

# PSY 120L: LAB IN ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS

SUMMER 2013 – SESSION A

JUNE 24 – AUGUST 2

**LECTURE:** Monday 2-4:30pm  
**LOCATION:** Bldg 387, Rm 101

**LABS:** Tuesdays and Thursdays  
**LOCATION:** Psychology East 2822

INSTRUCTOR	OFFICE HOURS	OFFICE	EMAIL
Molly Metz	W 2:30-4:30PM	BLDG 429 - 218	metz@psych.ucsb.edu

	TA	LAB (TR)	OFFICE HOURS	EMAIL
LAB 1		9AM-12PM	T 12-2PM [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
LAB 2		12-3PM	TR 3:30-4:30PM [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
LAB 3		3-6PM	R 1-3PM [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**PREREQUISITES:** (Bio)Psychology Major Status AND Senior Standing

**COURSE WEBSITE:** <https://gauchospace.ucsb.edu>

**COURSE MATERIALS:** Psy 120L Reader (required), available at the UCEN Alternative  
*Bring to all labs and lectures!*

In addition, many course materials will be posted on GaUCHoSpace, including the syllabus, readings/handouts, lab materials, and the lecture slides. There is no required textbook; however, you will likely find your textbook from Psy 5 or 7 quite useful. Please make sure to check GaUCHoSpace frequently for important announcements and reminders.

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This is both a lecture and a learn-by-doing course. There will be lecture once a week that reviews the basics of research methods and introduces advanced concepts. In addition there are twice-weekly labs during which you will be able to apply what you have learned over the course of your psychology major. Your grade will be based on several requirements, detailed below.

By the end of this course, you will be able to conduct psychological studies, from selecting the best methods to test your research questions, through the communication of results. During this course you will gain insight into the scientific process as a whole – its advantages, difficulties, and limitations. As such, you will be able to better evaluate the knowledge science can provide, and integrate that knowledge into a broader worldview.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

### A. LECTURE

During lecture, we will briefly review fundamentals from your methods and statistics course. More importantly, though, we will practice turning abstract ideas into testable hypotheses, and deciding the best ways to test and analyze our research questions. We will also practice identifying design and methodological components of other studies. In order to succeed in this course, you are expected to attend (and pay attention in) lectures. In addition, there will periodically be articles posted to Gauchospace that you are required to read.

### B. LAB

Lab sections are the meat and potatoes of Psy 120L. You are expected to attend all lab sections and to build relationships with your classmates and with your TA. In lab, you will develop research questions, design studies, analyze data, and communicate your findings with your peers. In addition, there will periodically be articles posted to Gauchospace that you are required to read.

Data for your research projects will be obtained from studies designed by you and your group members and completed by participants recruited by your group members. You will have several topics to choose from, but the ultimate design of the studies will be decided by you, with guidance from your instructor and teaching assistants. You will work in groups of 3-4 to formulate one or more hypotheses to test, operationalize your variables, and collect data. After a review of statistics, you will then conduct the necessary analyses to test your hypotheses and interpret your findings.

### C. COMMUNICATION

One of the most important parts of science is the dissemination (or communication) of our findings to our peers. As such, you will gain practice discussing your work in two ways.

- a. **PAPERS** – You will be responsible for writing two APA style research papers, each on a different project. The projects will be collaborative, but it is essential that the papers are *written individually*. More detail about the structure and style of these papers will be reviewed in lecture/lab.
- b. **GROUP PRESENTATION** – On the last Thursday of lab, you and your group will create a presentation based on your second research project. This 15 minute presentation will be delivered to the entire lab, and will be followed by 5-10 minutes of questions. Each group member is responsible for speaking during the presentation, and grades will be composed of both group and individual components.

### D. FINAL EXAM

There will be a final exam, held during the final lecture – Monday, July 29, 2-4:30pm. The exam will be multiple choice and short answer, and will cover information from both lecture and lab. This exam will be closed-book, closed-note, and cumulative.

On exam day, lateness will not be tolerated – **you may not take the exam (and will earn a 0) if you arrive after the first exam has been turned in.**

## E. PARTICIPATION

Being present in class is a great first step toward success, but learning doesn't happen by passively absorbing rogue information from the atmosphere. In order to get the most out of this (or any) class, *active engagement* is key. This may include: participation in class discussion or activities, taking notes, or even just actually thinking about questions that are posed, even if you don't speak up in class. This definitely does not include: reading the newspaper, doing other work, texting or engaging in side conversations, listening to your headphones, sleeping, etc.

Participation will be assessed in the following ways:

1. **LECTURE** – Periodically, I will be asking for questions, feedback, or reflections during lectures, and this will comprise your lecture participation score. The dates and times of these assignments will not be disclosed, so it is your responsibility to attend lecture in order to earn these points.
2. **LAB** – First, your TA will keep a record of your attendance and timeliness to lab sections. They will also evaluate your level of effort and engagement during class activities and group work time. In addition, each student will also confidentially evaluate the contributions and efforts of their group mates, which will also factor into your lab participation score.

## FINAL GRADE CALCULATION

Final grades will be based on absolute points, rather than a curve – that is, it is completely possible for everyone to earn an A in this class (if they earn the points). There will be no extra credit opportunities.

Per university policy, final grades are non-negotiable. Grade changes will be made *only* to correct for grading errors.

**Paper 1 – 20%**

**Paper 2 – 30%**

**Group Presentation – 10%**

**Final Exam – 25%**

**Lab Participation – 10%**

**Lecture Participation – 5%**

PERCENTAGE	GRADE
97 and above	A+
93 – 96.99	A
90 – 92.99	A-
87 – 89.99	B+
83 – 86.99	B
80 – 82.99	B-
77 – 79.99	C+
73 – 76.99	C
70 – 72.99	C-
67 – 69.99	D+
60 – 66.99	D
59.99 and below	F

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## COURSE POLICIES

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### GRADE DISPUTE POLICY

If you disagree about how a specific assignment was graded, you must dispute the issue *in writing* (not email). Write a paragraph about why you think your answer was correct/sufficient and turn it (with the original assignment) in to the instructor at the lecture following the return of the relevant assignment. Only reasonable and well-justified complaints will be considered, and all decisions are final. **Please note that if you submit a complaint, the instructor will regrade the entire assignment, and your grade could increase, decrease, or remain the same.**

### LATE POLICY

Unless otherwise stated, all assignments are due **at the beginning of the lab** for that day. Electronic submissions of papers will not be accepted. Late assignments will be accepted *at the cost of a full letter grade (or 10%) per day late*. So, an A- assignment turned in after lab begins or the next day will receive a B-, two days late a C-, and so on.

### MAKE-UP POLICY

Exams make-ups will not be granted except in case of a medical emergency or a legally compelled absence. A doctor's note or some other formal verification will be required in order to take an *all-essay make-up test*.

You must be able to attend the exam – vacation is not an excuse, nor is having another class exam at the same time. If you can't make it to class on test day, please make other arrangements or consider enrolling in the class in a future quarter.

### CELL-PHONE POLICY

Out of respect for me and your classmates, your phones should be off (or on silent) and put away at all times. In particular, please refrain from texting during class –the view from the front of the room is excellent, and no matter how sneaky you think you are being, I assure you, you are not.

That being said: You are adults and know your priorities better than I possibly could. As such, if you have a call or text that is *important enough to miss class for*, by all means, please step outside to take care of it. HOWEVER – if the call or text is *not* important enough to miss class for, then please be respectful and save it for after class.

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## STUDENT RESOURCES

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**Disabled Students Program (DSP):** The DSP provides academic support services to eligible students with temporary and permanent disabilities. Please inform the instructor if you require special classroom accommodations due to a disability – you must register with DSP prior to receiving these accommodations. If you require additional time on an exam, please schedule your own proctor through the DSP and confirm the arrangements with our TA at least *one week prior to the exam*. Please contact the DSP office for information and assistance (2120 Student Resource building, 893-2668, [www.sa.ucsb.edu/dsp](http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/dsp)).

**Counseling Services:** If you are experiencing any difficulties meeting class requirements, or any difficulties in your personal life, please contact **Counseling Services** (located in Building 599). Counseling Services offers individual and group counseling, crisis counseling, stress-management workshops, self-help information, and connections to off-campus mental health resources. For information, please call (893-4411) or visit their web site ([www.counseling.ucsb.edu](http://www.counseling.ucsb.edu)).

**Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS):** If you do not feel comfortable visiting a counselor but still would like to talk to someone about how best to succeed in your classes, consider visiting CLAS. For more information, visit their website at [http://clas.sa.ucsb.edu/CLAS\\_services.htm](http://clas.sa.ucsb.edu/CLAS_services.htm).

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## SOME FINAL WORDS

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### A WORD ABOUT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, improper citations, or misrepresenting your work in any way.

Plagiarism occurs when someone misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgement, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or alter work that a student then submits as his or her own. Although projects in this class will be completed in groups, all writing must be the work of the student whose name is on the assignment, and that student alone. If you are at all uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, please see your TA or the instructor – do not risk your grade or integrity!

Students caught behaving in such a way will receive an automatic “0” on the assignment or an “F” in the class, depending on the extent of the infraction. At the discretion of the instructor, some students may be referred to Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.

Please familiarize yourself with the university’s policy on academic dishonesty here:  
<http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu/PDF/academicintegflyer.pdf>

## CLASS CALENDAR - SUMMER 2013

*Tentative schedule; I reserve the right to adjust this timeline based on course progress*

DATE	LECTURE	DATE	LAB	IMPORTANT DATES
6/24	Overview  Research Designs	6/25	Introductions Human Subjects Training Developing Research Questions Project 1 Question Development	Complete Class Questionnaire by Friday 6/28 by noon
		6/27	PsycInfo Literature Review	
7/1	Statistics Review  Writing an APA Style Paper	7/2	SPSS Basics Reporting Results Project 1 Data Analysis Paper 1 Guidelines	Paper 1 Articles Due: Tuesday 7/2
		7/4	<b>NO LAB – JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> HOLIDAY</b>	
7/8	Theories, Hypotheses, and Operationalization	7/9	Paper 1 Peer Review Project 2 Groups and Topic Selection	<b>Paper 1 Draft Due:</b> Tuesday 7/9
		7/11	Avoiding Plagiarism Project 2 Hypotheses and Study Design Group Review	Paper 2 Articles Due: Thursday 7/11  Project 2 HSC Protocol Due: Friday 7/12 by noon (to both TA and Instructor email)
7/15	Consuming Research	7/16	Project 2 Study Prep 20 Minute TA Meetings	<b>Paper 1 Due:</b> Tuesday 7/16
		7/18	Project 2 Study Prep/ Data Collection	
7/22	<b>NO LECTURE</b>	7/23	Project 2 Data Entry/ Analysis	Data Collection Done: Tuesday 7/23
	Data Collection	7/25	Project 2 Data Analysis/ Writing	
7/29	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	7/30	Project 2 Group Presentation Prep	<b>Paper 2 Due:</b> Thursday 8/1
		8/1	<b>Project 2 Group Presentations</b>	