

Mary Baldwin University
PSYC 220L – Experimental Psychology
Online Tutorial
Fall 2020

Instructor: Patricia L. Murphy
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Texts: Kibler, John L. *Experimental Psychology*. This book will be provided for you in chapters available from the class website.

Course Description: This course is designed as an introduction to psychological research. During the course of the semester students will learn how to design, conduct and analyze different types of psychological experiments. Independent laboratory exercises will give the student the opportunity to design their own studies and then analyze them using a statistical program on the computer. In addition, they will learn how to critique research designs and report statistical results.

Course Requirements:

- 1.) **Homework Assignments** – At the end of each week a homework assignment will be due that is based on the previous week’s readings. These assignments are designed to assist you in understanding the material. It is extremely important that you keep up with these assignments as the material in this class builds on itself. Handing in the assignments on time with mistakes will not hurt your grade, handing them in late with no mistakes will. Worth 25% of your final grade.
- 2.) **Laboratory Reports** – There will be five laboratory assignments requiring a combination of analytical skills and statistical analysis. These assignments are due at the end of the week in which they are mentioned on the course schedule. As with the homework assignments, the laboratory reports will build on one another so handing them in on time is critical to your success in this class. Worth 20% of your final grade.
- 3.) **Quizzes** - There will be a total of 10 quizzes throughout the semester. They will be available from the class website. The quizzes are designed primarily as a review and may be taken as many times as needed to get a perfect score. Worth 10% of your final grade.
- 4.) **Exams** – There will be two midterms and a final exam in this class. Tests and Exams must be taken on time and under conditions consistent with the Mary Baldwin University honor code. The two midterms and final are worth 10, 15 and 20% of your final grade respectively.
- 5.) **Extra Credit** – For extra credit students may choose to do a popular press critique. Find an article in the popular press that talks about research and critique it's discussion. For example, do they over-generalize the results? Are they assuming causation when there is only a correlation? Do they even tell the reader what type of research design was employed? Up to five points may be added to your lowest midterm grade.

Course Schedule:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>	<u>Assignments Due</u>
Week 1 (8/24- 8/28)	Introduction to Research Ideas and Hypothesis. Kibler Chapter One	
Week 2 (8/31 - 9/4)	Descriptive Statistics Kibler Chapter Two	Homework WK1 Quiz One
Week 3 (9/7-9/11)	Scales of Measurement, Data and How to Conduct Quality Research Kibler Chapters 3-6	Homework WK2 Quiz Two Lab One
Week 4 (9/14-9/18)	Correlational Research Kibler Chapters 8-10	Homework WK3 Quiz Three
Week 5 (9/21-9/25)	Chi-Square Analyses Kibler Chapter 7	Homework WK4 Quiz Four Lab Two
Week 6 (9/28-10/2)	Variable and Research Identifications Kibler Chapters 11-14	Homework WK5 Quiz Five EXAM ONE
Week 7 (10/5-10/9)	Designing & Analyzing Experiments with Two Groups Kibler Chapters 15-18	Homework WK6 Quiz Six Lab Three
Week 8 (10/12-10/16)	Designing & Analyzing Experiments with More Than Two Groups Kibler Chapters 20 & 21	Homework WK7 Quiz Seven
Week 9 (10/19-10/23)	Repeated Measures Designs Kibler Chapters 22-24	Homework WK8 Quiz Eight Lab Four
Week 10 (10/26-10/30)	Designing & Analyzing Experiments with Multiple Independent Variables Kibler Chapters 25 & 26	Homework WK9 Quiz Nine EXAM TWO
Week 11 (11/2-11/6)	Alternative Research Designs External Validity & Critiquing Kibler chapters 27-29	Homework WK10 Quiz Ten

Week 12 **Catch up and review as needed**
(11/9-11/13)

Homework WK11

Week 13 **Review for final**
(11/16-11/20)

Finals Week **Final Exam Due**
(11/30-12/4)

December 4th – Final Exam and all other remaining work must be turned in by this date to be considered.

Laboratory Assignments:

Lab 1 – Simple data collection with descriptive statistics

Lab 2 – Chi-Square

Lab 3 – Correlational Study

Lab 4 – Study with Two groups – t-test or simple ANOVA

Lab 5 – Research Proposal

Honor Code:

Students are expected to abide by the Mary Baldwin University honor code and conduct themselves accordingly. Any form of plagiarism, cheating, or dishonesty will be reported to the Dean.

Late Policy:

Without prior notification and a valid excuse, late assignments will be marked down half a letter grade for every week they are late. Keeping your instructor informed is critically important! Because the material in this class builds upon itself, handing in assignments late or missing assignments altogether will severely impair your ability to successfully master the material. It is better to hand in assignments on time, even if you know there are mistakes. Assignments that are more than two weeks late will not be accepted unless the student contacts me by the original due date and has extenuating circumstances.

Extension Policy:

At the student's request, extensions may be granted to those who have not completed all the course work by the MBU declared deadline for the given semester. However, students must have completed at least half of the required work in a good faith effort and/or have extenuating circumstances in order to be approved for an ET.

E-mail Activation:

All MBU students are required to activate their MBU issued e-mail accounts. These accounts will be one of the primary sources for communication from the instructor and are thus crucial for your success in this course.

Group Work:

With the exception of tests and exams students are permitted to help one another with their assignments. For instance, consulting a classmate about the correct way to set up a study is perfectly acceptable. However, each student must complete her or his assignment individually (e.g. you can't simply copy someone else's answers).