



On-Campus Course Syllabus

PSY 315 L00.A

Experimental Psychology

Spring 2020

Class Information

Day and Time: Tu 4:15pm - 6:45pm

Room Number: E207

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Jennifer R. Burgess, PsyD

Instructor Email: jburgess@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 817-559-4045

Instructor Office Hours: by appointment, or in the 30 minutes prior to class time

Course Description and Prerequisites

An overview of current research methods and techniques used to gain knowledge about human behavior and hands on experience in applying these methods and techniques in and out of the classroom. (Prerequisite: MTH 201, PSY 101)

Course Objectives

- Explore foundation of experimental psychology
- Learn to identify, understand, and apply current research methods and techniques.
- Learn and apply ethical standards governing appropriate research
- Learn and apply appropriate formatting and presentation of written research
- Facilitate critical thinking skills in developing and integrating research information

Required Textbooks

Kantowitz, B.H., Roediger, H.L., and Elmes, D.G. (2015). *Experimental Psychology* (10th ed). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. ISBN: 9781111357993

Britt, M.A. (2017). *Psych Experiments: From Pavlov's Dogs to Rorschach's Inkblots, Put Psychology's Most Fascinating Studies to the Test*. Avon, MA: Adams-Media. ISBN: 9781440597077

Recommended Reading

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html

Course Requirements and Assignments

- A. **Quizzes:** (100 points each) There will be three quizzes over the course of the semester. Each quiz will be multiple choice and taken on-line through Canvas. Quizzes will cover material primarily from the text, but may also include information from lectures, and other required reading items. Students are permitted to use any course materials when taking a quiz, but there will be time limit of 120 minutes to complete each quiz. Thus, students should appropriately prepare for and study for the quizzes in order to complete them in the allotted time. A quiz will lock at the 120 minute mark and the completed work will be graded at that point. Quizzes must be completed by 11:59pm on the assigned due date. No late quizzes will be graded without prior approval from the instructor. There will not be a face to face meeting the week of an assigned quiz. Rather students will complete the assigned quiz and additional assignments through Canvas on those weeks.
- B. **Research and APA writing skills Development:** (Total 100 points -- vary by assignment) Students will complete a series of written assignments designed to enhance understanding of research process as well as appropriate formatting and presentation of research material. Each written assignment must be submitted through the appropriate Canvas link by class time on the date it is due. Any questions should be directed to the instructor in advance of the due date. Students are expected to pay close attention to the formatting requirements for the written assignments as those elements are an integral part of these assignments. The writing skills development will be comprised of the following written elements:
1. **ID Chosen Experiment** (10 points)
 2. **Operational Definitions and Experimental Process** (10 points)
 3. **IRB Proposal** (40 points)
 4. **Results Section** (40 points)
- C. **Experimental Project and Paper:** (100 points) Students will develop and implement a psychological experiment approved by this professor. Students are expected to select a modified experiment from Britt's text in order to complete this assignment. The elements of the research development will comprise key components of this assignment. Thus task C is a further extension of task B. Foundational research, discussion of research design, research findings, and conclusion of the psychological experiment should be presented in a 6-8 page paper that complies with current APA formatting guidelines. Students will need to collect a minimum of 6 professional references discussing the research topic involved in the proposed research task. Online information, websites, or other anecdotal sources are not considered legitimate references for this assignment. Research projects will be presented in class to illustrate peer review process. Paper must be written in accordance with APA formatting as a graded component and should be 6-8 pages in length.

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

Class Participation - In order to adequately participate in classroom discussion, students are expected to arrive on time having read all required material prior to the beginning of each week's class. More than 2 absences will result in loss of one letter grade in the student's final course grade unless extenuating circumstances are discussed with and approved by the instructor in advance. If a student misses a class period, they are responsible for obtaining notes and covered material from a classmate.

All assignments are expected on or before the deadline indicated in the syllabus. If unforeseen, extenuating circumstances arrives, students should contact me as soon as possible to discuss the potential impact of the situation. In general, late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval from the instructor, and then may incur a penalty depending on the circumstances. It is strongly encouraged that students not wait until the just before a due date to submit assignments or complete tests through Canvas. IT issues may jeopardize your ability to complete the assignment by the due date, and extensions for technical issues are typically not granted unless the problem is extended and class wide availability.

Email and Appointments -- My goal is to respond to email within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours on the weekend. Should you have a pressing question or more immediate issue, you are welcome to text me, but recognize it may still take some time for me to respond to questions asked. As such, students are strongly encouraged to begin assigned tasks well before the due date so as not to jeopardize completion of an assignment on time because of technology problems or other complications. I strive to have all papers graded within 5 days of the due date for a written assignment. This allows for expedient feedback which students can integrate into future assignments. I will typically plan to arrive on campus by 1pm on class days to allow time prior to class for student who may have questions or concerns. I am available at additional times by phone at student's request.

Cell phones are not allowed in the testing center and should be placed on silent mode during class periods. Any electronic device used in class to take notes must likewise be put into silent mode (including the keyboard functions) in order to minimize the disruption to one's classmates. Should one's electronic device become a distraction to the class, the instructor reserves the right to request that it be turned off during class times.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour	
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour	
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour	
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour	
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour	
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour	
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour	
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour	
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour	
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour	
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour	
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour	

All grades are final. Grades are based on performance not need. Grades are non-negotiable.

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the "I" will become an "F."

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to

respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Disabilities

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Resources and Support

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at studenttechsupport@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at deanofstudents@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing writingcenter@criswell.edu or calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

Week	Date	Reading	Topic	Assignment Due
1	1/21	Chapters 1 *Britt pp 7-18	Course Introduction Scientific Psychology	
2	1/28	Chapters 2 & 3	Research Techniques and Construction	ID chosen experiment
3	2/4	Chapter 4 * Britt pp 19-28, 125-129	Ethics in Psychological Research Writing IRB proposals	Operational Definition and Experimental Process
4	2/11	ONLINE	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4	Quiz # 1
5	2/18	Chapter 5 * Britt pp 29-32, 42-48	How to Read and Write Research Reports APA formatting Basics	
6	2/25	Chapter 6 & 7 * Britt pp 38-41, 61-74, 143-146	Psychophysics Perception	IRB proposals
7	3/3	Chapter 8 & 9 * Britt pp 56- 60, 75-90, 192-195	Attention and Reaction Time Learning and Conditioning	
	3/10	ONLINE	Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 Personal Experiments Completed	Quiz #2
8	3/17		SPRING BREAK	
9	3/24	Chapter 10 * Britt pp 33-55, 147-161	Remembering and Forgetting	Results Section
10	3/31	Chapter 11 * Britt pp 183-224	Thinking and Problem Solving	
11	4/7	Chapter 12 * Britt pp 130-142	Individual Differences and Development	
12	4/14		Experiment Presentations	Final Papers Due
13	4/21	Chapter 13	Social Psychology	
14	4/28	Chapter 14 * Britt pp 91- 109, 162-182, 243-260	Environmental Psychology	
15	5/5	Chapter 15 * Britt pp 110-124, 225-242	Human Factors	
16	5/12	ONLINE	Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, 15	Quiz #3

* Readings which are starred are from Britt, M. A. (2017). Psych Experiments. Adams Media, Avon, MA. All other readings are from the main textbook Kantowitz, Roediger, and Elmes (2015). Experimental Psychology. Cengage Learning: Stamford, CT.