

**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**Psychology Department**

**PSY U 614: Laboratory in Social Psychology**

**Spring 2008**

**Dr. Judith A. Hall**

**Tuesday & Friday, 11:45-1:25**

The goals of this course are:

- to help you learn to think about research in an analytical and critical manner
- to teach you how to read primary research publications
- to acquaint you with how research on human social behavior is done
- to convey the principles of experimental design
- to give you an opportunity to design, conduct, and analyze experimental studies
- to teach you how to write a clear and accurate lab report in APA style.

Since the goal is to learn about doing research, there is no substitute for experience. Therefore, about half the classes will be devoted to lecture and about half to group discussion, exercises, conferences, and presentations concerning your research projects. You are urged to visit the TAs and/or professor regularly for review and special advice on your research projects and lab reports. Consultation is especially important while you are planning and analyzing your research projects.

There is no textbook. There will be a packet of readings at Gnomon Copy on Huntington Avenue, plus class handouts.

Prerequisites are PSY U 402 and PSY U 320 (Social Psychology and Statistics).

Course requirements are: 3 lab reports, 1 quiz, 2 presentations (with team members concerning your research), 3 article summaries, and participation (see below).

Grading will be as follows:

1. 3 lab reports, worth 15%, 20%, and 25% of final grade (60%)
2. Quiz, worth 15% of final grade
3. 3 article summaries, each worth 5% of final grade (15%)
4. Participation (in-class contributions, attendance, citizenship on research teams, quality of presentations, data collected properly, data/lab reports turned in on time) (10%)

Academic Honesty

You will receive a course grade of F if you plagiarize or cheat on any assignments. If you have any confusion about the "line" that separates cheating from honest conduct, you should ask the instructor. **You must observe the instructor's rules regarding team projects. There will be penalties if team members' papers show evidence of impermissible collaboration or copying.**

Contact Information and Office Hours

Dr. Hall's office is 225 NI, 373-3790, [j.hall@neu.edu](mailto:j.hall@neu.edu). Dr. Hall does not process emails on evenings or weekends. Her office hour is Friday 10-11, and by appointment. The teaching assistant is Piercarlo Valdesolo, [piercarlo.valdesolo@gmail.com](mailto:piercarlo.valdesolo@gmail.com). His hours will be announced, and also an appointment can be made with him.

<b>Class Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Research Schedule/Class Activity/Lecture Topic</b>
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Tues 1/8		Introduction; the nature of research in social psychology
Fri 1/11	Jordan article	The logic of experimentation
Tues 1/15		The logic of experimentation
Fri 1/18	Kierstead article	Discuss articles; plan Study 1
	Riniolo article	
Tues 1/22		<b>Bring Study 1 data to class</b> ; plan analysis
Fri 1/25		The logic of experimentation; how to write a lab report
Tues 1/29		<b>Study 1 paper due</b> ; reliability and validity
Fri 2/1		Review for quiz
Tues 2/5		<b>QUIZ</b>
Fri 2/8		NO CLASS
Tues 2/12		<b>Bring Study 2 ideas to class (DON'T FORGET!)</b>
Fri 2/15		Continue planning Study 2
Tues 2/19		<b>Bring Study 2 data to class</b> ; plan analysis
Fri 2/22	Freedman article	Discuss article
Tues 2/26	Isen article	Discuss article
Fri 2/29	Baumeister article	<b>Study 2 paper due</b> ; discuss article
Tues 3/4, Fri 3/7		NO CLASS
Tues 3/11		Start planning Study 3 in teams (with consultation)
Fri 3/14		Plan Study 3
Tues 3/18	Saenz article	Discuss article; plan Study 3
Fri 3/21		NO CLASS
Tues 3/25		<b>Teams make informal presentations on Study 3 ideas</b>
Fri 3/28		<b>Teams make informal presentations on Study 3 ideas</b>
Tues 4/1	Han article	Discuss article; plan Study 3
Fri 4/4		Ethical issues; plan Study 3
Tues 4/8		Plan Study 3
Fri 4/11		<b>Teams make final presentations on Study 3</b>
Tues 4/15 (last class)		<b>Teams make final presentations on Study 3</b>
Tues 4/22		<b>Study 3 paper due</b> by 4:30 pm (in Dr. Hall's office, TA's office, or Psychology office at 125 NI).

### Team Presentations

For Study 3, each team (consisting of 2 people) will make TWO presentations. The first is an informal one in which you present to the class and to the instructors your ideas for your study before you do it; this is a working presentation so that you can get advice and feedback on your ideas. The second presentation is the formal, final presentation of Study 3. This should be well prepared and rehearsed and should fit in the time allotment that Dr. Hall will announce. Team members may decide between themselves how to divide up their participation in the presentations, but it is required that all members participate.

### Quiz

The quiz will cover the classroom lectures and handouts. It will not cover the assigned articles.

### Article Summaries

For 3 of the 5 research articles assigned after the quiz, you will turn in a 3-page summary. You may choose which 3 to write about. Your paper should follow the format explained by Dr. Hall. These are due *in class* on the day that the article is discussed. Late papers will be penalized.