San José State University  
Social Sciences/Department of Psychology  
Psyc 120, Advanced Research Methods and Design,  
Spring, 2017 Sections 20 (21/22) & 40 (41/42)

Course and Contact Information

**Instructor:** Sandra Trafalis, Ph.D.

**Office Location:** DMH 230

**Telephone:** (408) 924-5614

**Email:** Sandra.Trafalis@sjsu.edu

**Office Hours:** Thursday, 6:30-8:30pm, or by appointment

**Class Days/Time:**

- **Section 20 Lecture (21/22 Lab)**
  - Lecture Tuesday/Thursday 3:00-4:15
  - Lab Tuesday 4:30-6:30 Section 21
  - Lab Thursday 4:30-6:30 Section 22

- **Section 40 Lecture (41/42 Lab)**
  - Lecture Monday/Wednesday 4:30-5:45
  - Lab Monday 4:30-6:30 Section 41
  - Lab Wednesday 4:30-6:30 Section 42

**Classroom:** Lecture: DMH 355 Lab: DMH 339

**Prerequisites:** Psyc 1, Stat 095, and Psych 100W

**Course Description**

This course covers traditional laboratory experimental designs and methodology; experiments illustrating this approach. In addition, non-experimental (e.g., survey, observational) and quasi-experimental methods (e.g., time series designs, nonequivalent groups designs) will be discussed. Statistical analyses appropriate for different designs will be covered. This course differs from traditional lecture-based classes in several ways. First, it requires the ability to translate concepts from readings into practice. Second, it requires much independent work outside the classroom. Third, it requires active participation in lecture and lab. Fourth, the class focuses less on lectures and more on practical in-class activities (e.g., meetings).

**Learning Outcomes and Course Goals**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **SLO 1** Understand the differences and limitations of experimental and correlational research designs.

2. **SLO 2** Evaluate psychological research as to its reliability, validity, utility, and adherence to ethical guidelines.
3. SLO 3 Identify threats to validity in research, including confounds and threats to generalizability.
4. SLO 4: Execute a research project utilizing experimental design and interpret the results.
5. SLO 5: Perform statistical analyses on a factorial design experiment.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)
After completing this course, you should be able to critically examine claims made about human behavior—whether these claims are made by talk-show "experts," journalists, or behavioral scientists. More specifically, after completing this course, you should be able to

CLO 1: Explain why psychology is a science

CLO 2: Evaluate research on the basis of its construct validity, internal validity, external validity, statistical validity, and conformity to APA's ethical principles.

CLO 3: To identify and conduct appropriate statistical analyses of data obtained from several different research designs using APA

CLO 4: Conduct a literature review on topics in psychology.

CLO 5: Give a professional presentation of research findings

CLO 6: Work effectively in a research team

CLO 7: Write a APA-style research proposal and report

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)
Upon successful completion of the psychology major requirements…

1. PLO1 – Knowledge Base of Psychology – Students will be able to identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

2. PLO2 – Research Methods in Psychology – Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.

3. PLO3 – Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology – Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.

4. PLO5 – Values in Psychology – Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook


Other Readings

Other assigned readings can be found in CANVAS

Other equipment / material requirements

1. SPSS Software and/or access to Clark hall computers with SPSS.
2. Access to psycharticles/psychinfo through SJSU Library
3. Access to library/photocopier for research articles
4. Computer, printer, access to the internet and SJSU library access
5. No. 2 Pencil, Stapler

Library Liaison

Bernd Becker is the psychology department library liaison. Contact information to reach the liaison is: Bernd.Becker@sjsu.edu, 408.808.2348

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

Classes may include lectures, in-class activities, question-and-answer periods, guest lectures, demonstrations, and films. Attendance is required and critical for success in this course. If you miss a class, you are responsible for the information from that class. It is vital that you complete all scheduled readings and assignments before each class. Bring your text to all classes.

- The primary method of assessment for this course will be a final research project, a class presentation of the project, lab activities, and a final exam. The point value for each of the assignments is found in the grading policy. Information about dates are included in the Course Calendar. Please note that the course calendar is tentative course calendar and “subject to change with fair notice” including assignment due dates, exam dates, date of final exam; you might want to include as well.
- The research project requires students to conduct independent research, including data collection.
- It should be noted that the Academic Vice President in a memorandum dated October 25, 1977 cites a university policy that states that there shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the officially scheduled time in every course, unless specifically exempted by the college dean who has curricular responsibility for the course.

Labs: Lab attendance is mandatory and critical to successful completion of this course. 6. Access to DMH 339 (lab) is only available during scheduled class time so please make adequate arrangements (plan for the use of public computers at Clark Hall) to work on your projects. You will have access to computers during scheduled lab time, but if you need additional computer time you must make your own arrangements. You can also purchase SPSS through the bookstore or at Clark Hall. It is strongly recommended that you purchase the software.

The instructor will also assign lab work to prepare you to successfully complete your research papers. While the labs are not formally graded, failure to participate will likely mean you will have difficulty completing the research projects. If your team participates in the labs and you do not, it means that you are a social loafer and this is not good for morale of your team. As per University policy F69-24 found at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently
essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

**Research Study:** Your research team will develop a research topic within the parameters set by the instructor. The instructor will assign two of the three independent variables of the experiment and the research design must be a between subjects factorial design experiment. Students will design the relevant study, create stimulus materials, conduct the study, analyze the data, write an APA-style research report, and give a professional-quality presentation of your research findings. The paper will be at least 12 pages in length (double-spaced, typed, 12-point font) and will include between 20 peer-reviewed, scholarly references. The instructor must approve all topics and stimulus materials prior to data collection. Each research team will also present their study and its findings to the class in a 15-20 minute presentation. **Peer evaluations will be considered as part of the final grade for the project.** Not completing a peer evaluation will result in the loss of points for the entire research group. Please remember to allow ample time as computers fail, internet connections fail, the help desk needs more time to resolve, etc. Remember Murphy’s Law is likely to apply.

**Data Collection:** Students must complete the HPPERT tutorial PRIOR to collecting data. Please note that data collection must occur by the specified date on the syllabus and failure to collect data on time will result in the loss of points (10%) 

**Exam:** There will be a final exam in the class that is cumulative and based on the lectures and readings. Exams will be primarily multiple-choice, although there may be some short answer items. They will cover both text and lecture. Please bring a Scantron form and pencils to each exam. Institutes at [http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php](http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php).

**HPPERT Certificate:** To ensure students are fully aware of ethical considerations and guidelines in conducting research with human participants. Each student must complete the online tutorial offered by the National Final

You must save your certificate which you will turn in to the instructor in order to receive credit for the assignment. Late certificates will lose 15% points.

**Grading Policy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>How many?</th>
<th>Points per assignment</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Assignments</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<td>92-90</td>
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<td>89-88</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>87-83</td>
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<td>82-80</td>
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<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>79-78</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-73</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>72-70</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>69-65</td>
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<td>64 or less</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Late Work:** All assignments must be submitted by the scheduled due date. Late assignments will lose 20% of total points for every weekday that they are late. Assignments more than three weekdays late will not be accepted. Students submitting late assignments will not be receive feedback from the instructor. **DO NOT EMAIL LATE**

**Late Assignments:** In the event that a late assignment is accepted, students will not receive feedback or the graded assignment until the end of the semester. *Peer review is an important component to this course. Students who are not prepared for peer review date will be docked points (10%) on the final submission of the work. Make-up presentations may be scheduled with the approval of the instructor for students who provide documentation that necessitates an absence. All group members must be present for the group to be eligible to earn full credit for their presentation.*

**Make-up Exam:** There are no make ups for missed exams unless there is a documented medical reason or excused absences because of a University event. If you know ahead of time that you cannot make an exam, please let me know. In the case of an excused absence from an exam, you may make the exam up on the day of the final.

**Posting of Grades:** Final grades will be posted to My.SJSU no earlier than grade evaluation day. Final grades will not be posted to CANVAS although the gradebook will contain graded assignments completed by the student.

“Students are strongly encouraged to take courses to satisfy GE Areas R, S, and V from departments other than their major department. Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C - not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co--registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students.” See [University Policy S14-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-5.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-5.pdf.

According to [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf for more details.
Classroom Protocol

Electronics Policy: You may not use cell phones, foreign language dictionaries, laptop computers, headphones, or any other electronic device during exams. Turn off all pagers, cell phones, headphones, etc. before class. Use of cell phones and other communication methods (e.g., text messaging) during class will result in dismissal from class.

Attendance: Attendance to the class is very important and absences may impact your grade through the loss of participation points, in-class group activities, and video discussion questionnaires. Your participation and attendance is important. Peer learning is an important component and your active participation contributes to the quality of the class.

Tardiness: If you must arrive to class late, please enter the classroom quietly and without disruption to other students or the instructor. Excessive tardiness could impact your grade as you will likely miss important information, especially announcements and answers to student questions.

Please note that for some matters such as your grade, missed classes, and/or questions about assignments it is best to see me in person during office hours. If you plan on stopping by please email me ahead of time so I know you plan to stop by. If you miss a class, you should get the notes from another student and review them.

Office Hours: If you have to discuss your grade or need a grade check or have any questions related to your performance please wait until after class to discuss or make an appointment with me. This is so not to take up class time by discussing issues that are best done during office hours.

Email: I do not mind responding to questions over email, however, some issues are best discussed in person during my office hours. If I feel your question is best discussed in person, I will email you and ask you to stop by my office. Please contact me via email and due to the large volume of emails that I receive daily, please allow 1-3 days for a response. If you need an immediate answer or I have not gotten back to you, please stop by my office during office hours or call me and leave a voice message. I will respond to you as soon as possible.

If you plan on stopping by please email me or call ahead of time so I know you plan to stop by. If you miss a class, you should get the notes from another student and review them prior to seeking out the instructor.

In labs, you will not:
1. Check email or send emails, unless directly related to this course
2. Talk on your cell phone or send text messages, unless directly related to this course
3. Surf the internet, unless directly related to this course
4. “Shoot the bull” (i.e., engage in lengthy chats about topics unrelated to this course)

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

This website page contains information relevant to all courses at SJSU, including:

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student
Course Requirements and Assignments
Attendance and Participation
Accommodation to Students’ Religious Holidays
Dropping and Adding
Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course.

- Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
  - In order to obtain permission, please let me know of your request in person and permission will be granted in writing.
  - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well by the student.
Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/ to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center
on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

**SJSU Counseling Services**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
Psyc 120, Advanced Research Methods and Design, Spring, 2016

Course Schedule

Please note that this is the planned course schedule and this calendar may be revised to accommodate student learning. Changes will be announced in class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>M/W</th>
<th>T/TH</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lab Activity</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>1/26</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Scientific Process</td>
<td>Week 1 Group Member Selection Process&lt;br&gt;The first part of the lab for the course is designed for students to complete the following activities:</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>1/30 2/1</td>
<td>1/31 2/2</td>
<td>The Scientific Process&lt;br&gt;Pseudoscience</td>
<td>Week 1–Week 6&lt;br&gt;Conduct literature review&lt;br&gt;Develop statement of hypotheses&lt;br&gt;Selection of Factors for your experiment</td>
<td>Chapter 2/3</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>2/6 2/8</td>
<td>2/7 2/9</td>
<td>Ethics in Research</td>
<td>Design the experimental questionnaire &amp; Stimulus Materials&lt;br&gt;LAB #1 Ethics Certificate&lt;br&gt;Due by the second class meeting of Week 5</td>
<td>Chapter 7/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>2/13 2/15</td>
<td>2/14 2/16</td>
<td>Independent and Dependent Groups Design</td>
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<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>2/20 2/21</td>
<td>2/21 2/23</td>
<td>Groups Design/Hypothesis Testing</td>
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<td>Chapter 5/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>2/27 3/1</td>
<td>2/28 3/2</td>
<td>Hypothesis Testing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 13&lt;br&gt;Chapter 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>3/13 3/15</td>
<td>3/14 3/16</td>
<td>Communicating Results</td>
<td>Preparation of Stimulus Materials and Completion of Data Collection plan&lt;br&gt;Peer Review Day**: Please bring Lab #2 in for peer review. Your stimulus materials must also be part of the peer review process.&lt;br&gt;We will use lab time for PEER REVIEW.</td>
<td>Sample Research Paper in &quot;Research Paper and Information&quot;*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week/Date</td>
<td>M/W</td>
<td>T/TH</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Lab Activity</td>
<td>Reading</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>Data Collection</td>
<td>Lab #2 Literature Review, Hypotheses, and Method Stimulus Materials and Informed Consent Form (Due by the second class meeting of Week 9)</td>
<td>APA Manual Chapter 2 and Chapter 5</td>
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<td>3/21</td>
<td>3/23</td>
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<td>SPRING BREAK 3/27 to 3/31—Enjoy your break! Do not forget about data collection</td>
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<td>3/22</td>
<td>3/23</td>
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<td>4/5</td>
<td>4/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>4/11</td>
<td>The Discussion Section Explaining what you found</td>
<td>Collect Data for Research Project Must be Complete</td>
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<td>4/12</td>
<td>4/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>4/17</td>
<td>4/18</td>
<td>Writing Tips for Your Final Paper</td>
<td>SPSS Data File must be uploaded by Week 12 (Due by the second class meeting)</td>
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<td>4/19</td>
<td>4/20</td>
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<td>Peer Review Day: Please bring Results Section &amp; Discussion Section in for peer review. Your stimulus materials must also be part of the peer review process. They must be updated to reflect what was actually distributed to participants. This is likely different from what you submitted for Lab #2.</td>
<td>Input &amp; Analyze Data in SPSS Individual Group Meetings with Instructor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>4/24</td>
<td>4/25</td>
<td>Student Presentations begin the second meeting date of this week*** Groups 1, 2, 3 3 Presentations per Class Period</td>
<td>Analyze Data in SPSS Individual Group Meetings with Instructor All Data inputted and analyzed Prepare results section and discussion section Students work on papers/presentations</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>5/1</td>
<td>5/2</td>
<td>Student Presentations *** Groups 4, 5, 6 Groups 7, 8, 9 3 Presentations per Class Period</td>
<td>Incorporate instructor feedback/peer review feedback. Your final paper includes: Title Page, Abstract, Introduction, Results, Methods, Discussion, References, SPSS Output, Data File, Data Collection Tool.</td>
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<td>5/3</td>
<td>5/4</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>5/8</td>
<td>5/9</td>
<td>Student Presentations *** Groups 10, 11, 12 Groups 13, 14, 15</td>
<td>Final Papers are Due by Last Day of Class Please note: You must upload your paper, data file, data output and stimulus materials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/10</td>
<td>5/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>5/15</td>
<td>5/16</td>
<td>Student Make-up Presentations**** Last Day of Class Wrap up and Review</td>
<td>Cumulative Final Exam: Section 20 May 18 @2:45 Cumulative Final Exam: Section 40 May 24 @12:15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Found in CANVAS

**You will pilot test your materials, but due to time/space restrictions, it is possible you may not be able to pilot test all of your conditions. It is your responsibility to bring stimulus materials to lab and the checklist. Out of courtesy and time constraints, there will be no printing of stimulus materials during lab. NO EXCEPTIONS

***The presentation schedule will be posted to CANVAS

****Make up dates are subject to instructor approval with student documentation.

*****Students must sit for the final exam in their designated section and not doing so could result in receiving a “0” for the examination.