Course Outline
Psychology 3LL3: General Experimental Psychology Laboratory
Winter 2006

Room: PC 335
Time: Wednesday, 11.30am - 2.20pm

Webpage: http://psych.mcmaster.ca/3ll3

Instructor: Dr. Steve Stewart-Williams
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Extension: 24867
Office Hours: By appointment

TAs:
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Room 423, Ext. 24867     Room 236, Ext. 26037
Office Hours: By appointment

Textbook:

Course Objectives:
This course is designed to help students develop critical thinking skills - particularly skills relevant for effective research design, data analysis, and interpretation. To achieve these goals, each student will gain experience in the following areas: behavioural observation, evaluating published studies, completing ethics forms, designing and conducting a small research project, evaluating peers’ projects, and completing an APA-style report of their research project. Substantial class time has been reserved for group work; however, additional time for group work will be required.

Evaluation:
Two tests.......................................................…. 20% in total (10% for each test)
Observation lab report.......................................10%
Research proposal/ethics forms.........................15%
Two research presentations.............................20% in total (10% for each presentation)**
Final research report......................................25%
Peer evaluation.............................................10%

**Each group of students will hand in one research proposal and will make joint presentations. The same grade will be assigned to all group members. Peer evaluation will allow for adjustments to be made based on any differences in the extent to which group members contribute to the final product. Students must work independently on the final research report.

We will reserve 2-3 hours of class time for running experiments. Each student is required to be available for testing. You may decline to participate in a particular study, but you must be available throughout these class times. Failure to do so will result in a 10% penalty on your final research report.

The late penalty for all assignments is 10% per day.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Test/Assignment</th>
<th>Group Meetings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wed, January 4</td>
<td>Introduction, Scientific Method</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sign-Up (choose topic for group project)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Observation Assignments distributed</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Wed, January 11</td>
<td>Ethical Issues, Behavioural Observation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Group assigned and references provided</td>
<td>Discuss Observation Lab</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Wed, January 18</td>
<td>Independent Groups Design, Repeated Measures Design</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Information sheet re. proposals distributed</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Wed, January 25</td>
<td>Complex Designs</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>(1) Hypothesis and Design</td>
<td>(2) Ethics, Consent, and Debriefing Forms</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Wed, February 1</td>
<td>Ethical Approval, Consent Forms</td>
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<td><strong>TEST ONE</strong></td>
<td>Ethics/Consent Forms</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Wed, February 8</td>
<td>Sample Presentation of Research Proposal</td>
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<td>Research Proposal due</td>
<td>Finalize experimental methods and data collection plan</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Wed, February 15</td>
<td>Data Analysis and Interpretation</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ethics, Consent, and Debriefing Forms due</td>
<td>Research proposal presentations</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wed, February 22</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK!</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Wed, March 1</td>
<td>Data Analysis and Interpretation (Computer Lab)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Group consultations</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Wed, March 8</td>
<td>Data Collection <strong>Attendance Required</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Wed, March 15</td>
<td>Data Analysis and Interpretation (Computer Lab)</td>
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<td>Pooling data</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Wed, March 22</td>
<td>Writing a Clear Report</td>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>TEST TWO</strong></td>
<td>Final group meetings</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Wed, March 29</td>
<td>3LL3 Conference (Whole-Class Group Presentations)</td>
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<td>Wed, April 5</td>
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<td>Final Research Report and Peer Evaluation due</td>
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Your final research reports are due on Wednesday, March 29. The late penalty is 10% per day. Please put your research report and peer evaluations in the locked box outside of PC155 - look for the labelled section. Early papers are welcome!!!
McMaster’s Grading Scale:

90-100 A+; 85-89 A; 80-84 A-; 77-79 B+; 73-76 B; 70-72 B-; 67-69 C+; 63-66 C; 60-62 C-; 57-59 D+; 53-56 D; 50-52 D-; 0-49 F

The instructor reserves the right to adjust the final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in light of special circumstances and/or the individual’s overall performance in the course.

Message from the Chair of Psychology
The instructor cannot be responsible for returning long distance calls from students. Any student wishing to reach an instructor should e-mail the instructor.

Ethics
In any research project, the investigator must be concerned with the ethical treatment of the participants. There are federal standards for ensuring that the subjects are treated with dignity and sensitivity, and not subject to undue distress. Like all researchers in Canada, you will prepare an ethics application. For information on human ethics, please refer to the following website:

http://www.mcmaster.ca/ors/ethics/

Academic Dishonesty:
Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (i.e., “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at:

http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

Three forms of academic dishonesty are: a) plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained; b) improper collaboration in group work; and c) copying or using unauthorized aids for tests and examinations.