

# PSY 205L QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS & STATISTICS FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE 2 (Fall 2022)

In this two-semester course series (204L/205L) we will learn how to turn curiosity into knowledge. We will focus on the design of research studies and the use of statistical methods to become better consumers, creators, and communicators of psychology and human neuroscience research. By the end of this semester, students will have the foundational methodological and statistical knowledge and skills to conduct their own independent research.

After taking  
this class,  
you will...

Have learned  
how to do basic  
statistical  
analysis of  
quantitative  
data

Know current  
best practices  
for research  
study design  
and statistical  
analysis

Be able to  
communicate  
scientific  
research results  
effectively and  
accurately

Be skilled in  
critically  
evaluating  
scientific  
research results  
& claims

Understand  
ethics in  
research and  
how to  
conduct ethical  
science

LECTURE TH 3:30-4:45pm  
SECTIONS T 5:15, W 5:15  
NO BOOK: all materials free on Sakai  
PROJECT: teams in sections  
LATE MIDTERM: 11/1 in class  
OPTIONAL FINAL: TBD  
WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS: Vary  
FREE SOFTWARE: <https://jasp-stats.org/>

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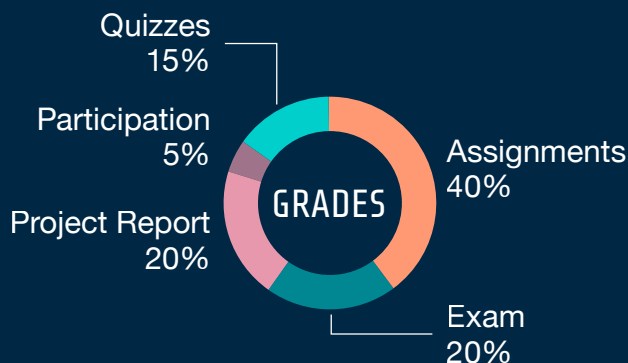


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Teaching team



Duke FALL 2022

This semester (**PSY205L**) is focused on experimental research design, statistical tests for simple and factorial designs (e.g., t-tests, regression, ANOVA, and interactions), how to use statistical software, and science communication.

## Overview of Course Components and Grading

This is a hybrid course that combines mini-lectures with credit/no-credit **quizzes (15% of grade)**, interactive activities, sections/labs with a teaching assistant, weekly **assignments (40% of grade)** often with both group-based and individual components, an in-class **midterm exam (20% of grade)**, an **optional cumulative final exam (will replace midterm if higher grade)**, and a group-based **research report based on data collected during the semester (20%)**. **Participation credit (5% of grade)** will be given for attending sections/labs and providing responses to in-class surveys. Details are provided below on each course component.

### TEXTBOOK & SOFTWARE

**TEXTBOOK:** There is no required textbook for this course. You paid for this class to learn from local Duke experts so all materials will be provided either via Sakai or via lectures and sections/labs. Some students learn better from reading a text and we completely understand that. If you feel like it would be helpful to have additional reading material, we will provide suggested materials (chapters from relevant textbooks) at your request.

**SOFTWARE:** There are many different software options for basic data analysis. We will use the free and open source software, JASP, for demonstrations and activities during lecture and lab sections. This is not a programming course and we assume no prior background in programming or statistics. JASP does not require any programming! We will teach you the basics in JASP in a relaxed and supportive way. Our focus will be on teaching critical statistical thinking more than developing a foundation for programming.



## LECTURES AND QUIZZES

There are two lecture periods each week where live lectures may be given that blend the presentation of information with student-instructor and student-student interaction. Some informational content will be provided in live or pre-recorded mini-lectures (5-15 minutes each). Each mini-lecture will have a credit/no-credit quiz (15% of course grade) of 1-3 multiple choice questions. Some of these lecture class periods will be dedicated to group meetings with the instructors.

## LABS/SECTIONS



In addition to the lecture components, students will attend a weekly lab session. During these sessions, students will review lecture material with a teaching assistant and have more TA-supported hands-on practice with that week's material in preparation for the weekly assignment.

## PARTICIPATION

Participation credit is given for attending sections/labs as well as contributing to data collection throughout the semester. Each week there will be short Qualtrics surveys to collect data from students. These data will be collected, anonymized, and compiled by the teaching team and analyzed by the students for assignments, lab activities, and/or exams. During the first week of class, students will have the opportunity to make suggestions for data collection throughout the semester.

## WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

There will be weekly assignments posted on Sakai (under Assignments). Assignments are mini-projects aimed at reinforcing concepts discussed in class and developing your independent methodological and statistical thinking and skills. Some components of the assignments are done in small groups (mostly to help build your research project report described below) and other parts should be done on your own. For the parts to be completed on your own, you may feel free to discuss those sections with other students before you start doing the actual work of the assignment, but the work that you turn in must be your own.



**Assignments are due by Sunday at 10pm Eastern time. Late assignments will lose 20% for every day they are late.** The maximum grade for turning in the late assignment before 10pm on Monday is 80%, before 10pm on Tuesday is 60%, before 10pm on Wednesday is 40%, and before 10pm on Thursday is 20%. No assignments will be accepted after Thursday. All assignments count (we don't drop the lowest).

## RESEARCH REPORT

You will complete a research study proposal in small groups of 4-5 (selected from classmates in your assigned sections/labs) over the course of the semester. This proposal will be in the form of a Short Report which is a scientific manuscript format that contains a brief background and rationale for a study with hypotheses (Introduction), the detailed methods of the study (Method), fully reported statistical results with relevant tables and figures (Results), and a brief description of how the study contributes new knowledge, an interpretation of the findings, and the implications for future research / policy change / interventions (Discussion).

You will not have the opportunity to procrastinate on this report. Many of your weekly assignments will involve drafting sections of this document. You will be rewarded throughout the semester for making consistent progress on this project. At the end, you'll compile everything and feel great! **Our goal is to build to a very satisfying and non-stressful end-of-semester where you get to just bask in the glory of your new knowledge and skill and take pride in what your group accomplished.**

## MIDTERM EXAM

There will be a single late midterm examination (short answer) that involves evaluating research methods and analyzing and reporting data. The exam will cover the topics discussed in lecture and sections/labs up until that date in 205L. This is a non-traditional exam where you will get the full exam (but not the data) 24 hours in advance to allow time to jot down ideas, think, and plan without time pressure. The data are released at the beginning of the exam. Data analysis and write-up must be completed during the exam period, and the completed exam is submitted on Gradescope.

Make-up exams will be given only under exceptional circumstances. You must contact the instructor before the exam if an emergency arises. If you are entitled to exam accommodations via the Student Disability Access Office (SDAO), please let us know as soon as possible after the end of Drop/Add if you will be getting accommodations so we can be sure you are fully supported.

### OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM

There will be an optional cumulative final examination during the final exam period that involves evaluating research methods and analyzing and reporting data. The format is the same as the midterm exam. The exam will cover the topics from the entire semester of 205L. Make-up exams will not be given since this exam will be optional.

Our course policy is: What matters is that you learn the essentials of how psychologists create knowledge!

In this spirit, there are no risks to taking the optional final - only potential benefits. If you don't take it, your grade will not be affected. If you take it and the grade is higher than your midterm exam grade, your midterm exam grade will be replaced by your final exam grade. If your grade on the final exam is lower than your midterm, your midterm grade will not be replaced by your final grade. If the final exam grade is lower, we will not include that score anywhere in your final course grade.

### GRADE SCALE

The letter-grade scale for this course is:

A+ = 99-100%	A = 95-98%	A- = 90-94%
B+ = 87-89%	B = 83-86%	B- = 80-82%
C+ = 77-79%	C = 73-76%	C- = 70-72%
D+ = 67-69%	D = 63-66%	D- = 60-62%
F = <60%		



Grades will be rounded up, for example, from 94.50% to 95%.

## PSYCH MAJOR, PRE-MED REQUIREMENTS, QS

Completion of both semesters of the course are required to meet the statistics and methods requirements for Psychology. Both semesters are also required to meet the pre-med statistics requirement. If you or a friend are not a Psychology major and just looking for a QS, you can take 204L and be done. Of course, we are happy to have you stay for 205L, too! This is the semester when things get really fun.

## BEHAVIOR AND COMMUNITY STANDARDS

### The Duke Compact

The Duke Compact recognizes our shared responsibility for our collective health and well-being. Please be reminded that by signing your name to this pledge, you have acknowledged that you understand the conditions for being on campus. These include complying with university, state, and local requirements and acting to protect yourself and those around you. For complete language and updated policies, please visit <https://returnto.duke.edu/compact/>

### Duke Community Standard

All students, whether residing on campus or learning remotely, must adhere to the Duke Community Standard (DCS): Duke University is a community dedicated to scholarship, leadership, and service and to the principles of honesty, fairness, and accountability. Citizens of this community commit to reflect upon these principles in all academic and non-academic endeavors, and to protect and promote a culture of integrity.

To uphold the Duke Community Standard:

Students affirm their commitment to uphold the values of the Duke University community by signing a pledge that states:

- I will not lie, cheat, or steal in my academic endeavors;
- I will conduct myself honorably in all my endeavors;
- I will act if the Standard is compromised

Regardless of course delivery format, it is the responsibility of all students to understand and follow Duke policies regarding academic integrity, including doing one's own work, following proper citation of sources, and adhering to guidance around group work projects. Ignoring these requirements is a violation of the Duke Community Standard. If you have any questions about how to follow these requirements, please contact Jeanna McCullers, Director of the Office of Student Conduct.




## MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Student mental health and wellness is of primary importance at Duke, and the university offers resources to support students in managing daily stress and self-care. Duke offers several resources for students to seek assistance on coursework and to nurture daily habits that support overall well-being, some of which are listed below:

- **The Academic Resource Center:** (919) 684-5917, [theARC@duke.edu](mailto:theARC@duke.edu), or [arc.duke.edu](http://arc.duke.edu)
- **DuWell:** (919) 681-8421, [duwell@studentaffairs.duke.edu](mailto:duwell@studentaffairs.duke.edu), or <https://studentaffairs.duke.edu/duwell>

If your mental health concerns and/or stressful events negatively affect your daily emotional state, academic performance, or ability to participate in your daily activities, many resources are available to help you through difficult times. Duke encourages all students to access these resources.

- **DukeReach.** Provides comprehensive outreach services to identify and support students in managing all aspects of well-being. If you have concerns about a student's behavior or health visit the website for resources and assistance. <http://studentaffairs.duke.edu/dukereach>

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- **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).** CAPS services include individual, group, and couples counseling services, health coaching, psychiatric services, and workshops and discussions. (919) 660-1000. <https://studentaffairs.duke.edu/caps>
  - **Blue Devils Care.** A convenient and cost-effective way for Duke students to receive 24/7 mental health support through TalkNow and scheduled counseling. [bluedevilscore.duke.edu](http://bluedevilscore.duke.edu)
  - **Two-Click Support.** Duke Student Government and DukeReach partnership that connects students to help in just two clicks. <https://bit.ly/TwoClickSupport>

**Academic Support Resources.** The Academic Resource Center (the ARC) offers services to support students academically during their undergraduate careers at Duke. The ARC can provide support with time management, academic skills and strategies, unique learning styles, peer tutoring, learning consultations, learning communities, and more. ARC services are available free to any Duke undergraduate student, in any year, studying in any discipline. (919) 684-5917, [theARC@duke.edu](mailto:theARC@duke.edu), or [arc.duke.edu](http://arc.duke.edu).

**Technology Accommodations.** Students with demonstrated high financial need who have limited access to computers may request assistance in the form of loaner laptops. For new Fall 2021 technology assistance requests, please go [here](#). Please note that supplies are limited.

**Course Materials Costs.** This course shouldn't cost you one penny. We don't use a textbook in this class. If you are having difficulty with textbook and supply costs in any other course, here are some resources for you:

- Contact the financial aid office (whether or not you are on aid). They have loans and resources for connecting students with programs on campus that might be able to help alleviate these costs.





- DukeLIFE has resources available for students with demonstrated high financial need. To apply for a long-term loan of required course materials, please go [here](#). Please note that program resources are limited.
- Duke Libraries offers textbook rentals through the [Top Textbook Program](#), where you can rent out a textbook for 3 hours at a time.
- For course-specific technology needs such as Digital Voice Recorder, HD Video Camera, TI-84 Plus CE, DSLR camera kit, Tripod, Shotgun Mic, iPad Mini 4, a Handheld Projector, or a GoPro, [you can reserve rental equipment](#) from the Link.

## ACCESSIBILITY

The [Student Disability Access Office \(SDAO\)](#) is available to ensure that students are able to engage with their courses and related assignments. Students should be in touch with the Student Disability Access Office to [request or update accommodations](#) under these circumstances.

## OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

Duke University Libraries: Due to the research focus of this class, students will be asked to find and explore scholarly literature on topics relevant to psychology and neuroscience. Although some lab time will be devoted to ways to conduct effective literature searches, students also should examine the resources available via the Duke University Libraries website. Through this website, students are able to access various research databases; make library purchase requests; chat with librarians about general questions; and schedule consultation appointments with Ciara Healy, the subject specialist for both Psychology and Neuroscience. Please click <https://library.duke.edu/services/undergraduate> to read about these and additional services.

## COURSE POLICIES/EXPECTATIONS

**Inclement Weather Policy.** In the event of inclement weather or other related events that prohibit class attendance, I will notify you how we will make up missed course



content and work. Asynchronous virtual catch-up methods may apply.

**Flexible Attendance & Due Date Policies.** Responsibility for class attendance rests with individual students. Since regular and punctual class attendance is expected, students must accept the consequences of failure to attend. If you miss a lecture or section, you will likely need to get notes from someone else (or watch the recording since we will be offering recorded lectures to students who cannot attend synchronously). There will also be many interactive activities during lecture and especially during section periods. If you miss a lecture, there is nothing specific you need to do to make up these activities. Try them out on your own. They are purely for your own benefit to support your learning. If you need to miss a section, you will need to notify the TA in advance and ask for details on how to make up that section which will likely involve some coordination with your group members.

**Assignment due dates are fixed.** No assignments get dropped. However, in recognition of possible extra personal and academic stress and health concerns this semester, **we will grant a one-time no-questions-asked assignment extension of 24 hours.** More details on Trinity attendance policies are available [here](#). More details on Pratt attendance policies are available [here](#).

**Attendance Policy Related to COVID Symptoms, Exposure, or Infection.** Student health, safety, and well-being are the university's top priorities. To help ensure your well-being and the well-being of those around you, please do not come to class if you have symptoms related to COVID-19, have had a known exposure to COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19. If any of these situations apply to you, you must follow university guidance related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and current health and safety protocols. If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, [contact student health](#). 919-681-9355.

To keep the university community as safe and healthy as possible, you will be expected to follow these guidelines. Please reach out to us and your academic dean

as soon as possible if you need to quarantine or isolate so that we can discuss arrangements for your continued participation in class.

**Assignment/exam/report regrades:** The assignments and exams are written by the professor who also writes grading guides but the actual grading is primarily done by the TA. If you have questions about a grade, please first contact your TA to discuss the assignment. If there is a grading error they can fix it. If it was grading correctly but you are contesting the grading, you will need to request a regrade by the professor. I will re-grade the entire assignment. Your grade may go up, down, or not change. This is not meant to be threatening. If you ask for our extra time through a re-grade, we will do the best job we can re-grading it to be as fair as possible. We reserve the right to deny regrade requests if they become too frequent. We are committed to providing you the best learning experience possible and that takes time. We understand how critical your grades are. Know that everything we do leading up to that grade is intended to prepare you for success.

**This is a collaboration:** We all have the same goal. We are deeply invested in this course and your success in it. Every member of this teaching team loves teaching this content. We will do our best to get to know each and every one of you. Please bring your whole self to this class. Creating a welcoming and inclusive classroom experience together as instructors and students is an important priority for all of us. We are not therapists but we can direct you to one if you need it (see above). We are here to help you not only learn the content of this course but become confident!

If you are ever confused or struggling, please come to office hours or reach out to us. It is our job to support your learning experience here at Duke. Please do not keep your struggle to yourself.

There is no shame in having a hard time. All of us on the teaching team have struggled with different parts of the content of this course at various career stages.



We've been there; we're here now to help you have a better experience. We do not want anyone to feel like they are bad at research methods and statistics because they are confused or have difficulty with the software or because it isn't coming easily.

**We are here to empower every single one of you!**