

**STATISTICS FOR PSYCHOLOGY: Section B**  
**Psy 203B, Fall 2015**

**Lecture:** 10:10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Old Henderson 106

**Lab:** 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays in Old Henderson 101A

**Instructor**

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Office hours: Monday noon – 1:00 p.m., Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., or by appointment

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an introduction to the concepts and methods of statistics and is aimed at helping the student gain a fundamental understanding of the tools necessary to understand and conduct research in psychology. Topics to be covered include frequency distributions and probability, descriptive statistics, simple correlation and regression, sampling distributions, t-tests, and basic and factorial analysis of variance. Non-parametric tests such as Chi-square will also be introduced. The course will focus on the interpretation and communication of statistics, and we will work with the SPSS software package to analyze data. This course is the first of a two-course sequence in statistics and research methods that is required of all prospective psychology majors. This course is ordinarily taken in the first semester of the sophomore year. Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychological Science or its equivalent.

**REQUIRED MATERIAL**

Aron, A., Coups, E. J., & Aron, E. N. (2013). *Statistics for psychology* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education Inc.

[This edition is substantially different from older ones, so you should not purchase an older edition for this class].

Kirkpatrick, L. A., & Freeney, B. C. (2015). *A simple guide to IBM SPSS for version 22.0*. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

[A Simple Guide to SPSS Version 20.0 which would be okay].

Additional readings along with lecture slides will be posted on the course Moodle site. Sign up for the course at <http://moodle2.bard.edu>. The enrollment key is: **PsychStats**.

A calculator that can: add, subtract, multiply, divide, has an eight-digit display, memory, and a key for  $\sqrt{\quad}$  is required. **Graphing calculators and cell phone calculators are not permitted for exams.** You should plan to bring your calculator to each class session and be sure that you have a functioning calculator before the exams.

## EXPECTATIONS

**Attendance:** It is important to attend lectures in this course. Because of the nature of the material, absences will likely incur a *de facto* penalty come exam time because it is difficult not to attend class and still do well on the exams. The course will move at a rapid pace and material missed due to absence will not be repeated in class. Late arrivals are disruptive to the class. Consistent patterns of lateness will be addressed and potentially lead to a loss of points.

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will immediately lose 10% of their grade, and another 5% for every additional day late.

**Plagiarism:** Exams and the written paper are to be completed independently. Homework assignments may be worked on with peers. Study groups are an excellent way to learn material, but take care to ensure that you can respond to the questions independently. You are responsible for knowing the College policy on academic integrity. Violations of the guidelines of academic integrity will result in at minimum a loss of credit for the assignment, and may result in failure in the course.

## COMPONENTS OF COURSE GRADE

**Midterm exams (2 midterms, 20% of final grade each)**

**Final exam (25% of final grade)**

Each exam will have an in class-written portion (closed book) that presents an opportunity to show mastery of the underlying concepts and theories, and a lab portion that allows you to demonstrate your ability to perform and interpret statistics. The lab portions of the exams are open-everything-but-another-person. For the midterm exams, you may bring one 4" X 6" index card with notes. For the final, you may bring one 8.5" X 11" sheet of paper with notes. Make-up exams will be offered only with documentation of an unanticipated emergency.

**Moodle Quizzes (15% of final grade)**

There will be 13 quizzes on Moodle. Your 10 best grades will contribute to your final course grade. Quizzes must be taken within 24 hours of completion of the material marked with \*\* below. They are open-book and comprised of questions randomly selected from a larger set of questions (so each student will have a different quiz).

**Final Paper (10% of final grade)**

You will put the analytical skills that you develop to use in the final paper by analyzing the results section of a published journal article. Details are provided below.

**Problem Sets (Self-assessment)**

Problem sets are ungraded and an opportunity to assess your mastery of the material. The textbook has many, many more questions. You should complete as many as it takes to feel comfortable.

**Lab Quizzes (10% of final grade)**

You will take occasional unannounced quizzes during lab sections. These will be very similar to your homework to which you will have access to during the quiz.

**Final Grades**

Grades will be assigned according to the schedule below (plusses and minuses will be assigned at the top and bottom of each range). I reserve the right to change the grading scale ONLY in a way that will help you. For example, the cut-off for the A-range could drop to an 88%, and other cutoffs would change accordingly. I will never change the grading scale in a way that would make it more difficult to get a higher grade.

A-range	90-100%	D-range	65-70%
B-range	80-90%	F	Below 65%
C-range	70-80%		