will consist of multiple-choice items from the material in the textbook, lectures, and the background section of worksheets. Please check the course schedule table for required readings prior to each test. Tests will be delivered via D2L. All quizzes must be taken by 11:55 PM on the day they are scheduled. Quizzes will be available between 8:00 AM and 11:55 PM. You may make two attempts on each quiz and your score will be the higher of the two.

   *Please do not wait until an hour before the deadline to take a quiz!* Computers crash, web servers go down, dogs chew
through electrical cords, etc. Inevitably some of you will experience an aborted test attempt and we can accommodate that. If this happens to you, IMMEDIATELY e-mail Dr. Illies about resetting your test. This applies to both first and second attempts.

For helpful hints on test taking go to http://www.socialpsychology.org/testtips.htm#preparing. The Academic Learning Center (http://www.stcloudstate.edu/alc/) in CH 236 can also help with test taking and study tips.

**Extra Credit**

Extra credit is not plentiful. You can earn up to 12 points of extra credit.

1. **Participation in psychology experiments**: Extra credit can be obtained by participating in psychology experiments. Several studies will be available for participation throughout the term. Go to http://stcloudstate.sona-systems.com/ to sign up. You will receive 2 points of extra credit in Psy 116 per each 30 minutes of participation. You may not count the extra credit for more than one class and the scheduling software keeps track of this. Please make sure that you tell SONA (via the software interface) that you wish to have the participation **points assigned to Psy 116**.

2. **Practice lab**: worth up to 6 points of extra credit;

3. **Student Research Colloquium**: Attend the colloquium on Tues., April 20. Write a short reaction paper for up to 6 points of extra credit. A form with instructions will be available on D2L.

**Evaluation**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Maximum Points/Percentage of Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>Required for all labs (including the Practice Lab)!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three Tests</td>
<td>Test 1 (31 points), Test 2 (31 points), Test 3 (26 points)</td>
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<td>Tests total: 88 points (48 % of grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worksheets</td>
<td>8 @ 12 points = 96 points (or 52% of your grade). 9 worksheets are scheduled, but you will be able to drop your lowest score. If you miss a lab then the zero point score you receive will be considered your lowest score and it will be dropped. Most worksheets will contain tables and graphs. You can prepare them by hand using a ruler and pencil or you can use software (e.g., Excel for graphs). In either case, you must follow APA format. Failure to conform to APA format will lead to loss of points.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>184 points (100%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra Credit</td>
<td>Up to 12 points will be available.</td>
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**Grades**

A: 88% or higher
B: 78%
C: 68%
D: 58%
F: < 58%

The deadline for course withdrawal is on Wed., March 3. If you have missed several labs and have not completed the practice worksheet, then you may be better off withdrawing from the course.