**Psychology 321 Experimental Psychology**

Summer Session 2010

Instructor: Dr. H.B. Lee  
Office: ST301  
Phone: 677-2827/677-4863  
Office Hours: TBA

**Required Text:** Supplied by Instructor in Electronic form on website. Each student is REQUIRED to print a copy of the book.

Additional material will be handed out in class or posted on the web. For material posted on the web, it is the student’s responsibility to download a copy for themselves. If a student is absent, unavailable, or not present in class when materials are distributed, that student is responsible for obtaining additional material.

Please note that this course syllabus pertains only to the lecture portion of the class. Dr. Robert Youmans is teaching the lab portion of this course and will have his own syllabus for the lab.

From the Official University Registration Guide: “Students are expected to attend ALL class meetings. Students absent from the first meeting in a compressed term or session fewer than 15 weeks lose their right to remain on the class roster and must FORMALLY WITHDRAW from the class by following current university procedures and deadlines; otherwise, the instructor will assign a grade of WU (unauthorized Withdrawal), which counts as a grade of “F” in computing GPAs.”

Pre-requisites for this course are including but not limited to successful completion of Psychology 320 and 320L or its equivalent. This means:

1. Students who have not successfully completed 320 and 320L with a grade of “D” or better will not be allowed to take this course. No exceptions!
2. Students who are concurrently enrolled in Psychology 320 and 320L or its equivalent during this session will NOT be allowed to take this course. No exceptions.
3. Each student in the course must provide written evidence to the instructor on or before Monday, May 31st 2010 by 12 PM that Psychology 320 and 320L or its equivalent was completed successfully. Students unable to show evidence will not be allowed to take this course.
4. Each student must have a statistics textbook (usually from their Psychology 320 or Math 140 class).

The instructor is not obligated in any way to add students to the class even if there are vacancies. Some not-enrolled students think the instructor will eventually add them to the class if they continue to attend class. The instructor is NOT obligated and will NOT add such students. Students who are successful in adding the course must present to the instructor official written evidence of satisfactory completion of the pre-requisites at the time permission numbers are given. No permission numbers will be given to a student who does not have this information available at that time. Additionally, that student forfeits any claim to permission numbers and will not be re-considered. If a waiting list for adds are created by the instructor, students on that list must answer to every roll call. The failure to respond to roll call will result in a forfeiture of status on the waiting list. That student will no longer be considered. Any student who is administratively dropped by the University for any reason (e.g. non-payment) will be placed on the waiting list. Such students will not be given any special considerations by the instructor for admission into the class.

**The Signed Course Agreement**

Each enrolled student MUST provide a signed copy of the course agreement form in order to remain in the class. Any student who has not signed and returned the agreement to the instructor will not be allowed to remain in the course. Students who are NOT enrolled in the class are NOT guaranteed admission into the class just because they have signed an agreement. If the instructor decides to grant admission to a student not enrolled in the class, the student must provide a signed agreement at the time permission to enroll numbers are given.

This course assumes that each student is knowledgeable of statistics. Other than the statistics exam, no other remedial or review will be conducted. Additional and more complex statistical methods will be presented in the class that was not covered in Psychology 320 and 320L. These methods and procedures will be heavily based on mastery of material presented in Psychology 320 and 320L as taught by this instructor (Lee). The foundation material is given on the website: [http://www.csun.edu/~vcpsy015/home.htm](http://www.csun.edu/~vcpsy015/home.htm)

If the material on that website is unfamiliar, unknown or confusing to you do NOT take this course from this instructor. If your 320/320L instructor did NOT cover the material presented on this web page or had inadequate coverage, do NOT take this course from this instructor. **If you have activities such as weddings, trips, etc planned during this session, do not take this course from this instructor.** If you feel you will not be able to show up to every class
meeting on time and stay the entire period do NOT take this course. Penalties are severe for missing any portion of the class meeting. If you feel that your background in statistics and quantitative thinking suffers because you took statistics “years ago” or because you had statistics at “another school” or you had a “bad teacher” when you took statistics, do not take this course from this instructor. No leniency, exceptions, excused absences or special considerations will be given. The instructor of this course is NOT responsible for each student’s previous background and instruction in statistics, quantitative and logical thinking.

Objectives of the Course:

1. Understand the historical development of experimental psychology
2. Recognize the contributions of some historical figures in experimental psychology.
3. Use of online tools for research such as PsycInfo
4. The ability to identify the types of research methodology and types of variables
5. The ability to develop an operational definition for psychological concepts
6. The application of statistics as learned in Psychology 320/320L in psychological research.
7. The use of SPSS and/or hand computations in analyzing data from research studies.
8. The design, conduct, analysis and reporting of psychological research (i.e. APA style).
9. Develop practical skills on the collection and analysis of experimental data.
10. Understand the relation between statistics, psychological experiments and their importance.
11. Develop skills to critically evaluate research articles.
12. Develop an understanding of basic and applied research
13. Develop an understanding of group and single case research designs.

Special Note: This is a six-week summer course that meets every day, Monday through Thursday. The lecture portion is from 8AM to 10:00 AM. An entire 15-week semester course will be covered within this time constraint. Hence, the course is intensive and fast-paced. It is NOT a scaled down, “watered-down” version of a full semester course. Students who have other commitments during the period of May 25, 2010 to July 2nd, 2010 are strongly advised NOT to take this course. Every class meeting that a student misses is equivalent to missing a week of the class during a regular semester. Nonattendance will be taken very seriously by the instructor and the student will be assessed a large penalty. (Penalty is given elsewhere on this syllabus)

321 - grading components and evaluation.

Review of Statistics Exam 12 points
Exam 1 30 points.
Exam 2 : 30 points.
PsycInfo Assignment 9 points
Class Participation & Attendance 12 points
Instructor’s personal evaluation 5 points
Book Check 1 point
Signed Agreement 1 point
TOTAL : 100 points.

Every exam is an open book and open notes exam. The book and notes can NOT be shared by students during the exam. Doing so will result in a grade of "F" on the exam for all students involved. Exams will consist of fill-ins, multiple choice and/or short answers. Statistics exam will consist of worked problems and conceptual questions. The dates of the statistics and exams are tentative. They can be changed or altered by the instructor, but prior notice will be given. However, once the exam date and times are set, no early or late exams will be given. Students who miss class meetings are responsible for checking with classmates as to when changes are made to the exam schedule. The exams will cover the material discussed in class and material in the text. No palm-pilot, cell phone, Ipod or laptop or any electronic device that can store sentences or communicate by infrared, during the class lectures and exams.

Letter grades for the lecture portion will be assigned using one of the following schemes. Each student will have her or his grade computed by both methods and the scheme that results in a higher grade will be the one used.

Scheme 1: Grades will be assigned using the following:

A:  94 to 100 points
A–: 89 to 93 points
B+: 86 to 88 points
B: 80 to 85 points
B–: 76 to 79 points
C+: 72 to 75 points
C: 65 to 71 points
C–: 58 to 64 points
D: 50 to 63 points
F: less than 50 points
Missed exams: By definition, emergencies beyond a student's control are rare events. There will be no make-up exams. There is no statistics makeup exam. However, if for unavoidable and exceptional reasons you are unable to take the last exam, a make-up examination is given only when circumstances beyond a student's control make it impossible to take the last exam. Students will be required to provide written documentation of the reason why the last exam was not taken. Make-up last exams are written individually for the student and may have a different format than the regular exam. Students who show up late to an exam will NOT be allowed to take the exam and will receive a zero score for that exam.

Grade appeals: If you believe that a mistake has been made in grading your exam or assignment, write a note describing the error, attach it to the original exam or assignment, and give it to the instructor. You have 2 working days to do this starting from the day that the exams or assignment are returned to the students. If you do not attend class, you will have to obtain your exam/assignment from your instructor during the instructor’s office hours. If you are ill or have some other circumstance that will prevent you from complying with this 2-day requirement, you need to discuss this with your instructor before or during this 2-day period in order to make alternative arrangements. Appeals after 2 working days will not be considered. Please be advised that the multiple-choice portion of the exam is commonly copied before returning them to you and will compare the two when considering your appeal. If you have a concern about the psyinfo assignment grading, you must bring this to the attention of your instructor the day your assignment is returned to you. Because grading is very straightforward, most difficulties arise due to failure to follow the guidelines for preparation. If that is so, the appeal will be denied.

Incomplete: In the event you miss the last exam, you must meet the following criteria before I can give you an Incomplete: (1) your work must be of passing quality throughout the course, e.g., your attendance, PsyInfo assignment and prior exams are passing work. If you have not taken any of the exams you are NOT considered to be passing the class. (2) Missing the exam was due to an emergency beyond your control that you have documented to my satisfaction, and (3) you contacted me on or before the day of the last test to arrange a conference. Please be advised that I will not be around after the course is completed (for the remainder of the summer) to give a makeup test for the last exam. The earliest makeups for the last exam will occur during the Fall Semester 2010.

Cell phones and pagers: Students are asked to turn off cell phones and pagers during class time to respect their fellow students. Interruptions caused by said items are not conducive to a learning environment. If such interruption occurs, the student who violates this rule can anticipate a two or more point deduction from class total for every occurrence. The instructor reserves the right to discontinue the class. The material scheduled for the remainder of the class (lecture and/or lab) will not be covered by the instructor. Also, the instructor will not answer ANY question pertaining to the material. However, every student will be held responsible for knowing the material and will most likely be examined on that material. In situations where a cell phone goes off during an exam, the exam period is terminated. All exams will be collected at that point. So for all class meetings, turn off your cell phones. If you are expecting an important call during class time, please inform the instructor, so the proper arrangements can be made.

Notebook computers. No notebook or portable computers or any device capable of texting information will be allowed during any lecture class session.

Class Attendance and Participation: There are 12 points available in the course for the student who attends class regularly without causing anguish and difficulties for the instructor and other students. With the exception of the first week (May 25th, 26th, June 1st and June 2nd), attendance will be taken on a random basis. If no response from the student is given at the time attendance is taken; at least 3 points will be deducted from the total points-grade. Disruptions caused by the student during class time will also result in a 2 pt. deduction. Attendance is taken at ANY time from 8 AM to 10:00 AM Monday through Thursday. Attendance will especially be taken when exams are returned to the student. Class participation and attendance points are NOT automatic. They have to be earned. Students who do not attend class or are disruptive will earn fewer points. Disruption includes inappropriate talking in class during lectures or presentations, being late to class and disrupting the lecture, cell phone or pager activity during class, “unauthorized” cooperative activities, and showing disrespect for other students and/or instructor. Students who do not attend or is late to two or more lectures will receive a zero score on the class participation and attendance portion of the class. The student who misses and/or is late to three lectures will be asked to withdrawal from the course. The student who does not withdrawal from the class will be either given an “F” grade or a grade of “WU.” With 3 absences or tardiness the student will no longer be considered by the instructor as a member of the class. Behaviors are

Housekeeping:

Scheme 2: Grades will be assigned using the following:
A: Top 8%  A–: Next 4%  B+: Next 4%  B: Next 15%  B–: Next 11%  C+: Next 12%
C: Next 23%  C–: Next 11%  D: Next 10%  F: Bottom 2%

Top 8%
A–: Next 4%
B+: Next 4%
B: Next 15%
B–: Next 11%
C+: Next 12%
C: Next 23%
C–: Next 11%
D: Next 10%
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deemed disruptive, disrespectful and noisome by the opinion of the instructor only. Any student who is late to an exam will NOT be allowed to take the exam and will be given a score of zero for that exam.

**Plagiarizing, Cheating and “Unauthorized” Cooperation.** Any student who places his/her name on work that was done by someone else will be considered as cheating. In the judgement of the instructor exams submitted by students that appear to be a duplicate of one another will be considered as cheating. For exams where the student is considered to be cheating, a zero score will be assigned to ALL students involved. In addition, all students involved will receive a zero score on class participation and attendance. Students who cooperate with each other in the view or presence of the instructor will be given a score of zero on the assignment and a zero score on class participation and attendance. Additionally cheating and “unauthorized” cooperation will result in a zero score on the instructor’s personal evaluation. Cooperative activities must be done discreetly and away from the presence of the instructor. On exams, each student will do her/his own work and follow the rules set by the instructor. Failure to do so will result in a zero score for the exam. The instructor provides a subjective evaluation of each student for Psychology 321.

**Some important rules to maximize your grade in the class.**

**Basic Rules for the Class**

1. **Attend ALL lectures and scheduled lab meetings.** Attendance can be taken at any time during class time.
2. **Follow Instructor’s Instructions Exactly**
3. **There is NO creativity in this course. Do NOT make up your own rules.** This is a research course with a heavy emphasis on statistics. This course is not an art or creativity class. The instructor gives specific rules that you need to follow. Failure to do so will result in a zero score for the exams. This will be enforced strictly this session.
4. **You must have a calculator capable of doing statistical computations quickly.** Such calculators are available for $9 or less at various places. These calculators have special function keys to compute the mean and standard deviation. Each student is expected to know how to access these special functions on her/his calculator. The instructor is NOT responsible for teaching a student how to operate his/her calculator.

**Rules for Hand Computations.** Violation of any of these rules when doing hand computations will result in no credit given.

1. Your answer must agree exactly with the one computed or arrived at by the instructor. Inability to do so will definitely result in points deducted.
2. Carry three (3) decimal places for ALL of your computations. Exercise rounding rules ONLY at the end of the computational problem. Failure to do so will result in no credit given for the question/problem regardless of whether you arrived at the solution that agrees with the instructor’s.
3. **Z-scores are computed using numbers that are carried to 3 decimal places.** They are reported to 2 decimal places. So if you need to report a Z-score, round it to 2 decimal places. However, if a Z-score is used in an intermediate step to arrive at another statistic, such as a scaled score, keep it at 3 decimal places.
4. **For final answers involving percentages, they are reported as is. Do not round them to a whole number.** A percentage symbol is attached to these.
5. **For correlations and regression equations, 3 decimals are also carried in all computations.** Correlations and regression coefficients are reported as a final answer to 2 decimal places. However, if the correlation and/or regression coefficients are used in the computation of another statistic, they must be used with 3 decimal places. If correlations and regressions, as a final answer, are not reported and rounded to 2 decimal places, no credit will be given.
6. **If the problem requires you to compute a quantity that is generally reported as a whole number, such as the number of cases, or a predicted test score, these are rounded and reported as whole integer numbers.**
7. **The formula used to compute the standard deviation for this course will be**

\[
S = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (X - M)^2}{n-1}} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum X^2 - (\sum X)^2}{n(n-1)}}
\]

**Topics Covered in course but not necessarily in this order.**

- Link between Research Methodology and Statistics
- Traditional Coverage of Experimental Psychology
- Science and the Scientific Approach
- Problems and Hypotheses
- Constructs, Variables and Definitions
Important Note concerning topics covered in the class. The instructor will be covering material at a very rapid pace. Each day in class is nearly equivalent to a week of classes during a regular term.

IMPORTANT DATES: (Tentative – Subject to Change within minimum notice.)

No Class Meeting: Thursday, May 27th, Monday May 31, 2010
Mandatory PsycInfo Presentation : Wednesday, June 2, 2010 (Time: 9AM to 10AM)
PsycInfo Assignment Due Monday, June 7, 2010
Statistics Exam: Thursday, June 10, 2010
Exam 1: Thursday, June 17, 2010
Exam 2: Thursday, July 1, 2010

Assignment : PsycInfo Search (9 points)

Part 1 of this assignment is to attend a mandatory class meeting with the University’s Psychology Librarian. No student will be allowed to submit the written portion of the assignment if he or she does not attend this meeting. As a result, the student can expect a failing grade on this assignment. Any student not attending or comes late will be given a zero for this assignment. There is no makeup for this class meeting. Material from this meeting will be included on the exams. Part 1 is worth 4 points.

Part 1 will consist of a 50-60 minute presentation on how to use a very important research tool in psychology: PsycInfo. This is an online search for research articles, books, and chapters relevant to a research topic of interest. This is different from online searches such as Yahoo or Google.

Part 2 of this assignment involves conducting your own online search. After you have chosen a research topic from the lab portion of your class you will need to use PsycInfo to find 4 to 6 references related to the topic under study. Each member of a team will find 4 to 6 different articles.

1. The 4 to 6 items MUST be journal articles. They cannot be books, book chapters, dissertation abstracts, etc. They must be empirically based research articles. (No review articles).
2. The articles must be in journals available in either print form in the CSUN library or in electronic form on the Internet. As of this writing only three publishers currently have full-text articles available online which a student can download. You must provide proof that the article is available to you in the CSUN library by providing a Call number of the print volume. For electronically available full-text articles, the listing of the publishers’ name is adequate.

For part 2, you will need to submit to the instructor a neatly printed and organized listing of each article chosen. Your listing is created by PsycInfo but will need editing. You are to have the following:

1. Number your articles, e.g. 1, 2, 3...
2. Title of Article
3. Author(s)
4. Source (Name of Journal, Volume, year, page numbers and publisher)
5. Abstract or summary of article.
6. Supply library Call number for non-electronically available articles.

This assignment is to be word processed or typewritten. There are ways of saving your PsycInfo information and
import it into your word processor. **Part 2 is worth 5 points.**
I, ____________________________________ certify that I have read this entire course syllabus and that I fully understand and agree to abide by all the rules, requirements and policy set forth by the instructor, department, college and university.

I also understand that I may be asked questions concerning the course syllabus on any exam given in the class. Any violations of the rules and/or requirements will result in the forfeiture of all points for class participation and attendance, extra credit points (if any) and also the points available from the instructor’s subjective evaluation of the student.

This form must be signed and dated by me and submitted to the instructor no later than 11:00 AM Tuesday, June 1, 2010. If a printed name does not appear in the space above, the agreement is void and the student will no longer be considered as a member of the class. If the student does not drop the class an “F” or “WU” grade will be assigned to that student.

Signature ____________________________________________

Date _________________________________________________