

Advanced Experimental Psychology with Lab – FIU – Department of Psychology  
EXP4005 (U01 – Monday Lecture) & EXP4005L (U01 – Wednesday Lab/U02 – Friday Lab)

PREREQUISITES and COREQUISITE

You **must** have already taken Research Methods (PSY3213) and Statistics (STA3123).  
You **must** be co-registered for the lecture (EXP4005) and the lab (EXP4005L) with **Dr. Nelson**.

CLASS MEETINGS – LECTURE

U01: Monday 11:00 – 12:50 pm (ZEB 110)  
\*Everyone attends\*

CLASS MEETINGS – LAB

U01: Wednesday 1:00 – 3:50 pm (GC 273A)  
U02: Friday 1:00 – 3:50 pm (GC 273A)

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Eliza Nelson  
Office Hours: Mon 1:30-4:00 pm  
or by appointment (DM 276)  
Email: elnelson@fiu.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANT/WIKIPEDIA CONTACT

Jessica Weber  
Office Hours: Tue/Fri 9:00 – 10:00 am  
or by appointment (DM 269F)  
Email: jwebe002@fiu.edu

Required textbooks:

Experimental Psychology: A Case Approach by MacLin and Solso 8<sup>th</sup> Edition  
ISBN-10: 0205410286 | ISBN-13: 978-0205410286

APA Publication Manual 6<sup>th</sup> Edition  
ISBN-10: 1433805618 | ISBN-13: 978-1433805615

You can rent, purchase used, or purchase new books through Amazon.com. If you are considering one of these online options, please think about linking through the website <http://www.asp.org>. A portion of your purchase goes to support primate conservation.

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**What is this course about?**

This course is about how we study ‘xyz’ in psychology. How does information go from first an idea to data collection to a journal article to a textbook or the public domain? We will spend time unpacking this process and writing for different audiences.

Our focus is on *how* we know (methods), not *what* we know, in psychological science. Sometimes we’ll use examples from human studies that you may be familiar with, but other times we’ll discuss cases from nonhuman studies that may be unfamiliar to you. You will learn about the various tools psychologists use to study the mind and behavior, and you will apply these tools to real data, some of which you will collect yourself. The lab includes a field trip to Monkey Jungle as part of a semester-long research project.

The main goals of the course are:

- (1) To help you become a *critical consumer* of psychology [Interpret data independently]
- (2) To help you become a *capable contributor* to psychology [Write effectively]

### **How can I do well in this course?**

- (1) Come to lecture and lab

You will earn two separate grades: one for lecture and one for lab. **If you don't attend both, you will inevitably do poorly.** Some assignments are based on in-class individual or group work. These cannot be made up unless you have an excused absence. If you know ahead of time, let me know ahead of time. No one can anticipate an emergency. Come to me sooner rather than later when issues arise. See me if you have a disability.

- (2) Be active and ask questions

If you don't understand something, please ask! In all likelihood you are not the only one. This course is meant to challenge you. You will work hard and hopefully enjoy the class. No assignment is meant to be merely "busy-work". Our goal is to work as a team and apply the methods we're studying to real-world examples. By the end of the course, you will have written and edited your own publication based on data you collected. With your peers, you will have also improved an article on Wikipedia, helping to make psychology accessible, reliable, and of course interesting to a worldwide audience.

- (3) Be prepared to put in effort

This course is writing-intensive. We will write, rewrite, and rewrite for many audiences. We will spend a great deal of time reviewing each other's work in lecture and in lab. This is not an exercise for me to torment you, or for you to torment others. Peer review is a necessary and important part of science. Be prepared to critically comment on others' work and to receive constructive comments on your own work. You will be a better writer for this experience, and writing is a highly desirable and marketable skill.

Plagiarism is a serious offense. Don't do it. If you are unsure what counts as plagiarism, ask me. You can also check the University's policies online or in your student handbook. Any instance of plagiarism or academic misconduct will be reported to the University.

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### **How are my final grades calculated?**

Divide the number of points you earned by 500 to determine your grades. See below. You are permitted to drop your lowest grade (or skip) 1 lecture quiz and 1 lab exercise. There is no extra credit available for this course, so plan accordingly. You will be able to track your grades throughout the semester on Blackboard.

Letter Grade Conversion

A: 94-100%	A-: 90-93%	B+: 87-89%	B: 83-86%	B-: 80-82%	
C+: 77-79%	C: 73-76%	C-: 70-72%	D+: 67-69%	D: 60-66	F: 59 & below

Lecture

Reading responses	10%	50 points
5 of 6 quizzes	40%	40 points each x 5 = 200 points
Individual Publication	50%	<u>250 points</u>
		Total = 500 points

Lab

Data collection field trip	10%	50 points
5 of 6 lab exercises	40%	40 points each x 5 = 200 points
Wikipedia Group Project	50%	<u>250 points</u>
		Total = 500 points

**What is important to know about the assignments?**

There are **6 quizzes** given during lecture. You can drop one quiz without reason. You do not need to tell me why. Or you can take all of the quizzes and drop your lowest score. If you miss more than one quiz, you will be asked to provide documentation of an excused absence in order to be allowed to complete an alternative assignment. All of the material for the quizzes comes from the Maclin & Solso text (chapters on course schedule).

There are **3 reading responses** due. You'll find the questions for each assignment at the end of the assigned chapter in the Maclin & Solso text. Your response must be typewritten. Provide a 1-2 sentence answer per question (unless otherwise indicated).

There are **three drafts due** for the publication assignment. Failure to bring sufficient copies of your paper to class on peer review days will result in your forfeiting all of your points for participating in the peer review process. In addition, late papers will be penalized 10 points per day until turned in. The final assignment will be considered late until all of your materials have been turned in as a hard copy and on Turnitin.

The **field trip is scheduled during lab time**. The group will meet at Monkey Jungle 30 minutes after the start of class time and will end 30 minutes before the end of class time to accommodate travel. If you cannot make it because of other commitments, you have the option of completing the field trip exercise on the weekend following the lab time. If you choose this option, you will be required to sign in /out at reception in the gift shop (this alternative also applies to inclement weather). See me if you need transportation.

There are **6 labs** throughout the semester. Like the quizzes, you can drop one without documentation. Likewise, you must provide documentation of an excused absence to be allowed to complete an alternative assignment if you miss more than one lab. Your work on

Wikipedia is **logged & date/time stamped**. Assignments are considered late after 11:59 pm on the due date and will be penalized 1 point per day until turned in.

**Schedule.** Topics subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class. Due dates are final.

<b>Week / Date</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Lab</b>
<b>Week 1: Jan 7</b>	Introduction	Introduction
<b>Week 2: Jan 14</b>	The Literature Search: How to Find Articles  <b>Quiz: Chapters 1 &amp; 2</b>	The Research Question: How to Read Articles  <b>Wiki Homework 1 Due</b>
<b>Week 3: Jan 21</b>	<i>NO CLASS – MLK DAY</i>	The Introduction: How to Sell Your Study
<b>Week 4: Jan 28</b>	The Methods: How to Design a Study  <b>Quiz: Chapters 3, 4 &amp; 11</b>	The Methods: How to Collect Data  <b>Wiki Homework 2 Due</b>
<b>Week 5: Feb 4</b>	The Methods: How to Design a Study Cont'd  <b>Quiz: Chapters 5, 6 &amp; 22</b>	<b>Monkey Jungle Field Trip</b>  14805 Southwest 216 <sup>th</sup> St Miami, FL 33170 @ 1:30 pm  *Makeup/Rain Dates: 2/9 + 2/10
<b>Week 6: Feb 11</b>	The Methods: How to Design a Study Cont'd  <b>Quiz: Chapter 7, 17 &amp; 19</b>	The Statistics: How to Analyze Your Data  <b>Wiki Groups Assigned !! Bring Field Data to Class</b>
<b>Week 7: Feb 18</b>	The Results: How to Report What You Found  <b>Response Due: Chapter 16</b>	The Results: How to Report What You Found  <b>[Group] Wiki Outline Due</b>

<b>Week 8: Feb 25</b>	Ethics: How to Avoid Bad Science  <b>Quiz: Chapter 8, 21 &amp; 24</b>	The Discussion: How to Interpret Your Data
<b>Week 9: Mar 4</b>	You Finished! ... Now What? The Publication Process  <b>Quiz: Chapter 9, 15 &amp; 18</b>	Wiki Peer Review Panel  <b>[Group] Wiki First Draft Due !! Bring laptop/tablet</b>
<b>Week 10: Mar 11</b>	<i>NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK</i>	<i>NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK</i>
<b>Week 11: Mar 18</b>	Unpacking the Publication: Methods & Results  <b>Response Due: Chapter 20 (Questions 6 – 10, 16)</b>	Wikipedia Clinic: In-class time to work with group  <b>Response to Reviews Due !! Bring laptop/tablet</b>
<b>Week 12: Mar 25</b>	Unpacking the Publication: Introduction & Discussion  <b>Response Due: Chapter 23</b>	<b>[Group] Wiki Presentations</b>
<b>Week 13: Apr 1</b>	Peer Review: Round 1  <b>First Draft Publication Due !! Bring copies to class</b>	Science Writing: The Art of Social Media  <b>[Group] Wiki Final Entry Due</b>
<b>Week 14: Apr 8</b>	Peer Review: Round 2  <b>Second Draft Publication Due !! Bring copies to class</b>	Manuscript Clinic:  Attendance optional. Sign-up for editing appt. with Dr. Nelson
<b>Week 15: Apr 15</b>	<i>LAST CLASS</i>  <b>Final Publication Due !! Turn in ALL draft material !! Upload final paper Turnitin</b>	<i>NO CLASS</i>  <i>Cancelled for field trip</i>

Other important things to know:

- **There is no midterm or final exam associated with this course.**  
Please refer to the handouts for additional information on the two major projects.
- **You will be asked to leave the classroom if you are disruptive.**  
This includes, but is not limited to, talking, texting, and non-class computer use.