

PSYC 301
Research in Psychology II
Spring 2019

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Office hours: Wednesday, 2:30 – 4:00 pm, or by appointment

Class 349 Olin-Rice Science Center; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1:10 – 2:10 pm

Course overview

This course continues and builds upon the knowledge and skills developed in Research in Psychology I (PSYC 201) with a focus on application. Accordingly, students will work individually and in groups to (a) develop meaningful psychological questions; (b) design and carry out research studies; (c) analyze data; and (d) write an American Psychological Association (APA) style research paper.

Grading

Grades will be derived from scores on (1) five quizzes; (2) an APA-style paper describing the project that you design and conduct with a group of your peers; and (3) a proposal outline. An overview of each assessment is provided below; further detail about each will be given in class.

Quizzes (5 @ 9% each = 45%)

Quizzes will be given in class on the dates designated in the schedule below and will focus on material covered since the previous quiz.

APA-style paper (50%)

For the majority of the semester, students will work with a group of their peers to complete a research project and write their own APA-style paper describing the project. Completion of the project and writing the paper requires several intermediate steps, some of which you will complete individually and others of which you will complete with your group members. The steps are listed in the schedule below and lead to the complete APA-style paper, which will be evaluated using the “Contract for B” method¹. The Contract for B method works like this:

I will provide you with lots of feedback on your completion of the intermediate steps leading-up to your complete paper, both in written comments and during scheduled and impromptu group meetings, but I will not grade these steps. The only assignment I will grade is the complete paper, and students who have fulfilled the requirements listed below are guaranteed to receive at least a B (84%) as their grade on the paper, regardless of the paper’s quality.

¹ Hafer, G. R. (2014). *Embracing writing: Ways to teach reluctant writers in any college course*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

APA-style paper “Contract for B” requirements

- (1) Complete each step and the paper by its due date.
- (2) Follow the guidelines for each step and for the paper with obvious care and effort, including using the correct APA style where appropriate and proofreading/spellchecking your work.
- (3) Contribute positively to your group project (students will complete ratings of their group members’ contribution to their project periodically throughout the duration of the project).
- (4) Attend scheduled group meetings prepared to discuss your project and take notes on how to improve it.
- (5) Respond to/implement all instructor feedback.

As stated above, students who fulfill the Contract for B requirements are guaranteed to receive at least a B (84%) on the complete APA-style paper. Students who fulfill the Contract requirements may receive scores higher than B depending on the quality of their paper. Excellent papers are clear and convincing, interesting and pleasurable to read, and written in perfect APA style. Excellent papers will receive scores between A+ (100%) and A (96%). Very good papers are clear and convincing and written in almost perfect APA style. Very good papers will receive scores of A- (92%). Good papers are mostly clear and convincing and written in mostly correct APA style. Good papers will receive scores of B+ (88%). All other papers will receive scores of B (84%), in accordance with the Contract.

Students who do not fulfill the Contract for B requirements will not receive scores higher than B on the paper, and the particular score they receive will depend on their paper’s quality. Excellent papers will receive scores between B (84%) and B- (80%); very good papers will receive scores of C+ (77%); and good papers will receive scores of C (74%). Papers that are not clear and convincing or written in APA style will receive scores of C- (70%) or below.

Even though I will not grade your paper until you turn in the complete version, I will give you frequent feedback regarding where you stand in terms of the Contract for B. That is, you will know whether you are meeting the Contract requirements, exceeding the Contract requirements, barely meeting the requirements, and thus, in danger of breaking the Contract, or off the Contract. I will also grant one “forgiveness” for a minor lapse in the Contract requirements. However, multiple lapses in Contract requirements will break the Contract and leave you exposed to grades lower than B on the paper portion of the course.

Proposal outline (5%)

During the final weeks of the semester, you will complete a proposal outline for a study that you will not actually conduct. Similar to the paper, the proposal outline will be graded using the “Contract for B” method. Students who have fulfilled the requirements listed below are guaranteed to receive at least a B (84%) as their grade on the outline, regardless of the outline’s quality.

Proposal outline “Contract for B” requirements

- (1) Complete each step and the outline by its due date.
- (2) Follow the guidelines for each step and for the outline with obvious care and effort, including using the correct APA style where appropriate and proofreading/spellchecking your work.

Students who fulfill the Contract requirements may receive scores higher than B depending on the quality of their outline. Excellent outlines describe an interesting question that is well-grounded in psychological literature, propose an appropriate method and pattern of results, and adhere to perfect APA style where appropriate. Excellent outlines will receive scores between A+ (100%) and A (96%). Very good outlines describe a question that is grounded in psychological literature, propose an appropriate method and pattern of results, and adhere to almost perfect APA style where appropriate. Very good outlines will receive scores of A- (92%). Good outlines describe a question that is related to psychological literature,

propose an appropriate method and pattern of results, and adhere to mostly correct APA style where appropriate. Good outlines will receive scores of B+ (88%). All other outlines will receive scores of B (84%), in accordance with the Contract.

Students who do not fulfill the Contract for B requirements will not receive scores higher than B on the outline, and the particular score they receive will depend on their outline's quality. Excellent outlines will receive scores between B (84%) and B- (80%); very good outlines will receive scores of C+ (77%); and good outlines will receive scores of C (74%). Outlines that do not describe a question that is related to psychological literature, propose an appropriate method and pattern of results, or adhere to mostly correct APA style where appropriate will receive scores of C- (70%) or below.

Course policies

Assignments

Assignments are due via email to the instructor before the beginning of class on the day they are due. Turning in assignments by their due dates is a Contract for B requirement. Make-up quizzes will be given in extraordinary circumstances only.

Academic integrity

Academic integrity is a serious issue, and Macalester College has established guidelines for defining and reporting cases of cheating and plagiarism (www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicpolicies/academicintegrity/). Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Director of Academic Programs immediately.

Accommodations

I am committed to ensuring access to course content for all students and reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact Disability Services (www.macalester.edu/disabilityservices/) to discuss your needs. The office will contact me, and we will work together to arrange the appropriate accommodations.

Health and well-being

Maintaining your health and well-being throughout the semester will help you engage in your academic experience as fully as possible. As such, I encourage you to make your health and well-being a priority when balancing the many demands you have on your time. Sleeping, moving your body, and connecting with others are critical for health and well-being and can increase your resilience when facing different stressors in your life. Macalester's Laurie Hamre Center for Health and Wellness (www.macalester.edu/healthandwellness/) offers many resources designed to improve health and well-being. Please reach out to them if you are having difficulty maintaining this fundamental dimension of your life.

Incompletes

Macalester College strongly discourages the assignment of incomplete grades, and incompletes will not be given except under dire circumstances and after consultation with the Dean of Academic Programs.

Schedule and Assignments

1/25/19	Introduction	
1/28/19	Defining a question	
1/30/19	Defining a question	Soley and Hannon (2010)
2/1/19	Group discussions	Article summary
2/4/19	Library session (Library 206)	
2/6/19	Ethics	Annotated references
2/8/19	Experimental design	
2/11/19	Experimental design	Question outline
2/13/19	Group meetings	
2/15/19	Introduction guidelines	
2/18/19		Quiz #1 (9%)
2/20/19	Correlational design	
2/22/19	Correlational design	Introduction draft
2/25/19	Null hypothesis testing	
2/27/19	Group meetings	
3/1/19	Null hypothesis testing	
3/4/19		Quiz #2 (9%)
3/6/19	<i>t</i> test	PRB
3/8/19	One-way ANOVA	
3/11/19	One-way ANOVA	
3/13/19		Quiz #3 (9%)
3/15/19	Flexible day (no official class)	PRB revision
3/16/19 – 3/24/19	<i>Spring break</i>	
3/25/19	Qualtrics	
3/27/19	Multiple regression	Study materials prepared
3/29/19	Multiple regression	
4/1/19		Quiz #4 (9%)
4/3/19	Full paper guidelines	
4/5/19	Intro/Method workshop	Intro/Method draft
4/8/19	Data analysis	Data collection complete
4/10/19	Group meetings	
4/12/19	Results/Discussion/poster workshop	Results/Discussion draft
4/15/19	Proposal guidelines	
4/17/19	Poster presentations	Poster
4/19/19	Reliability and validity	APA-style paper (50%)
4/22/19	Reliability and validity	
4/24/19	Factorial ANOVA	
4/26/19	Proposal workshop	Annotated references
4/29/19	Factorial ANOVA	
5/1/19	Factorial ANOVA	
5/3/19	Proposal workshop	Proposal outline draft
5/6/19		Quiz #5 (9%)
5/10/19		Proposal outline final (5%)