

Master Syllabus
PSY 3213 Research Methods in Psychology
Department of Psychology
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Course Prerequisites and/or Corequisites (if any)

PSY 1012 General Psychology

Course Lecture-Lab-Credit and/or Contact Hours

Lecture Course, 3 credit hours

Students attend lecture twice a week (M, W) and recitation section once a week (F)

Includes Lab? ___ Yes X No

Lab Fee? ___ Yes X No

Special Facility or Equipment Needs

No specified facility or special equipment required; textbooks and other student materials to be specified by instructor.

Students must provide their own scantron forms for course exams.

Recommendations for Teaching Assistants

There are typically three TAs for the course.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles of scientific psychology. Students who complete this course should understand the nature of scientific explanations, factors that threaten the validity and reliability of observations, the limitations of measurement scales, the use of experimental and quasi-experimental designs to test hypotheses, and the proper interpretation of correlational and experimental data. In addition, students will learn how to write research papers according to the current guidelines of the American Psychological Association.

Course Outline of Topics (Sequence & specifics may vary by instructor)

Lecture Outline

- I. The Nature of Scientific Explanations
- II. Searching and Reading the Psychological Literature
- III. Ethics in Psychological Research
- IV. Observation in Psychological Research
- V. Basics of Experimentation
- VI. Validity, Reliability & Measurement
- VII. Experimental Design

- VIII. Multifactor Experiments
- IX. Small-N Experiments
- X. Quasi-Experimental Research
- XI. Interpreting Results
- XII. Writing Research Reports Using APA Style

Recitation Outline

- I. Conduct an experiment
- II. Library Resources
- III. Ethics: APA Guidelines
- IV. Reading journal articles
- V. APA style: General introduction
- VI. APA style: Introduction section
- VII. APA style: Method section
- VIII. APA style: Results and references sections
- IX. APA style: Discussion section and Abstract

Course Learning Objectives

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the following concepts through their performance on course examinations (worth 67% of the final course grade):

1. The nature of scientific explanations
2. Factors that threaten the validity and reliability of observations
3. Limitations of measurement scales
4. Use of experimental and quasi-experimental designs to test hypotheses
5. Proper interpretation of correlational and experimental data

Students will demonstrate their skills in writing according to the current guidelines of the American Psychological Association through their writing of a research report (worth 33% of the final course grade).

Rubric for Grading Research Papers

<u>Paper Section</u>	<u>Points</u>
Title Page	5
Abstract	10
Introduction	20
Method	15

Results	25
Discussion	15
References	10
Total	100