Psychology 126-Lab 1
Clinical Psychology Lab-Clinical Research Methods
Winter, 2008

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Meeting Times and Location, Restrictions: The class will meet Mondays and
Wednesdays 2:00-3:50, in Franz Hall 3290. Students are expected to remain in class for
the entire period, even if working on individual projects.
The course is restricted to advanced undergraduate majors in psychology who have
completed major requirements in research methods and statistics. It is designed to meet
the lab course requirement of the major for graduation.
This is a designated impacted course, which means that you may not drop the course after
the second week of the quarter (Jan 18).

Course Goals: The basic goals of the course are to learn or accomplish the following:

What is clinical psychology—professional roles, requirements for careers
Read and critically evaluate research articles concerning psychological problems and life
    difficulties and their treatment or prevention
Review basic research methods in clinical psychology, including analysis of existing
     research reports, conceptualization and hypothesis-formulation, design, methods,
     measures, interpretation of results
Measurement issues and procedures such as interviewing and observation,
     methodological issues of reliability and validity of measures of variables
Ethical principles of conduct of research with human subjects
Basics of SPSS data management
Statistical analysis of data using SPSS
Formulation and execution of an individual research project: Major goal of the course!
Oral presentation of research project using Powerpoint
Write a complete research report in standard format of the American Psychological
    Association

Required Readings

Barker, C., Pistrang, N., & Elliot, R. (2002). Foundations of quantitative measurement (Ch. 4), *Research methods in clinical psychology, 2ⁿᵈ edition.* Chichester, England: John Wiley & Sons.

Bersoff, D.M., & Bersoff, D.N. (1999). Ethical perspectives in clinical research. In P. Kendall, J. Butcher, & G. Holmbeck (Eds.), *Handbook of research methods in clinical psychology, 2ⁿᵈ Edition* (pp. 31-53). New York: Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Compas, B. & Gotlib, I. (2002). Research methods in clinical psychology (Chapter 3). *Introduction to clinical psychology.* New York: McGraw-Hill.

Kazdin, A. (1999). Overview of research design issues in clinical psychology. In P. Kendall, J. Butcher, & G. Holmbeck (Eds.), *Handbook of research methods in clinical psychology, 2ⁿᵈ Edition* (pp. 3-30). New York: Wiley & Sons, Inc. *sections of APA Publication Manual-5ᵗʰ Edition (2001).*

Psych. 126 Graded Assignments

1. Article critique. You will select one of the articles we provide on some aspect of clinical psychology research, and write an analysis of its strengths and weaknesses. Based on lecture material, you will evaluate the Introduction (conceptualization, importance of topic), Methods (design, participants, measures, procedures), Results (you are not expected to understand the advanced statistics but should be able to understand chi-square, analysis of variance, and regression methods, and what was statistically significant and what wasn't), and Discussion. It is especially important to recognize and discuss the weaknesses of the study. You may discuss the article with your team, but your written work should be entirely your own.

  2-3 pages, double-spaced.
  Due [see syllabus]
  [15% of final grade]

2. Statistics- task #1. From the data set provided, you will be given an assignment requiring SPSS. Details to be distributed later.

  2-3 pages, double-spaced
  Due [see syllabus]
  [10% of final grade]

3. Statistics- task #2. From the data set provided, calculate reliability of [to be named] variable, using SPSS methods. Tell what kind of reliability you computed, what the statistic means, and what results and their implications were obtained. Details to be distributed later.

  2-3 pages, double-spaced
  Due [see syllabus]
  [10% of final grade]

4. Final Individual Research Projects. <u>See Ground Rules for Individual Projects</u>

  <u>For all papers:</u> Prepare a written report in APA format, with the standard sections: Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, References (and Tables, Figures as required).
  The Introduction must include at least 3 research articles that are relevant to your research.
  The Methods must include a detailed statement of participants, design, procedures, and measures.
  The Results must include statistical analyses appropriate to your hypotheses. The
  Discussion must include a summary of results, their meaning and implications, limitations of the study, and ideas for future research.
  Final report is due **Friday, March 14**
  [40% of final grade]

5. Prepare a PowerPoint presentation. Brief presentation of your study covering introduction, methods, results, and discussion. Give a 5-8 minute (maximum) oral presentation (practice and time it).

Presentations will be scheduled for the 10th (final) week of the class (March 10 or 12)

[15% of final grade]

6. Class participation, attendance [10% of final grade].

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Written Assignment—Individual Critique of Article
Due: January 23

Although you may work on the critique as a team, each paper will be an individual effort.

1. your team will be given an article to read carefully and evaluate, based on class discussion of criteria.

2. write a 2-3 page paper discussing the strengths and weaknesses of EACH section, Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion.

2. Within the relevant sections, comment on the quality of the conceptualization, design, execution, analyses, and interpretation, draw conclusions about the quality of the overall value of the paper.

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Ground Rules for Individual Projects

1. The projects are to be based on a topic in clinical psychology, and should include at least 3 hypotheses or questions (could be one primary and two secondary, etc.)

2. You have 3 choices for developing an independent project, as previously described:
    a). develop original ideas, and collect data via questionnaires
    to be administered in class and completed anonymously by class members [if selected, this option earns + extra credit]
    b). develop an experiment or "treatment" to be administered to friends, volunteers [if selected, this option earns ++ extra credit]
    c). formulate and test hypotheses based on the Hammen class data set [no extra credit]

3. You need not come up with original theories that no one has ever thought of, but must go beyond obvious hypotheses (such as more girls than boys will be depressed).

4. If you select choice (c) above, you may, with our approval, substitute key variables in the data set before conducting your study.

5. Hypotheses will be tested with elementary statistics (basic inferential statistics) and need not go beyond those reviewed in class. You may assume normality of the data (you need not test for this nor transform variables).

6. Papers will *not* be graded on the basis of whether the results were significant. They will be graded on the interest value and clarity of hypotheses, link to literature, appropriate variable selection, accurate and appropriate selection and execution of statistical analyses, accurate interpretation of results, solid and thorough evaluation of limitations. They will also be graded on the basis of writing skill and adherence to standard APA article style.

Specific Tasks-Individual Projects

1. read relevant articles for background

2. review elementary statistics

3. familiarize yourself with depression data set and practice doing analyses

4. learn fundamentals of SPSS for use with any data set

5. select your hypotheses, define project

6. identify at least 3 articles relevant to Introduction; get them, read and review them for Introduction; write Introduction

7. operationalize hypotheses in terms of variables and plan statistical analyses

8. evaluate your data for completeness, reliability, etc. Write Method section.

9. perform data analyses using SPSS; prepare appropriate tables, figures. Write Results section.

10. draw conclusions about hypotheses, write Discussion section

11. prepare PowerPoint presentation of study

12. complete individual write-up as article in APA format

	Lecture topic	Lab activity	Reading Assignment	Graded assignment due
Wk 1 M 1/7	**Intro to clinical psychology** What is clinical psychology?	Learn PowerPoint		
W 1/9	**Goals of clinical research**	Student self-presentations	assign article for critique	
Wk 2 M 1/14	**What is good research?** Evaluating research articles: introduction, methods	Teams work on critique	a)Compas & Gotlib; b)Kazdin	
W 1/16	**Evaluating research**: results, discussion	Teams work on critique		
Wk 3 M 1/21	HOLIDAY			
W 1/23	**Forming good ideas.** Formulating hypotheses	---Ground rules for course project assignment ---Doing electronic lit review ---Begin formulating project	Barker, Pistrang & Elliot (ch. 4)	**Critique paper Due 1/23**
Wk 4 M 1/28	**Measurement strategies.** Types of measures-interviews, questionnaires, observations	---Observe case, structured ratings --- Develop own project		
W 1/30	Evaluating measures-psychometric properties	---Conduct and observe interviews ---Develop own project	(do own readings for course project)	(Should have own project basically formulated, designed)

Wk 5 M 2/4	**Statistical analyses.** Review of SPSS/statistics	Intro to Hammen data set		
W 2/6	Formulate & test hypotheses in data set	In class assignment—practice statistical analyses		
Wk 6 M 2/11	**Ethical considerations.** Research ethics	Practice statistical analyses	Read Bersoff & Bersoff	**Draft of lit review due** (ungraded but required)
W 2/13	work on project development	Work on projects, methods		**Statistics Assignment #1**
Wk 7 M 2/18	HOLIDAY			
W 2/20	APA format, journals	Work on projects, statistical analysis		**Statistics Assignment #2**
Wk 8 M 2/25	**In-Class Data Collection**	Class takes battery/input data into data set	Sections of APA style manual	
W 2/27	Work on projects, statistical analysis	Work on projects, statistical analysis		Optional for feedback: Draft of introduction and methods of your project
Wk 9 M 3/3	Work on projects, statistical analysis	Work on projects, statistical analysis		
W 3/5	Work on projects	Work on projects, interpretation		

Wk 10 M 3/10	Individual presentations	Individual presentations		**Oral presentations due March 10 or 12**
W 3/12	Individual presentations	Individual presentations		**Final written report due Friday, March 14**