

Introduction to Research Methods Laboratory (Winter 2018)

PSYC-2102 – Sections 071L - 076L

Instructor:

Office:

Phone:

E-mail:

Office Hours:

LAB MANUAL: Williams, D. (2005). *Getting in Tune with Research Methods in Psychology*.

The lab manual will be available on Nexus. The URL for Nexus is: <https://nexus.uwinnipeg.ca>.

OBJECTIVES: The laboratory sessions are designed to give students ‘hands-on’ experience in conducting and interpreting psychological research. The main objective of the lab is to extend your understanding of basic research methods in psychology. The lab will accomplish this through summary lectures, demonstrations, and mini experiments. A secondary objective is to introduce you to the use of computers and statistical software for data analysis, expanding on the knowledge gained in Data Analysis (PSYC-2101). Mastering the tasks in this lab will improve your ability to assess research and provide you with a solid foundation to approach the more advanced courses in psychology that require independent research.

LAB ASSIGNMENTS: There will be eight lab assignments, and the instructor delivering the course lectures will determine the contribution of these assignments to your final grade. For more information on the weighting of the lab, please see the course outline for your lecture section. The lab assignments will include a combination of data collection activities and reports that build on the topics covered in the text and lectures. The reports for the first seven assignments will be based on data collected during the lab period. The report for the eighth lab will include a ten-minute oral presentation that you and a partner give to the class as well as an APA style written summary of the oral report (three type-written pages, 750 words). The content for this oral presentation will be based on Lab 8 in the lab manual. This lab is mandatory and will count for triple your other lab assignments towards your final lab mark.

Lab reports are due at the **beginning** of the lab period one week following the period in which they were assigned, but consult the timetable for exceptions and other important due dates. Note that late assignments are subject to late penalties and these late penalties are at my discretion, however, the typical penalty is a loss of 10% per day for the first three days, and 20% for the fourth and subsequent days. Late assignments must be dated by the secretary in the Psychology Department office (4L41) and left in my mailbox or given to me directly. Also, note that all assignments must have an **APA style title page** and must be stapled neatly together. Assignments that do not meet these basic requirements are subject to penalty and even refusal. Assignments are generally returned one week after they are handed in. Late assignments will take longer to return.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LAB 8: To prepare Lab 8, you and a partner must locate a scientific claim made in a popular press report and then find the original research report on which the press report is based. Before proceeding, you must submit a copy of the popular press report and the original research report to me for approval. The due date for submitting copies of these reports is **Friday, March 2nd by 4:00pm**. These copies will be returned to you after I have reviewed them.

ATTENDANCE AND MISSING LABS: Since the labs depend on your participation, your attendance is a requirement of the lab. If you miss a lab, you can drop one of the first seven lab assignments. **The final lab assignment (i.e., the eighth lab) is mandatory and cannot be dropped.** However, if you complete all the lab assignments, then you can drop the lab assignment among the first seven that has the lowest grade. Except for this option to drop one lab, there are no makeup lab assignments. Remember, lab assignments are due at the beginning of each lab period. If you know in advance that you will be absent, please make arrangements with me *ahead of time* to hand-in your assignment. Finally, if exceptional circumstances prevent your attendance, please email me as soon as possible with a brief explanation. Extensions are possible, though documentation may be required (e.g., a physician's note).

GRADING LAB ASSIGNMENTS: Each lab assignment, except the last lab assignment, will be equally weighted (adjusted to a 10 point scale). The number of points awarded to each problem on an assignment will be in proportion to the difficulty of the problem – more difficult problems will be worth more than less difficult problems. The last lab will be graded out of 30 points, with 20 points distributed to the oral presentation and 10 points distributed to the written summary.

Lab assignments are marked by Teaching Assistants. If there are any issues after graded labs are returned (e.g., an adding mistake or you think something was marked incorrectly), please provide a written explanation of the issue on the back of the title page (and mark the question if applicable) and return the lab assignment to me. I will review your comments and I will return your lab assignment within a week. Be aware that, upon instructor review, marks may be adjusted in either direction as necessary.

OFFICE HOURS: There are no scheduled office hours, however, if you would like to meet, please arrange a time with me or feel free to drop in. You may also email me questions.

Students who plan to conduct research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, even a family member, must obtain the approval of the appropriate ethics committee before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html> for submission requirements and deadlines.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or email accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about AS is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

CLASSROOM COURTESY:

All cell phones or other electronic devices should be turned off before the student enters the classroom. In order to create an environment conducive to learning, students are invited to respectfully give their opinions and contributions to class discussions, bearing in mind the usual courtesies. Also, food and drinks should not be brought into the computer lab (4L29).

We ask that you please be respectful of the needs of classmates and instructors/professors by avoiding the use of unnecessary scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to scented products can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Please consider using unscented necessary products and avoiding unnecessary products that are scented (e.g. perfume).

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect>.

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make-up work and/or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at: <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensuring students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit our website at www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy or call 204-786-9780.

SAMPLE GRADE CALCULATION:

	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 4	Lab 5	Lab 6	Lab 7	Lab 8	Lowest lab mark ¹	Lab mark after lowest mark dropped (MAX 90)
Student A	10	10	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.5	9.0	27.0	8.5	83
Student B	10	10	9.5	7.0	7.5	2.0	8.0	0.0	2.0	52
Total	10	30								

¹ Since lab 8 is mandatory, only the lowest lab mark among the first seven labs may be dropped.
Note. The first seven labs will be adjusted to a 10 point scale so they are equally weighted.

LABORATORY TIMETABLE:

Week of	Topic	Due Dates
January 8 th	Lab 1	
January 15 th	Lab 2	
January 22 nd	Lab 2	Lab 1
January 29 th	Lab 3	Lab 2
February 5 th	Lab 4	Lab 3
February 12 th	Lab 5	Lab 4
February 19 th	Winter Term Reading Week – No classes	
February 26 th	Lab 6	Lab 5
March 5 th	Lab 7	Lab 6
March 12 th	Lab 8 Preparation <i>Free Lab Period</i>	Lab 7
March 19 th	Lab 8	Oral Presentations
March 26 th	Lab 8	Oral Presentations ⁺⁺

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL: The last day to withdraw without academic penalty from this course is **Wednesday, March 14, 2018**.

**You must formally withdraw from a course. If you simply stop going to classes, you may receive an “F” on your transcript and loss of tuition credit.

Other Important Dates:

- Reading Week is **February 19 to 23, 2018** (no classes).
- University is closed on **Monday, February 19, 2018** for Louis Riel Day.
- ⁺⁺**March 30, GOOD FRIDAY:** University closed. Classes normally scheduled for this day will be held on **Thursday, April 5, 2018**.