



EXPERIMENTAL METHODS & STATISTICS (PSY 200)

Course Syllabus — Fall 2013

Course information:

When: Fall Semester, 2013

Lecture: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10:30-11:30am

Labs: Tuesdays, 1-2:30pm
Thursdays, 1-2:30pm

*please attend only the lab you are assigned to;
labs are taught by Nick Jones

Where: **Lecture:** Chase 104 (Auditorium)
Labs: KINSC H204 (Hilles computer lab)

Instructor: Prof. Benjamin Le, Ph.D.

Office: Sharpless 411B
Office hours: Mondays 4:15-5pm; Tuesdays 3-4pm, Fridays 11:30am-noon; and by appointment
e-mail: ble@haverford.edu

Lab Instructor: Nick Jones, M.S.

Office: Sharpless 402
Office hours: Wednesday 2:30-4:pm; Thursdays 9:30-11am; and by appointment
e-mail: njones1@haverford.edu

Required Text: Pelham, B. W., & Blanton, H. (2013). *Conducting research in psychology: Measuring the weight of smoke* (4th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Optional Text: Kirkpatrick, L. A., & Feeney, B. C. (2011). *A simple guide to IBM SPSS for versions 18.0 & 19.0*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Please note that many of the course readings are (free) online resources rather than from a traditional textbook. If you prefer to purchase a textbook, please ask Prof. Le for suggestions. A textbook is also on reserve at the Science Library.

Web Page & Course Schedule: <http://www.benjaminle.com/200>

Course description and objectives:

This course serves as an introduction to the experimental method and its use in the study of behavior, coupled with an in-depth treatment of statistics as applied to psychological research. Statistical topics include principles of probability, central tendency, variability, hypothesis testing, and statistical inference. Lab exercises focus on designing experiments, collecting data, applying statistical methods (using SPSS), and presenting data through written assignments.

By the end of the semester you should be able to design both experimental and questionnaire studies, think critically about psychological methodologies, understand and use (with SPSS) the basic statistical tests frequently employed by psychologists, and write a research report in APA style.

Schedule and Topics:

The course schedule, including the topics, readings, and timing of assignments is available on the course website: <http://www.benjaminle.com/200>

Grading & Assignment Information:

Grades will be determined from the following factors:

% of Total Grade	
1. Exam 1	25.0%
2. Exam 2	30.0%
3. Final Paper	22.5%
4. Homework*	22.5%
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TOTAL	100%

*Homework includes:

- 5 Problem Sets
- SPSS exercises and lab activities

Grading Scale: Grades will be assigned strictly adhering to the following scale:

94.00% and above	=	A / 4.0	73.00% - 76.99%	=	C / 2.0
90.00% - 93.99%	=	A- / 3.7	70.00% - 72.99%	=	C- / 1.7
87.00% - 89.99%	=	B+ / 3.3	67.00% - 69.99%	=	D+ / 1.3
83.00% - 86.99%	=	B / 3.0	60.00% - 66.99%	=	D / 1.0
80.00% - 82.99%	=	B- / 2.7	59.99% and below	=	F / 0.0
77.00% - 79.99%	=	C+ / 2.3			

Extra Credit: Extra credit will not be offered.

Other Points of Importance:

Attendance and Absence Policy: Class attendance and participation is expected. Students are responsible for all announcements made in class, whether they are present or not. If you must miss a class, please let me know (via e-mail). Course grades for students missing an unacceptable number of class meetings or labs may be adjusted at my discretion.

You are expected to complete assignments (e.g., homework, final paper) in a timely manner, and to meet the deadlines outlined in the course schedule or announced in class. If you cannot complete assignments on time because of an unforeseen occurrence (e.g., illness, family emergency etc.), or because of a school-related conflict (e.g., conflict with other course assignments or activities), please contact me immediately. Acceptance of late work will be at my discretion, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Typically, I am flexible in working with students who discuss absences/conflicts with me **in advance**, however I understand this isn't always possible.

Grade Changes / Regrade Procedure: All grade disputes are to be made in writing (please type). We will not discuss or argue regrades in person. All requests for regrades must be made within two weeks after the exam or assignment is returned to the class (or within 2 weeks of the start of the following term for the final paper).

When disputing a grade, you should state the dispute and the number of points you feel you should have received for the assignment or exam, and the reason you feel your work or answer is correct (including support from the readings or lecture notes). Please note that when you ask for an exam or assignment to be regraded it may be regraded in its entirety, and there is a possibility of losing points. All requests for regrades should be submitted to me along with the original assignment.

Understanding appropriate sources for citations: For all assignments and exams, the following are considered appropriate and valid sources for citations and references:

- Published journal articles, both in on-line and paper formats.
- Professional handbook chapters and reviews (i.e., edited volumes with chapters written by psychological researchers).
- Academic books (i.e., books written by psychological researchers).

The following are **not to be used** as citations in your work:

- Information found on the internet, unless it is the on-line version of a scientific journal (e.g., accessing an electronic version of a journal on-line is fine). **This includes Wikipedia and/or any other webpages.**
- Any undergraduate-level textbook.

In short, you should always be working with the primary literature written by psychological researchers. If you have questions about a particular source, please ask.

A few of other important points:

- *Buy a stapler...* Unstapled papers will not be accepted (or will have their grades adjusted). This includes paper clips, folded corners, etc. In short, make sure your papers are permanently secured with a staple or other such binding. And if your stapler won't handle the number of pages you're trying to staple, use a bigger stapler.
- *Silence your phones,* and put them away during class. Please do not text or otherwise fiddle with your electronic devices in class.
- *I will not be posting my lectures on-line* for a couple of reasons. First, I would like you to come to class. Second, active learning enhances retention. The act of writing down lecture material in your own words will help you remember it better.
- *Audio/videotaping of lectures is not permitted* without my consent. Please ask if you need to record the class. Unauthorized recording is a violation of Haverford's Honor Code.
- *Do not submit papers or assignments electronically* (i.e., don't e-mail me with your papers attached). Spam filters and other such technological goof-ups make e-mailing papers problematic.

Accommodating student needs/disabilities: Students who think they may need accommodations in this course because of the impact of a disability are encouraged to meet with me privately early in the semester. Students should also contact Rick Webb, Coordinator, Office of Disabilities Services (rwebb@haverford.edu, 610-896-1290) to verify their eligibility for reasonable accommodations as soon as possible. Early contact will help to avoid unnecessary inconvenience and delays.

A few words about plagiarism and academic dishonesty: I tend to have a relaxed and laid back teaching style, but do not mistake this for a lack of rigor. I take plagiarism and academic integrity very seriously. Plagiarism involves your use of another person's work, words, or ideas without properly crediting them. This includes copying the work from another student's paper or exam, as well as using direct quotes from a source, such as your textbook or a journal article, without citing the author. Simply rewording a sentence or passage from another source without giving credit is also inappropriate. Furthermore, using another person's ideas without a proper citation is considered plagiarism as well. The best way to assure that your work does not plagiarize from another source is to liberally use citations within your work (e.g., be very thorough with your references—we will discuss APA style of references in class) and to ask me if you are ever in doubt.

I feel very strongly about academic dishonesty—it **will not** be tolerated. Do your own work, and know and follow the Haverford College Honor Code.