

**Experimental Psychology
EXP 3082
spring 2006**

- Instructor:** James E. Arruda, Ph.D.
- Office Location:** Building 41; Room 232
- Office Phone:** 850-474-2361
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- Office Hours:** Fort Walton Beach: M 7:25 p.m. - 8:25 p.m.;
Pensacola: TR; 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.;
Pensacola: TR 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.;
Pensacola: W 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; or by appointment
- Class Location:** Building 41; Room 134
- Class Day and Time:** TR 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
- Required Texts:** Shaughnessy, J.J., Zechmeister, E.B., & Zechmeister, J.S. (2006). *Research Methods in Psychology* (7th ed). New York, New York. McGraw-Hill.
- American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication Manual* (5th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association
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Description of Course and Course Objectives

In this course a student will explore the scientific method and the experimental research techniques commonly used in psychological research. Fundamental assumptions and principles of scientific observation, research design, and research statistics will be discussed. Ethical issues pertaining to both human and non-human research are also addressed. As a student in this course you will learn to interpret, evaluate, and communicate research findings.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of Experimental Psychology the successful student should be able to:

- describe the critical distinctions between scientific and non-scientific approaches to understanding behavior;
- describe how psychological concepts, constructs, and variables are operationally defined;
- identify the independent and dependent variables of a hypothesis;
- select an appropriate research methodology to test a variety of hypotheses and predictions;

- perform appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical analyses to obtain valid research results;
- describe and to adhere to ethical standards for conducting psychological research.

Prerequisites

A student must first successfully complete PSY 2012, and STA 2023.

Corequisite

A student must also be enrolled in EXP 3082L.

Exams

As can be seen on the tentative course syllabus, you will be expected to take five in-class examinations. Each examination will last no longer than 75 minutes and will be graded on a common 0% - 100% scale. The fifth examination for this course will be administered during the final examination period and will cover only those chapters specified on the syllabus. Each examination will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions based upon course material covered (i.e., lecture and book). The five examinations will be worth 85% of your final course grade.

Make-up exams are given on an individual basis. In order to qualify for taking a make-up exam you must **a)** notify me within 24 hours of the event, **b)** have a documented, valid reason (i.e., illness, family emergency, etc.), and **c)** schedule the make-up examination at the time of my notification. **Failure to comply with a, b, or c will result in a grade of zero for the examination that was missed—there will be no exceptions!**

Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend each regularly scheduled class meeting. Class attendance will be graded on a common 0% to 100% scale, with perfect attendance resulting in class attendance score of 100%. Attendance will be worth 15% of your final course grade.

Expectations for Academic Conduct/Plagiarism Policy—Honor System

As a student of The University of West Florida, it is expected that you abide by the following pledge:

As members of the University of West Florida, we commit ourselves to honesty. As we strive for excellence in performance, integrity—personal and institutional—is our most precious asset. Honesty in our academic work is vital, and we will not knowingly act in ways that erode that integrity. Accordingly, we pledge not to cheat, nor to tolerate cheating, nor to plagiarize the work of others. We pledge to share community resources in ways that are responsible and that comply with established policies of fairness. Cooperation and competition are means to high achievement and are encouraged. Indeed, cooperation is expected unless our directive is to individual performance. We will compete constructively and professionally for the purpose of stimulating high performance standards. Finally, we accept adherence to this set of expectations

for academic conduct as a condition of membership in the UWF academic community, as defined in the *UWF Student Handbook*: <http://www.uwf.edu/uwfmain/stuHandbk/>.

Additional Assistance

Students with special needs who require specific examination-related or other course-related accommodations should contact Barbara Fitzpatrick, Director of Disabled Student Services (DSS), dss@uwf.edu, (850) 474-2387. DSS will provide the student with a letter for the instructor that will specify any recommended accommodations.

Electronic Submission of Assignments

Students bear sole responsibility for ensuring that papers or assignments submitted electronically are received in a timely manner and in the electronic format(s) specified by me. Students are therefore obliged to have their e-mail client issue a receipt verifying that the document has been received. Students are also strongly advised to retain a copy of the dated submission on a separate disk. I will acknowledge receipt of the assignment if I receive it.

Cell Phone and Pager Use

Out of courtesy for all those participating in the learning experience, all cell phones and pagers must be turned off before entering any classroom or laboratory event.

Grading

Because your final grade is dependent upon how well you master material presented during lecture, your final course grade will be a composite of your five examination grades and your class participation grade. Your final course grade will be calculated using the formula presented below.

$$\text{Course Grade} = (.17)\text{Exam I} + (.17)\text{Exam II} + (.17)\text{Exam III} + (.17)\text{Exam IV} + (.17)\text{Exam V} + (.15)\text{Attendance}$$

Your final letter grade will be assigned as follows:

A	≥93%
A-	90% to 92%
B+	87% to 89%
B	83% to 86%
B-	80% to 82%
C+	77% to 79%
C	73% to 76%
C-	70% to 72%
D+	67% to 69%
D	60% to 66%
F	≤59%

**Tentative Course Syllabus
Experimental (EXP) 3082**

Month	Day	Date	Topic	Chapter (Shaughnessy)	Chapter (PowerPoint)
January	T	10	Introduction	1	
	R	12	Ethical Issues in the Conduct of Psychological Research	3	
	T	17	The Scientific Method	2	
	R	19		2	
	T	24	Research in Behavioral Sciences		1
	R	26	Measures of Central Tendency and Variability		3
February	T	31			3
	R	2	Exam I	1, 2, 3	1, 3
	T	7	Observation	4	
	R	9	Independent Groups Design	7	
	T	14		7	
	R	16	One-Way Between Subjects ANOVA		12
	T	21			12
	R	23	Exam II	4, 7	12
March	T	28	Repeated Measures Designs	8	
	R	2		8	
	T	7	One-Way Repeated Measures ANOVA		13
	R	9			13
	T	14	Exam III	8	13
	R	16	SEPA		
	T	21	Spring Vacation		
	R	23	Spring Vacation		
	T	28	Complex Designs	9	
	R	30		9	
April	T	4		9	
	R	6	Two-Way Between Subjects ANOVA		17
	T	11			17
	R	13	Exam IV	9	17

	T	18	Single-Case Designs and Small-n Research	10
	R	20		10
	T	25	Survey Research	5
	R	27		5
May	R	4	Final Exam (Examination V: 8:00 am – 10:30 am)	5, 11