

Principles of Research in Psychology

Wednesday 1³⁰ pm - 3¹⁵ pm EST | Virtual via WebEx | UConn

What is the scientific research process like for behavioral psychologists?

How do I understand & communicate my own & others' research findings?

How does psychological research apply to me & my academic & occupational interests?

Your Instructor: Daphne Castro Lingl



Academic Journey: 5th-year Graduate Student, Social Division

Ask me about: Anything related to class, social psychology & its real-world application, getting involved in research at UConn, graduate school, industry opportunities for social psychologists

Contact: daphne.castro_lingl@uconn.edu & Slack (response time: 24-72 hours)

Office Hours: By appointment only on WebEx (Link TBA)

The purpose of this lab is to introduce and walk you through the psychological research process. Specifically, during this lab you will...

- Formulate a research question on a topic of interest
- Conduct a literature search to gain familiarity with the field
- Design a study that tests your research question
- Collect and analyze your data using a statistical analysis software program
- Write an APA-style paper that summarizes and explains your research
- Present the results of your project to fellow scientists

However, the skills learned in this lab will not only be applicable to the field of psychological science but also to many other academic and professional fields as they contribute more broadly to *scientific literacy, project management, statistical data analysis and interpretation, and scientific writing and communication.*

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

The successful completion of this lab will fulfill the **W(riting) and Q(uantitative)** requirements for your degree's core curriculum. To fulfill these requirements, you will be required to develop, execute, and write- up the results of an original research project with a group of your peers. However, this also means that according to university-wide policies for WQ courses, **you cannot pass this course unless you receive a passing grade for this entire lab and its writing components!** Meaning, if you fail the written portion of this Lab you will fail the entire course (even if your final grade overall is considered a "passing grade")!

LAB EXPECTATIONS

The main purpose of the lab portion of 2100WQ is to work with a research group (here: a group of your peers), conduct your own original research project together, submit written drafts throughout the semester, put them together to form a full, APA-formatted research paper, and finally present the findings of your research project to others. This sounds like a lot - and it is - but don't worry, each individual assignment in this lab is set up to help you complete this project gradually, with timely, constructive feedback given after each submission.

You can probably already tell that this lab is very hands-on and allows for a lot of individual freedom: You will have the chance to learn about the different types of psychological and behavioral research, specifically tailored to your group's interests and passions. Furthermore, you will decide what you want to investigate, how you want to investigate it, and how you will present your findings.

But remember - as Spiderman has been told many times - "with great power comes great responsibility"! The individualized and hands-on style of this class means that your input matters just as much as your instructor's. UConn might not have an attendance policy in place, and neither will I, but it will be very challenging for you to complete this class if you do not show up to lab every week (see *Lab Participation*). Additionally, it will be important that you communicate clearly with me and your research group if you have questions or when something is not working for you. Finally, remember you are not only responsible for your own but also your group's success in this class.

In short, this lab expects you to...

SHOW UP - COMMUNICATE - BE ACCOUNTABLE

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

Please do not engage in Academic Dishonesty (cheating, etc.). I will run all papers both through plagiarism detectors and AI detectors. Research relies heavily on the insight and wisdom of other researchers, so you should take care to avoid academic dishonesty and use proper citations, quotations, and other references to someone else's work. If you're caught willfully engaging in academic dishonesty, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment and you will be reported to the university. For university regulations on academic dishonesty, please see dosa.uconn.edu. If you are unsure if something qualifies as academic dishonesty, please reach out and I am more than happy to chat about it.

GROUP & INDIVIDUAL WORK POLICIES

The structure of this course relies on group work, where you'll work with a small group to complete your research project and submit some of your drafts as a group. I very much understand and sympathize that sometimes group work can be *miserable*, but the nature of research makes it such that working with a group helps distribute the workload so that more and better work can be done. *With that said, please be patient with your group members, keep communication open, and try your best to be a good, respectful group member.*

All **group work** is to be done with Microsoft OneDrive. By having a UConn email, you automatically have access to this. Please make sure you are logged in under your UConn account when working on group documents. I have made a folder for each group to keep their documents organized. *This will allow me to see who is making changes and to assess your group participation.* Absolutely no group work is to be done outside of OneDrive.

When you have completed a group assignment, have one team member download it as a **Word Document**. Before you upload the document to the submission portal on HuskyCT/Ultra: Be sure to check the formatting, and replace # with your group number if it hasn't been done already.

INDIVIDUAL WORK POLICY:

For **individual work**, the same rule applies but the documents will not be in the shared group folder (to avoid plagiarism from other group members). You will have your own personal folder, which only you and I can see. All work on your individual assignments must be kept in in the OneDrive folder.

When you have completed an individual assignment, download it as a **Word Document** (be sure to check formatting), add your LAST NAME before the name of the assignment in the document name, and then upload it to the submission portal on HuskyCT/Ultra for that assignment.

If you are in any way concerned about completing course materials due to issues with technology access, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will work to help you obtain what you need.

R E S O U R C E S

ILLNESS:

FEELING SICK OR EXTENDED ILLNESS ABSENCES:

Since all classes are going to be online, illness should only minimally affect this course. However, if illness prevents you from attending class, it is your responsibility to notify me ASAP. You do not need to disclose the nature of your illness. However, you will need to

work with me to determine how you will complete coursework.

If life circumstances are affecting your ability to focus on courses and your UConn experience, students can email the [Dean of Students](#) to request support.

STUDENT NEEDS

If you have an accommodation or need an accommodation from the CSD, please let me know. If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear in your official records, please let me know. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you. If any of our class meetings conflict with your religious events, please let me know so that I can make arrangements for you. If you have any disabilities, please contact me so we can arrange to best meet your needs.

OTHER RESOURCES:

If you are struggling in class, please consider reaching out to any and/or all of the resources listed below.

Me, your Lab TA, Daphne: daphne.castro_lingl@uconn.edu and through SLACK
HuskyCT/Ultra page: all lab materials will be posted there
Microsoft OneDrive: research group folders will be created during the first Lab
The UConn Writing Center: www.writingcenter.uconn.edu
2100 Faculty Coordinator, Dr. Steven Mellor: steven.mellor@uconn.edu
Center for Students with Disabilities: www.csd.uconn.edu
Mental Health Services through SHaW: Storrs main campus on the 4th Floor of the Arjona Building, or contact the office at (860) 486-4705 and/or

A NOTE ON SLACK:

As part of this course you are required to use **Slack**. Slack is a FREE DESCRIPTION. The majority of this course consists of group work - Slack will help facilitate this portion of the class. However, all other communication – such as announcements and grading updates will also be taking place over Slack. Thus, it is your responsibility 1) to download slack and join this course's channel before the first class on Wednesday June 4th and 2) and to check your Slack every single day during this entirety of this course.

To join our Slack channel, accept the invitation sent to your UConn email. If you did not receive an email invitation, reach out to me ASAP.

Don't forget to turn on notifications!

ASSIGNMENTS

Writing Assignments:

As a **W** lab you will be required to write an APA-style paper describing your research project. This will consist of a minimum of 15 double-spaced *revised* pages (not including title page, references, and figures). This means both drafts and the final product must be completed and turned in. Deep Breath... to make this manageable, the paper will be broken down into sections: Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion. A draft of each section will be graded separately throughout the semester before you revise and combine them into one fully completed paper at the end of the semester. Drafts are scheduled with due dates well before the final paper is due, leaving you plenty of time to revise.

Lab Participation:

It will be challenging to complete assignments if you do not attend lab. You **will** be held accountable for all material covered regardless of your presence in lab and will likely receive a loss of any in-class assignment credit. Your group members and your TA will evaluate your contribution to various aspects of your project, including your effort, cooperativeness, contribution to the group project, and attendance. *These evaluations will count toward your lab grade*, so do your best to be a good group member! However, note that I will not be taking attendance.

Late Assignments:

I will subtract 10% from the maximum possible points if an assignment is submitted after the deadline. *I do understand* that there might be circumstances outside of your control affecting your ability to meet an assignment deadline.

However, considering the extreme high pace of this summer course I will only allow a maximum of a 2-day extension per assignment. For all extensions, **you must let me know at least 24 hours before the assignment is due.** You do not have to explain why you need an extension, but you do have to suggest an alternative deadline that you can meet (either one or two days). Once the extension is accepted, associated penalties will be removed. Remember, your alternative deadline will not be official until I have confirmed it. If extensions are asked for frequently, I might ask you to provide documentation (e.g. doctor's note). There are no extensions for in-lab assignments, CITI + IRB, and the Final paper.

Draft assignments **MUST** be turned in, regardless of how late they are submitted. You *cannot* pass this course unless you turn in work for *every* draft.

It is crucial to keep up with work in this class, as it is *extremely* hard to catch up if you are falling behind. Remember that it is your responsibility to stay in contact with your group members if you are unable to make it to class or cannot make it to a group meeting.

GRADING

Your grade for the lab is based on your performance on the following assignments and your peer evaluations. Assignments that are followed with a (G) are completed as a group.

Assignments will be graded at most within 2 weeks, however, I will try to get them back to you sooner.

Peer Evaluations:

Keep in mind that **your group members will rate your contribution to all aspects of your project**. The score you receive on the peer evaluations will be factored into your grade for each of the following group assignments: (1) research idea, (2) group oral research proposal, (3) IRB forms, (4) Methods draft, (5) Results draft, and (6) Finished poster and presentation. Each peer evaluation will be due at 11:59 pm the day after the corresponding group assignment is due. To encourage honest responses, I will not provide you with the specific ratings of other people in your group. Don't put your group members in an awkward position: make sure you are doing your fair share of the work throughout the course.

As your TA, I will also adjust the evaluation scores of others if I believe there are unfair assessments. Remember, I am able to track your communication and contribution on Slack and Microsoft One Drive. But don't be nervous, I will only do so if especially low evaluation scores are given. Your participation score for each assignment will be out of 100% and will be multiplied against the group grade to obtain your **personal** grade on the assignment. Below is an example of how much this can impact your grade:

Alex and Jamie participated in a group together along with two other people. The group-level grade on the assignment was 90%. Alex's group members gave them 100% on their group participation for an assignment. Jamie's group members gave them 60% on group participation for the same assignment. The final grades on this assignment for these two students are:

Alex: $90\% * 100\% = 90\%$ (Passing)

Charlie: $90\% * 60\% = 54\%$ (Failing)

In sum, do not leave your group members to do your work, as you will not get points that were not earned.

Lab Grade Breakdown:

<u>Group Project</u>	40 pts.
Introduction Draft	5
Methods Draft (GROUP)	3
Results Draft (GROUP)	4
Discussion Draft	6
Abstract	0 (still mandatory)
Final APA-Style Paper	22
<u>Assignments</u>	25 pts
Research idea (GROUP)	3
Literature review	6
IRB Forms (GROUP)	9
CITI Training	2
Final Presentation (GROUP)	5
<u>Participation</u>	15 pts.
Review Quizzes (5 total)	5
SPSS Exercises (2 total)	4
Peer Evaluations (6 total)	6
	Total: 80 pts.

LAB SCHEDULE

Lab	Date	Lab Topics	Assignments
1	06/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab Overview • Group Assignment • Developing Reserach Questions • Conducting a Literature Review 	<p>Thursday, 06/05 by 11:59pm: Research Project Idea due (GROUP) + Find 4 articles that best relate to the research project and slack them to Daphne for approval!</p> <p>Friday, 06/06 by 11:59pm: Peer Evaluation 1: Research Ideas + Confirm your Articles for the Literature Review</p> <p>Sunday, 06/08 by 11:59pm: Week 1 Review Quiz</p> <p>Monday, 06/09 by 5pm: Literature Search Assignment</p>
2	06/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variables • Correlations • Experimental Design • IRBs 	<p>Monday, 06/09 by 5pm: Literature Search Assignment</p> <p>Wednesday, 06/11 by 11:59pm: First IRB Draft (GROUP)</p> <p>Thursday, 06/12 by 11:59pm: SPSS a: Correlations (GROUP)</p> <p>Friday, 06/13 by 11:59pm: CITI Training</p> <p>Saturday, 06/14 by 5pm: Second IRB Draft (GROUP)</p> <p>Sunday, 06/15 by 11:59pm: Week 2 Review Quiz</p>
3	06/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Writing • Writing a Methods section • Writing an Introduction section • T-tests 	<p>Tuesday, 06/17 by 11:59pm: Final IRB Draft (GROUP)</p> <p>Wednesday, 06/18 by 11:59pm: Peer Evaluation 2: IRB</p> <p>Thursday, 06/19 by 11:59pm: SPSS b: T-tests (GROUP)</p> <p>Sunday, 06/22 by 11:59pm: Methods Draft (GROUP) + Week 3 Review Quiz</p> <p>Over the weekend: Participate in all the other research</p>

			projects. Will be due on Monday.
4	06/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing a Results Section • Appendices • Writing a Discussion Section • Data Analysis 	<p>Monday, 06/23 by 11:59pm: Peer Evaluation 3: Methods Draft + Participate in all the other research projects</p> <p>Tuesday, 06/24 by 11:59pm: Fill out Data Analysis Plan (GROUP)</p> <p>Wednesday, 06/25 in-class: Data Analysis (GROUP)</p> <p>Friday, 06/27 by 11:59pm: Results Draft due (GROUP) + submit Appendix (GROUP)</p> <p>Saturday, 06/28 by 11:59pm: Peer Evaluation 4: Results</p> <p>Sunday, 06/29 by 11:59pm: Introduction Draft due (INDIVIDUAL) + Week 4 Review Quiz</p>
5	07/02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing an Abstract • Final Presentations Instructions • Final Paper Instructions 	<p>Tuesday, 07/01 by 11:59pm: Resubmit Methods draft including Analysis sec. (GROUP)</p> <p>Wednesday, 07/02 in-class: Submit Abstract (GROUP)</p> <p>Wednesday, 07/02 by 11:59pm: Peer Evaluation 5: Abstract and Methods Analysis Section</p> <p>Thursday, 07/03 by 11:59pm: Final Presentation Ppt due (GROUP)</p> <p>Thursday, 07/03 by 11:59pm: Discussion Draft due (INDIVIDUAL)</p> <p>Sunday, 07/06 by 11:59pm: Week 5 Review Quiz</p>
6	07/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Presentations • Final Questions 	<p>Wednesday, 07/09 <u>BEFORE</u> class: Submit Final Powerpoint</p> <p>Wednesday, 07/09 in class: Final Presentation</p> <p>Thursday, 07/10 by 11:59pm: Peer Evaluation 6: Final Presentation</p> <p>Friday, 07/11 by 11:59pm:</p>

		Final Paper due
--	07/11	Final Paper due Friday, July 11th by 11:59 pm on HuskyCT/Ultra! Much success with your exams - you got this! :)

I am looking forward to working with you all this semester! :)

Please note, that this syllabus is always subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class, on HuskyCT/Ultra and/or via Slack. You will be responsible for knowing what they are.