

Psychology 302
Research Methods in Psychology
Fall 2016

CRN 11540, section 002; CRN 11289, section 003
4 credit hours

Instructor Information

Name: Tara Collins, Ph.D.
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Teaching Assistant

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Office Hours: T 12:30-1:30pm
W 4:00-5:00pm

Class Meeting Times

Lecture: Tuesday & Thursday 3:30-4:45pm, Kinard 115
CRN 11540, section 002 Lab: Wednesday 9:00-10:50am, Kinard 116
CRN 11289, section 003 Lab: Wednesday 11:00-12:50am, Kinard 116

Required Textbooks and Materials

- Beins, B. C. (2013). Research Methods: A tool for life (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education. ISBN: 9780205899531
 - This book is also available electronically at <http://www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore/research-methods-a-tool-for-life-0205899536>
- American Psychological Association (2001). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 1-4338-0562-6
- You must always come prepared to class with the necessary materials including (but not limited to): stapler, writing utensils, and paper.

Blackboard and Email

Blackboard (<https://bb-winthrop.blackboard.com/>) will be used for announcements as well as for other relevant materials pertaining to the course. Thus, it is recommended that this site as well as your e-mail account be checked on a **daily** basis. Info about Blackboard and university email is available from Information Technology (323-2400; helpdesk@winthrop.edu).

Course Goals

PSYC 302 builds on Winthrop University's distinctive approach to general education. In PSYC 302, students study the scientific methods used in psychological research and develop writing skills appropriate both for the discipline and for other settings. Thus, PSYC 302 helps students continue their progress toward several goals.

University Level Competencies

- **Competency 1:** Winthrop graduates think critically and solve problems.
- **Competency 2:** Winthrop graduates are personally and socially responsible.
- **Competency 3:** Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live.
- **Competency 4:** Winthrop graduates communicate effectively.

Department of Psychology Student Learning Goals

PSYC 302 also addresses several department of psychology student learning goals:

- **Goal 1.** Knowledge Base in Psychology.

- **Goal 2.** Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking.
- **Goal 3.** Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World.
- **Goal 4.** Communication.
- **Goal 5.** Professional Development.

Student Learning Outcomes

The successful student in PSYC 302 will:

- Understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.

Students will be able to:

- o Come up with an idea for a research project
 - o Critically evaluate existing research related to that idea
 - o Design a study to investigate that idea
 - o Conduct that study
 - o Analyze the data
 - o Evaluate and interpret the data
- Students will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes. Students will be able to identify underlying questions, evaluate potential alternative explanations, and design experiments to investigate those questions.
 - Students will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a discipline. Students will be able to use data to evaluate arguments, hypotheses, and theories.
 - Students will demonstrate information competence and the ability to use computers and other technology for many purposes. Students will use computers to search the literature, write papers, prepare a poster to aid in oral presentation of research, and conduct statistical analyses of data.

Writing Requirements

Learning the basics of APA style and technical writing is a central goal of this course. I encourage you all to seek help from as many sources as you can to help improve your written work. I am available during my office hours (and by appointment) to provide you with additional help. Also, the Winthrop University Writing Center is an excellent resource that can help you improve the clarity and power of your writing. The Writing Center is located in 242 Bancroft and offers 30 and 60 minute sessions (they accept walk-ins, but you can call 323-2138 to make an appointment). To get the most out of your session at the Writing Center, have a draft of your paper ready along with a specific question or issue you want to address. They are especially helpful for issues related to developing a thesis, improving flow, and incorporating references into your paper.

This course can be taken in partial fulfillment of the intensive writing requirement at Winthrop. There are several writing assignments culminating in a write-up of a project your group has designed. The writing assignments are discussed in greater detail in the Lab section of the Course Policies, below, and in the Lab Manual posted on Blackboard. Several of the writing assignments will be based on work you completed as part of a group, **but the written paper must always be your own work unless explicitly stated otherwise in the assignment description.** Copying another's work, even if you change a few words, or submitting the group's work as your own, is plagiarism and will result, minimally, in a failing grade for the assignment and may result in a failing grade for the course, as appropriate.

Academic Success Center

Winthrop's Academic Success Center is a free resource for all undergraduate students seeking to perform their best academically. The ASC offers a variety of personalized and structured resources that help students become effective and efficient learners. The services available to students are as follows: peer tutoring, academic skill development (test taking strategies, time management counseling, and study techniques), group and individual study spaces, and academic coaching. The ASC is located in University College on the first floor of Dinkins Hall, Suite 106. Please contact the ASC at 803-323-3929 or success@winthrop.edu. For more information on ASC services, please visit www.winthrop.edu/success.

Use of Turnitin

The issue of digital plagiarism has raised concerns about ethics, student writing experiences, and academic integrity. Winthrop subscribes to a digital plagiarism detection program called Turnitin.com, which may be used to check papers submitted in this course. You may be asked to submit your papers in a digital format so that your paper can be checked against web pages and databases of existing papers. Although you may never have engaged in intentional plagiarism, many students do incorporate sources without citations; this program can alert me to your academic needs. Additional information will be provided regarding the submission of your work to turnitin.

Cell phones and Laptops

Please be respectful and ensure that cell phone ringers are turned off and put away during class. Also, no matter how much you try to hide it, I can see you texting, again, please be respectful. Based on research involving the potential negative impact of laptops on student learning in the classroom, I would prefer for students to not use laptops in class, unless an assignment requires it. However, if you feel you need to use a laptop in class please come speak with me during office hours. Please see the CAS policy found at: <http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/artscience/PolicyForHandHeldTech-April2014.pdf> for more information regarding the appropriate use of electronics.

If you are finding others' use of technology distracting, please inform me of the issue ASAP.

Students with Disabilities/Need of Accommodations for Access

Winthrop University is committed to providing access to education. If you have a condition which may adversely impact your ability to access academics and/or campus life, and you require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Accessibility (OA) at 803-323-3290, or, accessibility@winthrop.edu. Please inform me as early as possible, once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Accessibility.

Student Code of Conduct

As noted in the Student Conduct Code, "Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals." Any form of academic misconduct, including cheating, plagiarism and/or attendance fraud, will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade for the assignment and/ or the entire course as appropriate. You are expected to do your own work and give credit to others as appropriate when you include it in your own work. The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the "Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy" online <http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/studentconduct/StudentHandbook.pdf> and advice for avoiding plagiarism may be found at <http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/writingcenter/centerHandoutAvoidingPlagiarism.pdf>. All students are bound by the Student Conduct Code at Winthrop, which contains information about academic misconduct and may be found at <http://www2.winthrop.edu/public/policy/fullpolicy.aspx?pid=252>

Course Requirements and Grading

Final course grades will depend on following assignments:

Assignment	Points Possible	Points earned	Running total
Research Ideas Assignment	5		/5
Article Search and Summary	10		/15
Group project contracts	10		/25
Introduction Outline	10		/35
Introduction Section	15		/50
Exam 1	100		/150
Proof of IRB training	5		/155
IRB forms first draft	5		/160

Final IRB forms	5		/165
Methods section	15		/180
Exam 2	100		/280
Results section	15		/295
Discussion section	15		/310
Peer review copies	10		/320
Peer reviews due	20		/340
Exam 3	100		/440
Final Paper	100		/540
Final group contract	10		/600
Poster presentation	50		/590
Class participation/attendance	50		/650
Concept Activities from the Textbook (CATs)	50		/700
Final Total	700		/700

Exams

There will be a total of three exams. Each exam will only cover new material, therefore none of the exams will be cumulative per se. However, a great deal of this material in this course builds off of previous concepts, therefore a greater understanding of the earlier material will aid in the understanding of later concepts.

Course project

Your research team of 3- 4 students will conduct a research project on a topic you develop with me. Your team will research the topic, collect the data, and present the findings to your classmates and the department. You will be evaluated on both the poster and on how well you present your work orally. Your group will produce one poster but each member must write his/her own paper. Your group will set your own expectations for one another through a group contract. This contract will be revised throughout the semester as needed. Final grades on projects (i.e., papers and posters) will be partially based on the amount of work each individual contributed to the project. Team members will be given the opportunity at the end of the semester to evaluate each other's contributions to the final project.

Lab

Attendance during each lab is **mandatory**, absence during lab is only acceptable (i.e., will not count against your grade) in **extreme** circumstances for which you have a documented University-approved reason for the absence (e.g., doctor's note). Most of the lab time will be used to work on your group project; therefore, each group member's attendance is essential for the completion of the project. If you have an unexcused absence from lab it will not only affect your attendance grade, but also may result in a deduction of points in your grades on other assignments (e.g., final paper, presentation, and participation).

Part of your final grade will be based on several written assignments and your final project. Written assignments will all relate to the course project your team will conduct and are worth different amounts as listed on the table above. Complete instructions for written assignments are presented in the Lab Manual and must follow the style guides found in the APA Publication Manual. The written assignments are **due to turnitin.com 1 hour before** the beginning of lab or class on the day indicated on the Course Calendar. In addition, to submitting your assignment to turnitin, most assignments will require you to submit hard copies (i.e., printed), which will be due at the beginning of class on the date specified on the schedule. Please see specific assignments for submission instructions. **All written assignments must be your own work, even if you complete the project as part of a group unless specifically noted in the assignment description. Presenting someone else's work, or your group's work, as your own is plagiarism** (see statement above regarding student code of conduct). If you are unsure if a particular situation involves plagiarism or other fraud, please stop by and see me.

Course Participation/ Attendance

Attendance will be taken during every lab and lecture. This course is highly dependent on your interactions with your classmates and me and, thus, attendance is essential to success in the course. In addition to attendance, course participation will be determined by the quality (not only quantity) of your interactions/discussions during the lecture and lab. There will also be in-class assignments during some labs/lectures, your performance on these in-class assignments will also be accounted for in your participation grade.

During each class period, students will receive a grade for that day's participation using the following scale:

- A:** Exceptional
- B:** Exceeds expectations
- C:** Meets expectations
- D:** Meets some expectations
- F:** Fails to meet expectations
- IN:** Incomplete- did not attend class for any reason; arrived 5 or more minutes late without documented University approved excuse; did not/was not able to participate due to lack of preparation

Grades will be determined by:

- Participation in class/lab activities.
- Cell phone use will negatively impact participation (if there is an emergency please discuss it with me).
- Tardiness, for each minute you are late -without University approved documentation- you will lose a letter grade from that day's participation.

Class democratic decision (option will be determined by class vote):

1. Participation final grades will be determined after dropping your two lowest lecture participation grades (note: low lab grades cannot be dropped, as lab is mandatory). Incompletes are considered the lowest grades, followed by F and so on. I recommend that you only use these free drops in situations of sickness or other emergencies, but these do not need to be University approved or documented. Beyond these two free days, all other lecture grades will factor into your grade, no matter the reason for the absence. If you have more than two University approved absences, every single absence from class will need to be documented and you must meet with me during office hours to discuss the situation immediately after your third University approved documented absence.
2. –or- Participation final grades will be calculated using all days. Only University approved absences will be dropped from the grade calculations. Low lab grades cannot be dropped, as lab is mandatory.

Note: Winthrop University policy states that students missing 25% of class meetings or more should be assigned a grade of an F or U. <http://www2.winthrop.edu/public/policy/fullpolicy.aspx?pid=251>
Extended absences, confidential, and/or undocumented University approved absences will need to be registered with the Dean of Students: <http://www.winthrop.edu/student-affairs/default.aspx?id=6331>, they will be able to provide me with documentation if it is deemed a University approved absence.

Attendance will also be used to help me make decisions regarding borderline grades. For example, if you have a borderline grade (i.e., within 0.5% of the next highest grade) and you have near perfect attendance (no more than one class/lab missed) then your grade will be rounded up to the higher grade. In addition, perfect attendance will be rewarded with an additional 3 bonus points that will be added to your final total points.

It is extremely important that you attend each and every lab and lecture. Regular attendance is necessary for you to fully understand the material in class. You will be expected to complete the reading assignments before coming to class. **If you do miss a particular lecture, it is your responsibility to read the relevant chapter(s) covered for that day. I do not share my slides/notes with students, so, if you miss please contact a classmate to get the missed notes.**

PSYC 302 Buddy #1 (name, number, email): _____

PSYC 302 Buddy #2 (name, number, email): _____

Concept Activities from the Textbook (CATs)

Prior to every lecture (excluding Exam days) you will need to complete a Concept Activity from the Textbook (a.k.a., CAT) assignment, these assignments will be used as the basis for lecture and in-class activities.

CATS will be graded using the following scale:

- 100%**- Complete: Clear effort was put into the activity
- 50%**- Partially Complete: Assignment is not fully complete and/or student arrived 1-5 minutes late
- 0%**- No credit: Did not complete assignment or was more than 5 minutes late to class

Failing to complete a CAT will also likely lead to a loss of class participation points for the day, as you typically need the CAT in order to do the in-class assignment.

Class democratic decision (option will be determined by class vote):

1. CAT final grades will be determined after dropping your two lowest CAT grades. I recommend that you only use these free drops in situations of sickness or other emergencies, but these do not need to be University approved or documented. Beyond these two free days, all other missed CATs will factor into your grade, no matter the reason for the absence. If you have more than two University approved absences, every single absence from class will need to be documented and you must meet with me during office hours to discuss the situation immediately after your third University approved documented absence.
2. -or- CAT final grades will be calculated using all CAT grades. Only University approved absences will be dropped from the CAT grade calculations.

Late/Make-up policies

Class participation and CATs

Please see Course Participation/Attendance and CATs sections for specific policies related to late arrival to lecture and/or lab.

Exams and assignments

Late submissions will only be permitted without penalty **if proper documentation of extreme circumstances is provided**. Please review the course schedule and take note of all exam dates and let me know as soon as possible if you foresee a conflict. If circumstances can be foreseen, you must talk to me before the exam date to discuss arrangements, please contact me regarding such conflicts ASAP and no later than one week before the scheduled exam. If you do happen to miss an exam or an assignment due date you must contact me within 24 hours to discuss the missed assignment. It is your responsibility to contact me to schedule a time to make-up the exam (only if you have documentation for your absence). Make-up exams must be taken within one week of the missed exam.

In general, illness, technological, or any other issues are not valid excuses for missing an online submission, unless explicitly stated in your documentation. In general, no assignments will be accepted via e-mail. **All assignments will be due at the specific times and dates mentioned on assignment and/or on the course schedule.**

Late policy : If you arrive to class/lab late on a day when an assignment is due or submit to turnitin after the due date, your grade will be penalized. If you arrive or submit 1-10 minutes late, 10% (i.e., a letter grade) of the possible points will be deducted from your earned points. If you are between 11 minutes to 24 hours late you will receive a 20 % deduction (i.e., two letter grades). For each additional 24 hours (including weekends) your submission is late, you will be deducted an additional 10% of the possible points. This policy applies to both online and in person submissions.

Here are some late assignment scenarios:

- Alfred submits to turnitin 1 minute late (-10%) and arrives to class 5 minutes late (-10%). For a total penalty of 20% (i.e., two letter grades). He earned an A for his quality writing, but due to the penalties associated with his poor time management, he receives a C.
- Princess submits her paper in class on time. However, she remembers 2 days later that she forgot to submit to turnitin, so she submits online 2 days (~45 hours) late. Her final grade was deducted 20%.
- Hank submitted his assignment on time to turnitin, but forgot to print a hard copy. The hardcopy paper was due on Thursday, so he has to wait to bring the hardcopy to class with him on Monday (as there is no way to turn it in over the weekend). Hank earned a B (82%) for his work, however, since the hard copy was 4 days late, his grade is deducted 40% and receives a failing grade (42%).
- After submitting her paper to turnitin on time, Walter gets in a car accident on her way to class (don't worry she's OK!). She has her police report documenting the accident and shows it to her professor and turns in the paper when she arrives in class. She earned an A and was not deducted any points because she provided documentation of her extreme circumstance! 😊

The moral of these stories is simple, turn everything in on time! If an extreme circumstance arises, just make sure to have documentation and follow the instructions described above.

Important note: In order to maintain fairness across all students, no exceptions will be made to any of the policies outlined in this syllabus. If you ask me for an exception, I will just refer you back to this document.

Final Letter Grades

Final letter grades will be determined as follows:

<u>Grade earned</u>	<u>Minimum Percentage</u>	<u>Minimum Points needed</u>
A	93.50%	654.5
A-	90.00%	630
B+	86.50%	605.5
B	83.50%	584.5
B-	80.00%	560
C+	76.50%	535.5
C	73.50%	514.5
C-	70.00%	490
D+	66.50%	465.5
D	63.50%	444.5
D-	60.00%	420
F	59.9% and below	419.9 and below

How to Succeed in this Class

Read the syllabus, assignments, emails, etc. very closely. If something is unclear at first, read it a few more times, if it is still not clear, then **ask questions**. Chances are if something is still unclear to you at that point, it is probably unclear to others. I will not know that it is not clear unless you ask. **Visit office hours** show up at any time during my or the TAs hours or make an appointment, you can visit for any reason. **Plan ahead** always expect the unexpected and give yourself some cushion room, life happens, you do not want unexpected events to jeopardize your ability to succeed. **Attend regularly** and **complete all assignments on time** save any absences/free misses for true emergencies. **Use the resources** available to you (e.g., writing center, academic success center), you are already paying for many of these resources through your tuition, get your money's worth!

Syllabus Change Policy

If we need to make modifications to the syllabus, I will post them on Blackboard and announce them in class.

Tentative Course Schedule

Friday, August 26th – Last day to add/drop.

Friday, October 21st – Last day to drop a course (W will be awarded). S/U deadline.

Day	Date	CAT/ Lab #	Topic	Reading Assignment	Assignment Due
Tuesday	23-Aug	1	Welcome, Introduction, Overview		
Wednesday	24-Aug	Lab 1	Introduction and Research Ideas		
Thursday	25-Aug	2	Psychology, Science, and Life	Chapter 1	CAT 2- HC
Tuesday	30-Aug	3	Psychology, Science, and Life		CAT 3 - HC
Wednesday	31-Aug	Lab 2	Searching the Literature; Writing; Project Design		Research Ideas Assignment- HC Group Contract - CIC & DB
Thursday	1-Sep	4	Planning Research: Generating a Question	Chapter 3	CAT 4 - HC
Tuesday	6-Sep	5	Planning Research: Generating a Question		CAT 5- HC
Wednesday	7-Sep	Lab 3	Writing an Introduction I; Project Design		Article Summary – HC & TII Revised Group Contract- CIC & DB
Thursday	8-Sep	6	Practical Issues in Planning Your Research	Chapter 4	CAT 6 - HC
Tuesday	13-Sep	7	Measurement and Sampling	Chapter 5	CAT 7- HC
Wednesday	14-Sep	Lab 4	Writing an Introduction II		Introduction Outline - HC Revised Group Contract - CIC & DB
Thursday	15-Sep	8	Measurement and Sampling		CAT 8- HC
Tuesday	20-Sep	9	Measurement and Sampling		CAT 9- HC
Wednesday	21-Sep	Lab 5	Preparing Study Materials		Introduction Section- HC & TII Revised Group Contract- CIC & DB
Thursday	22-Sep	10	Ethics in Research	Chapter 2	CAT 10- HC
Tuesday	27-Sep	11	Exam 1		
Wednesday	28-Sep	Lab 6	Ethics; Writing an IRB Request		Proof of IRB Training- HC IRB Forms First Draft- HC & DB Revised Group Contract - CIC & DB
Thursday	29-Sep	12	Principles of Survey Research	Chapter 10	CAT 12 - HC <i>Commitment to SEPA</i>
Tuesday	4-Oct	13	The Correlational Research Strategy	Chapter 11	CAT 13- HC <i>SEPA paperwork due</i>
Wednesday	5-Oct	Lab 7	Final IRB proposal		Final IRB Forms – HC & DB Revised Group Contract - CIC & DB
Thursday	6-Oct	14	The Correlational Research Strategy		CAT 14- HC <i>SC Voter registration Deadline- October 8th</i>
Tuesday	11-Oct	15	Experimental Research	Chapter 6	CAT 15- HC
Wednesday	12-Oct	Lab 8	Data collection Writing Methods Section		Revised Group Contract - CIC & DB
Thursday	13-Oct	16	Experimental Research	Chapter 7	CAT 16- HC
Tuesday	18-Oct	17	Experimental Research		CAT 17- HC
Wednesday	19-Oct	Lab 9	Data Entry		Methods Section – HC & TII Revised Group Contract- CIC & DB
Thursday	20-Oct	18	Exam 2		
Tuesday	25-Oct	19	Statistical Evaluation of Data	Appendix B	CAT 19 - HC
Wednesday	26-Oct	Lab 10	Analyzing Data		Revised Group Contract- CIC & DB
Thursday	27-Oct	20	Statistical Evaluation of Data		CAT 20- HC
Tuesday	1-Nov	21	Non-experiments and Quasi-Experimental Strategies	Chapter 9	CAT 21- HC <i>SEPA abstract due- EMAIL</i>
Wednesday	2-Nov	Lab 11	Writing a Results Section		Revised Group Contract- CIC & DB
Thursday	3-Nov	22	Non-experiments and Quasi-Experimental Strategies		CAT 22- HC

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>CAT/ Lab #</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>	<u>Assignment Due</u>
Tuesday	8-Nov	---	Election Day! No Class		GO VOTE!
Wednesday	9-Nov	Lab 12	Writing a Discussion Section		Results Section- HC & TII Revised Group Contract- CIC & DB
Thursday	10-Nov	23	Observational Research Approaches	Chapter 12	CAT 23- HC <i>Revised SEPA abstract due- EMAIL</i>
Tuesday	15-Nov	24	Observational Research Approaches		CAT 24- HC
Wednesday	16-Nov	Lab 13	Guidelines for Poster and Poster Presentations		Discussion Section – HC & TII Revised Group Contract- CIC & DB <i>SEPA abstract submission</i>
Thursday	17-Nov	25	Factorial Designs	Chapter 8	CAT 25- HC
Tuesday	22-Nov	26	Factorial Designs		CAT 26- HC Turn in 2 Paper Copies of Full Draft for Peer Review – 2x HC
Wednesday	23-Nov	--	NO CLASS- THANKSGIVING BREAK!		
Thursday	24-Nov	--	NO CLASS- THANKSGIVING BREAK!		
Tuesday	29-Nov	27	Single Subject Designs	Chapters 13	CAT 27- HC
Wednesday	30-Nov	Lab 14	Work on Project		Peer Reviews Due Final Group Contract - CIC & DB
Thursday	1-Dec	28	Exam 3		
Friday	9-Dec		3:00pm Final Exam Final exam (oral presentations will be given in lieu of an exam)		Final Poster Presentation- DB Final Papers due- HC & TII

Note

HC = Hard copy due at beginning of class/lab

TII = submit electronic copy to turnitin.com no later than 1 hour before class/lab

CIC = assignment will be completed during class/lab period and will be due at the end of the class/lab

DB = be sure to save a copy in your group's drobox folder prior to the start of class/lab

Note about SEPA opportunity

All students have the opportunity to present their research project from this class at the SEPA conference in Atlanta, GA March 8 – 11, 2017. Students interested in this opportunity must make a commitment to enroll in PSYC 471 with Dr. Collins in Spring 2017 semester and must make this commitment no later than the date indicated on the course schedule. Decisions to or not to go to the SEPA conference will in no way affect your 302 grade.

Italicized SEPA due dates on calendar only apply to students committed to going to the SEPA conference.