NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course Canvas site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus.

Course Name: Research Methods in Psychology
Course Number: Psychology 301
Credits: 4 credits — this course combines approximately 120 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 4 credits
Instructor: Rachel Dilts, Ph.D.
Instructor email: rachel.dilts@oregonstate.edu

Lab Instructor
TBA
Please direct any initial questions pertaining to the lab section of the class to the lab instructor.

Course Description
Study of scientific methodology in psychology, including experimental and observational techniques. Topics include problem identification and hypothesis formation, research design, application of statistics, collection and interpretation of data, computer usage, and research report writing. Lec/lab. PREREQS: (PSY 201 and PSY 202 and [ST 211 or ST 351 or ST 351H])

Communication
Please post all course-related questions in the General Discussion Forum so that the whole class may benefit from our conversation. Please email your instructor for matters of a personal nature. The instructor will reply to course-related questions and email within 24-48 hours.

Technical Assistance
If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

Learning Resources
NOTE: For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the OSU Bookstore website (http://osubeaverstore.com/Academics/). Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.

Required Text:

ZAPS: The Norton Psychology Labs. This is a workbook and database set of resources that will allow you to collect data from our class and participate in the data collection of fellow students.

Highly Recommended:

Website Resources
http://www.apa.org/
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

Canvas
This course will be delivered via Canvas where you will interact with your classmates and with your instructor. Within the course Canvas site you will access the learning materials, such as the syllabus, class discussions, assignments, projects, and quizzes. To preview how an online course works, visit the Ecampus Course Demo. For technical assistance, please visit Ecampus Technical Help.

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes
1. Analyze and synthesize information from psychological research articles accurately and objectively. (Final Paper)
2. Apply learned course vocabulary and concepts to solve new research design challenges. (Discussion Board)
3. Read and write about research articles accurately, being able to abstract their essential ideas and understand their implications. (Final Paper)
4. Write clearly, concisely, and objectively using APA format, the standard of our field. (Final Paper)
5. Apply basic data collection and analysis methods. (Lab Homework)
6. Identify and recall research methods terms, vocabulary and scenarios. (Midterm Exams)

Evaluation of Student Performance
- Discussions (8 weeks, 10 points each) – 80 points
- Lab Assignments (9; 10 points each) – 90 points
- Midterm 1 (week six) – 50 points
- Final Research Project Paper (week ten) – 100 points
- Poster Session (week ten) – 20 points
- Midterm 2 (week eleven) – 50 points
- Total – 390 points

Online Discussions:
In order to reinforce course concepts and theories, applied online discussions will be integrated into the course mix. Each week, you will participate in threaded discussions. You are required to
post 3 times per week to the discussion questions posted to receive your full weekly points. You must make one initial post to each of the DQ’s and one peer response to any another student post. This helps you to engage further in the material and with others in class. A post or response must show meaningful thought and not just “I agree” in order to count. One post must be completed by Wed 11:59pm to get the discussions going and the rest are due by Sunday 11:59pm.

**Final Research Project (10-12 pages):**

**Topics and Participants**
You choose the specific topic for your research project from those available in the ZAPS Psychology Lab. These studies can all be administered on-line, so no matter where we are located, everyone can participate both as a study participate and a study designer/administrator. All participants will be members of this class; each student will participate in at least two studies to provide data for fellow class members, and each individual project will use data collected from class members. The exact number of studies students need to participate in will be determined with reference to final course enrollment, and could be more than two. Failure to participate in the data collection of others will result in your own data being unavailable; without data to analyze and report, failing this class is a certainty.

**Poster Session:**
The final poster session will give everyone a chance to present their project to the class and view the work of your colleagues. You will be required to provide appropriate feedback on at least 5 of the available posters in a dedicated Canvas discussion thread for the poster session in week 10, in addition to posting your own. This takes place of the discussion board for week ten.

**Midterm Proctored Only Exams:**
Two exams will take place in this course. They are not cumulative in nature, and will consist of 50 multiple choice questions reviewing text material. These will be taken in a proctored testing environment during the course. They are multiple choice and you do have the full 110 minute time period to complete them. They are based on the readings and discussions for all weeks up to and including the week of the exam.

For proctored examinations, your testing session must be supervised by an approved proctor; photo identification is required at the time of the test. It will be your responsibility to arrange for a proctor; you must then submit the proctor information to me for acceptance and approval. For information on acceptable proctors and proctor guidelines, see http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/proctoring/default.htm. The proctor request form is located at http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/forms/examrequest.aspx. If you have problems, please email Ecampus Testing or call during business hours: 800-667-1465 or 541-737-9204.

**Lab assignments:**
These are intended to help you prepare for your final paper. The purpose of the assignments is for you to have an opportunity to get feedback as you proceed through the steps of your research project. In order to receive a grade on your final project, ALL prior paper assignments must be turned in and completed satisfactorily.

**Lab Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC(S)</th>
<th>HOMEWORK DUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Choosing a research topic</td>
<td>Assignment 1 (Using the Library)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Review of research terminology, PsycNET, references</td>
<td>Assignment 2 (Topic selection and target articles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Informed consent, debriefing, research design</td>
<td>Assignment 3 (Literature review, references, and hypothesis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Materials, method</td>
<td>Assignment 4 (Informed consent, debrief, and research design)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Introduction, title page, return of the references</td>
<td>Assignment 5 (Materials &amp; Method)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Data! Statistics!</td>
<td>Assignment 6 (Title page, introduction, references)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Interpreting results, discussion, abstract, conduct data analyses!</td>
<td>Assignment 7 (Data analysis plan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Rough drafts, figures and tables</td>
<td>Assignment 8 (Results and discussion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Review, creating posters</td>
<td>Assignment 9 (Abstract and full draft)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Poster session</td>
<td>Poster</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Course Schedule Below:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Scientific Method, Causality, Stages of Research (Ch 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Avoiding Plagiarism, Hypotheses, Variables, Validity Types (Ch 2, 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Research Ethics, Measurement Concepts (Ch 3, 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Basic Experiments, Confounds (Ch 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Basic Experiments &amp; Threats to Validity (Ch 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Proctored Midterm Exam 1 (Ch 1- 5, 8, 9) Date TBA (assigned reading to date from weeks one through five) Conducting Experiments, Reporting Statistics (No Reading)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Factorial Designs (Ch 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Generalization of Data (Ch 14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Quasi-Experimental Designs (Ch 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Required Poster Session; FINAL PAPERS DUE Friday of Week Ten by 11:59pm (Review all Chapters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Proctored Cumulative Final Exam (Covering All Weeks) Date Sunday through Thursday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Policies

Discussion Participation
Students are expected to participate in all graded discussions. While there is great flexibility in online courses, this is not a self-paced course. You will need to participate in our discussions on at least two different days each week, with your first post due no later than Wednesday evening, and your second and third posts due by the end of each week.

Proctored Exams
This course requires that you take exams under the supervision of an approved proctor. Proctoring guidelines and registration for proctored exams are available online through the Ecampus testing and proctoring website. It is important to submit your proctoring request as early as possible to avoid delays.

Makeup Exams
Makeup exams will be given only for missed exams excused in advance by the instructor. Excused absences will not be given for airline reservations, routine illness (colds, flu, stomach aches), or other common ailments. Excused absences will generally not be given after the absence has occurred, except under very unusual circumstances.

Exam Time Limits
Exams in this class are timed; if you exceed the time limit on an exam, you will be assessed a penalty of 10% for every five minute interval beyond the time limit.

Incomplete
Incomplete (I) grades will be granted only in emergency cases (usually only for a death in the family, major illness or injury, or birth of your child), and if the student has turned in 80% of the points possible (in other words, usually everything but the final paper). If you are having any difficulty that might prevent you completing the coursework, please don’t wait until the end of the term; let me know right away.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS) with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Expectations for Student Conduct
Student conduct is governed by the university’s policies, as explained in the Office of Student Conduct: Information and Regulations.

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty. For further information, visit Avoiding Academic Dishonesty, or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

OAR 576-015-0020 (2) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty:
a) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty is defined as an act of deception in which a Student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another.

b) It includes:

(i) CHEATING - use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids, or an act of deceit by which a Student attempts to misrepresent mastery of academic effort or information. This includes but is not limited to unauthorized copying or collaboration on a test or assignment, using prohibited materials and texts, any misuse of an electronic device, or using any deceptive means to gain academic credit.

(ii) FABRICATION - falsification or invention of any information including but not limited to falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.

(iii) ASSISTING - helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes but is not limited to paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, changing someone's grades or academic records, taking a test/doing an assignment for someone else by any means, including misuse of an electronic device. It is a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an educational assignment to another person (ORS 165.114).

(iv) TAMPERING - altering or interfering with evaluation instruments or documents.

(v) PLAGIARISM - representing the words or ideas of another person or presenting someone else's words, ideas, artistry or data as one's own, or using one's own previously submitted work. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to copying another person's work (including unpublished material) without appropriate referencing, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project and then submitting it as one's own.

c) Academic Dishonesty cases are handled initially by the academic units, following the process outlined in the University's Academic Dishonesty Report Form, and will also be referred to SCCS for action under these rules.

**Conduct in this Online Classroom**
Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the [university's regulations regarding civility](#).

**Tutoring**
NetTutor is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours. Access NetTutor from within your Canvas class by clicking on the Tools button in your course menu.

**OSU Student Evaluation of Teaching**
Course evaluation results are extremely important and are used to help me improve this course and the learning experience of future students. Results from the 19 multiple choice questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and department heads. Student comments on the open-ended questions are compiled and confidentially forwarded to each instructor, per
OSU procedures. The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. You will log in to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.