

Psychology 371: Introductory Psychological Research**Instructor:**

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Office Hours: W 9:00 – 10:30, & TR 9:00 – 10:30
or By appointment (EP 202)**Meeting time:**

Lecture	TH	4:10 – 5:50	HSS 130
Labs	see schedule		EP 207

Textbooks and Materials

Heiman, G. W. *Understanding Research Methods and Statistics: An Integrated Introduction for Psychology*.
Houghton Mifflin: New York, NY. (ISBN: 978-0618043040).

Other Requirements: Bring a calculator to every class. You will be trained on how to use the **TI-30XS MultiView Calculator** – it is your choice to buy it; but it is the only one for which we will provide help.

It can be ordered at: www.amazon.com

Read a review here: <http://www.rskey.org/~mwsebastian/reviews/ti30xsmv.htm>

Class Goal:

The purpose of this class is to teach you how to understand psychological research and use statistics as a research tool for describing data (descriptive statistics) and for testing null hypotheses (inferential statistics). Students will be expected to analyze data sets, interpret the SPSS output, and understand common statistical analyses reported in research journals.

Teaching Philosophy

We believe that students are active participants in the learning process and not just passive recipients of knowledge. Therefore, we place much emphasis on interaction and class participation.

Course Requirements and Grading

- (1) Homework (25%)
- (2) Lab quizzes (10%)
- (3) SPSS Quiz (5%)
- (4) Group-work assignment (10%)
- (5) Midterm (20%)
- (6) Final Exam (30%)

Grading Scale (as a percentage):

93-100. = A	80-82.9 = B-	67-69.9 = D+
90-92.9 = A-	77-79.9 = C+	63-66.9 = D
87-89.9 = B+	73-76.9 = C	60-62.9 = D-
83-86.9 = B	70-72.9 = C-	00-59.9 = F

Major Campus Dates to keep in mind:

February 15, Last day to apply for May or August graduation - Your graduation application must be IN the Registrar's office by 5pm.

February 20, Last day to add a class, or drop class without receiving a W on transcript.

March 19, Last day to request CR/NC grading option

March 24-29- Spring Recess- No classes held

March 31- Cesar Chavez holiday- No classes held

February 21- April 24, Withdrawal from course (with instructor approval). You will receive a W on your transcript.

Class Organization and Policies:

- (1) FAQ: Do I have to come to class / lab?
 - a. Attendance is important; but not mandatory. However not all material is covered in class.
 - b. Material **will be** presented in lecture that **is not covered** in the book (and I may disagree with the book) and **you will be held responsible for that information**.
 - c. Additionally, you will seriously jeopardize your grade if you choose to miss lectures; you will lose valuable experience participating in discussion and group tasks, as well as missing class assignments and exercises.
 - d. Finally, Lab-quizzes **will** occur at the beginning of each lab.
- (2) Many handouts, PowerPoints, and keys to the HWs and quizzes will be posted on Ilearn
 - a. It is expected that ALL student will learn how to access their Ilearn account in order to download these documents before class and during lab.
 - b. To log on use the following URL: <http://ilearn.sfsu.edu>. Log in as a student using your ID and PAC numbers.
- (3) Office hours are first-come first serve.
 - a. It is the student's responsibility to schedule optional appointments by sending me an email with a specified date and time when the student is available to meet. All appointments must be made electronically.
 - b. No appointments are taken during office hours.
- (4) All homework is due at the beginning of the class.
 - a. All late work will be assigned a grade of "0" – no exceptions to this rule.
 - b. At the end of the semester, students will be given an opportunity to replace their lowest HW with a "10" by completing a make-up assignment.
 - c. HW is graded for mastery – and thus, each problem is graded as correct or incorrect. No partial credit on HW.
 - d. HW will be posted on Ilearn one week prior to their due date.
 - i. For example, HW #1 will be posted on Thursday, January 31st.
 - ii. HW #1 is then due at 4:10 (in class) on February 2nd.
- (5) No make-up quizzes, group-work, exams, or finals are given unless under extreme circumstances (e.g., death of family member, car accident, personal medical emergency requiring hospitalization).
 - a. Evidence through paper documentation of the extreme circumstance is required (e.g., a doctor's note, a copy of a death certificate).
 - b. If a student feels ill during a quiz, test, or final, the student is recommended to leave; but for the absence to be excused a doctor's note is required.
 - c. If a student does not attend a class during which a quiz, test, or final is administered, it is the student's responsibility to demonstrate that they could not attend the class, and to arrange a time to complete the make-up work.
 - d. All make-up work should be completed no later than 14 days after the originally scheduled quiz, exam, etc.
 - e. If make-up work is not completed, the student will receive zero points for that assignment, quiz, exam, or final.
 - f. At the end of the semester, students will be given an opportunity to replace their lowest lab-quiz with a "10" by completing a make-up assignment.
- (6) All lab quizzes and exams (midterm and the Final) will be "open book."
 - a. Each student may recopy notes, handouts, or examples from class into their own book.
 - b. Students are also allowed **one sheet** of hand-written notes for the **midterm** and **final**.
 - c. The notes must be recopied **by hand**, and must be the student's own hand writing. Any Xeroxed pages will be taken from the student is considered a violation of academic honesty resulting in an **F for the midterm or final**.
 - d. Sampling, paper-clipping, or binding others' notes (including the handouts and keys from class, and photocopies of other student's notes) to one's book is considered a violation of academic honesty resulting in an **F**.
- (7) The lab quizzes and major tests will *focus* on the PowerPoints, handouts, lectures and computer sections of the class.
 - a. The lab quizzes will be objective in format – simple equations, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, etc.
 - b. The tests will also include short answers and word-problems.
 - c. If the student's quiz or test is not turned in 60 seconds after time is called, it will not be graded (resulting in a 0 for the quiz or test).
- (8) Plagiarism is a form of cheating.
 - a. It 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 acknowledgment, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or alter work that a student then submits as his or her own.
 - b. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. Any student who plagiarizes will receive an "F" for that assignment.
 - c. Furthermore, all instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Department Chair, the Dean of the College, and may be reported to the University Judicial Affairs Officer for further action. Students are responsible for knowing the SFSU regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism, found in the University Bulletin and online at: <http://www.sfsu.edu/~helpdesk/docs/rules/conduct.htm>
- (9) Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations should contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (Student Services Building, Room 110) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodation process.

Major Campus Dates to keep in mind:

January 28th	First day Labs will meet.
March 20th	In Class Midterm
April 1 st	Group work will be posted on Ilearn.
May 22ed	In Class Final

Class Schedule

Week	Lecture Topic / Task	Chapter(s) & Assignment
1	1/24 Class Management; why study research methods and statistics?	No Labs
2	1/31 The scientific method: Important concepts	1, 2; Lab = Calculator session
3	2/7 Frequency distributions and percentiles	6, HW 1 Due
4	2/14 Measures of central tendency	7, HW 2 Due
5	2/21 Measures of variability/dispersion	8, HW 3 Due
6	2/28 Z-score transformations	9; HW 4 Due
7	3/6 Linear Correlation	10, HW 5 Due
8	3/13 Introduction to Statistical Inference: Probability	12, HW 6 Due
9	3/ 20 In Class Midterm	Labs = Review session
10	3/27 Spring Recess: No Classes; Offices Open	
11	4/3 Introduction to Statistical Inference: the Z-test	13; No labs this week
12	4/10 Statistical Inference for Single Samples: the T-test	14, HW 7 Due in Class
13	4/17 Statistical Inference for Two Samples: the T-test	15, HW 8
14	4//24 One way Analysis of Variance: Omnibus F-statistic	17, Groupwork Due
15	5/1 One way Analysis of Variance: Omnibus F-statistic	17, HW 9
16	5/8 Chi Square/non-parametrics	21, HW 10
17	5/15 Catch-up / Review	SPSS quiz in Lab
Final	5/22 In Class Final (4:10 – 6:40)	Labs = Review session

*Chapters are expected to be read before attending each class. Thus, chapters 1 and 2 are expected to be read by January 31st.

Extra Credit: Students may also earn a maximum of 3 percentage points of extra credit in a variety of ways (Note: Not every option will be available during the quarter). There is no guarantee that there will be sufficient opportunities to allow all students to earn the maximum number of extra credit points through any one mechanism. Academic dishonesty, even on an extra credit assignment, will result in a deduction of 1 percentage point.

1. Research Participation. Students may earn extra credit by participating in research projects at SFSU. One (1) percentage point of extra credit will be given for each hour of research participation (pro-rated for fractions of hours). Opportunities to participate in research will be announced in class (and will vary from semester to semester). Once you have participated in a study you will need to complete a research participation form and identify the hypothesis and the independent and dependent variable(s) of the study in which you participated.

Important: students must show up (on time) for the experiments for which you have signed up or cancel with advance notice. Strict records will be kept and students who have failed to show up for experiments (without canceling) will not be allowed to make up these extra credit opportunities.

2. Talk Summaries. You may write *single page* papers summarizing talks given in the Department of Psychology. I will announce all talks that are approved for this purpose at the class meetings. Each summary you write for a talk you attended will be worth 1 percentage point.