PSY 395: Research Design and Measurement in Psychological Research
Fall Semester, 2017: Tuesday & Thursday 9:10pm – 10:00am, B119 Wells Hall
Lab (see below for times), 012 Olds Hall
3.0 Credit Hours

Instructor: Dr. Shaunna Clark
Office Hours: Thursday 10:30-11:30am, Wednesday 11:00am-12:00pm in Psychology 107A
E-mail address: slclark@msu.edu

Texts & Materials: There is one required textbook and one optional textbook.

Required:

Optional:

Finally, we will be using the I>Clicker device (see www.iclicker.com for general information) in the class. This is a device that will permit you to record your answers to mini-quiz questions in class. Each student must have his/her own I>Clicker (or I>clicker2 or I>CLICKER+, but not the web>clicker). They are available (new or used) in local bookstores, and can also be purchased new (amazon) or used (eBay) on the Internet.

To register your I>Clicker, login to D2L and select this course.

Once on your Course Home page, locate the i>clicker registration link in Content.
Register your i>clicker remote by entering your i>clicker remote ID in the field provided and click “Register”.

**Course Webpage:** On D2L (https://d2l.msu.edu/). This page will provide you with the notes for the lectures, grades, and other important class information.

**Course Objectives:** There are four major goals for PSY 395. First, students will gain mastery
over basic concepts in psychological measurement and research design. Second, students will learn how issues of measurement and design constrain the kinds of inferences that are drawn from psychological research. Third, students will further develop their abilities to critically evaluate psychological research, especially from a methodological perspective. Finally, students will develop their writing skills by producing a well-written final project.

**Prerequisite:** Although PSY 395 is not exclusively a statistics course, you will apply the knowledge you gained in PSY 295 such as correlations, t-tests, ANOVA, and basic regression. If it has been a while since you have taken statistics, you will likely benefit from reviewing this material. If you have any specific concerns about your understanding of the material from PSY 295, please do not hesitate to contact your TA or me. Also, some students find this site useful - http://vassarstats.net/textbook/. The following chapters/sections might be the most useful – 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 16.

**Laboratory Sections:** Labs begin meeting the week of September 5th (Monday lab sections will not meet on 9/4). You must attend the lab section for which you are officially registered. They meet weekly in 012 Olds Hall. Here is the list of laboratory sections and TAs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Day of the Week</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>TA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:20am-12:10pm</td>
<td>Goodman-Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>4:10-6:00 pm</td>
<td>Goodman-Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12:40-2:30pm</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4:10-6:00pm</td>
<td>Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4:10-6:00pm</td>
<td>Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12:40-2:30pm</td>
<td>Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10:20am-12:10pm</td>
<td>Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12:40pm-2:30pm</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TA Contact Information**

Rachael Goodman-Williams (Sections 1 and 2)
*Email:* goodm169@msu.edu
*Office Hours:* Monday 1:00-2:00pm (or by appt.) in Psychology 8

Ross Walker (Sections 4 and 5)
*Email:* riwalker@msu.edu
*Office Hours:* Tuesdays 11:30-12:30pm (or by appt.) in Psychology 346

Camren Wilson (Sections 3 and 8)
*Email:* wils1401@msu.edu
*Office Hours:* Tuesday 12:30-2:30pm & Wednesday 9:30-11:30 (or by appt.) in Psychology 15A

Robert Gray (Sections 6 and 7)
*Email:* grayrob6@msu.edu
*Office Hours:* Thursday 2:30-3:30pm (or by appt.) in Psychology 348
Evaluation Criteria:

Exams: Five exams will be given in class – four during the regularly scheduled class period, and one during the final exam period. The first four exams emphasize material covered since the previous exam (in lecture and lab); however, the material in this class is more or less cumulative given that basic concepts from the first portions of the class are always relevant. The final exam is cumulative. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice and true/false questions. Your four best exam scores will account for 40% of your final grade. Your lowest exam score will be dropped. For instance, if you do well on the first four exams, your grade on the cumulative final exam will not matter. Or, if you do poorly on one of the first four exams, you the final exam can help make up for it.

No makeup exams will be given unless you have a valid, documented excuse (e.g., a note from the dean, a note from your doctor recommending that you not attend class). Any notes must explicitly state that “This student was unable to take the exam on (date) because ______________.” Simply having a bad cold is not an acceptable excuse. The note cannot come from someone in your family. If you cannot get a note or if your excuse involves something that is personal and that you want to keep private, you must get a note from the Dean. You must notify the professor that you have a valid excuse by the end of the day of the exam or you will not be allowed to take the makeup exam. There are no exceptions to these rules.

If you cannot take the exam because of a religious holiday, required participation in a university-sanctioned event (e.g., a commitment for a sports team), or some other acceptable event that can be foreseen, you must notify the professor at least two weeks in advance of exam day. Absence from an exam for any other reason – family obligations, job interviews, and vacations – will result in a grade of 0 for that exam (remember that your lowest exam grade will be dropped).

All Exams (except the final exam) will begin at 9:10am. You may arrive late, but no more exams will be handed out after the first student completes the exam. The first four exams must be turned in by 10:00am. The final exam is on December 12 from 10:00am-12:00pm. The final must be turned in by 12:00pm. During exams, you will only be permitted to have pencils and erasers at your desk. Please leave refreshments or other materials zipped up in your book bag or do not bring them at all. Turn off all devices that make noise (e.g. cellular phones) and please do not wear hats. Once the exam has begun, there will be no talking or disruptions. Leaving the room is reserved for emergency bathroom breaks only. You must bring identification.

Mini-quizzes: During every class meeting, I will pose a number of multiple choice questions (usually 5-10) that you will be able to answer using your I>Clicker device. Here’s how this will work. For each question you get right, you will receive one point. You will also receive one participation point as long as you respond to at least 75% of the questions. These points will make up your Quiz% for the day. Excluding the first two classes and days on which exams will be given, there are 22 class meetings. Therefore, you will have 22 such Quiz% scores. I realize that it may sometimes be necessary for you to unavoidably miss a class, or there may be some days where you find it hard to grasp the material. To make allowances for such occasions, I will drop your lowest five Quiz% scores. Thus, how many of the Mini-quiz points you receive will be determined by your highest 17 Quiz% scores. Mini-quiz questions will determine 5% of your course grade.

If you forget your I>Clicker or if your batteries are dead, you cannot obtain credit for that day of class. Excused or unexcused absences also will not receive credit for that day of class. Please understand that in a class of over 200 students, there will be at least one person who forgets their clicker or batteries each day and I simply cannot give credit in these circumstances. Please do not
ask! Also, please note that recording answers using anybody’s I>Clicker but your own constitutes providing false information to the Instructor and is a violation of class and University rules.

**Lab Attendance:** Attendance will be taken during labs. You are permitted to miss 2 labs without losing points. Lab attendance will determine 2.5% of your course grade.

**Lab Reports:** There are 3 lab reports. The first two are each worth 5% of your course grade. The third is worth 10% of your course grade. In total, the lab reports account for 20% of your course grade. Each one must be uploaded to D2L before the start of your lab the week they are due. Lab work may be done in groups. Each student, however, must write-up and turn in an independent report.

**Final Term Project:** The final project in PSY 395 is worth 32.5% of your course grade. Stop! Do not stress out! Keep in mind that this project is broken down into multiple parts, and takes the form of an original group research project. Several of the laboratory sessions are devoted to explaining this project. Your TA will assign you to research teams of 3 to 4 students; however, written work must be completed independently. The project is broken down into the following parts:

**Proposal Overview Form:** Worth 2.5% of your course grade and one form turned in per team. This form will help your team organize and develop the research idea and study you are proposing. Your TA will provide comments and once the details are worked out this document will serve as your "contract" for your final term project. All research project topics must be approved by your TA.

**Research Proposal:** After your TA has given you an OK on your team project, each individual will write up this information in a formal research proposal that develops an empirical study, and you will conduct your designed study. The written research proposal is worth 10% of your course grade and serves two purposes. First, it will help you get started by writing the literature review and methods. Second, it will provide you with feedback that you can incorporate into your final research paper. Each student must turn in an individual written research proposal.

**Final Research Paper:** Each student will write a full APA-style research paper describing the empirical study completed. The final research paper is worth 15% of your course grade and each student must turn in an individual final project.

**Final Research In-Lab Presentations:** Additionally, each team will present their findings in-lab, which is worth 2.5% of your final grade and will allow for feedback before handing in the written project.

**Team Participation:** Finally, team participation is worth 2.5% of your final grade. Team members will grade each other on the extent to which each member helped develop and work on the final project.

**Late assignment/paper policy:** On-time assignments must be turned into the dropbox folder for your lab section provided on D2L at the time indicated on each assignment sheet. To turn in an assignment late you must submit the paper to your TA (which must be able to be opened using Microsoft Word) via email. Any assignment turned in late will lose 10 percentage points for each day that it is late, including the due date and weekends. That means that a paper turned in 2 days late will be marked down 20%. 

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Extra Credit: You may accumulate an additional 1% extra course points by participating in ongoing research. All such participation will be through the Department of Psychology’s SONA program. Here is the link for signing up for studies: https://msu-psychology.sona-systems.com/. Make sure you use this link!! The Comm Arts Department also uses SOnA and you want to make sure you sign up with Psychology, not them! You will receive a credit for each hour that you spend participating in an experiment. Each credit you earn is worth 0.2% extra-credit points in this class, up to a maximum of 1% (5 hours, 5 SONA credits). The last day to participate in experiments is Friday, December 8th. Details on how to sign up for experiments are posted on the D2L page. For all questions about research participation, please do not contact me. Instead, contact Ms. Audra Jeffrey (jeffre22@msu.edu). If you are under 18 years old and thus cannot participate in research, you can perform an alternative assignment. For details on this assignment, please contact Ms. Audra Jeffrey (email above).

As an alternative to research participation, you may also receive extra credit by writing a thought paper that I have designed for this situation. If you prefer this option, you must make arrangements with me by November 1, and I will give you the specifics of the paper. If you have not made arrangements by November 1, this will no longer be an option for receiving extra credit.

Grading: Your final grade will be based on the following course percentage points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top 4 (out of 5) Exam Scores</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 17 (out of 22) Mini-Quiz Scores</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Attendance</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Report 1</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Report 2</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Report 3</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal Overview Form</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Research Proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Research In-Lab Presentation</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Participation</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit</td>
<td>+1% (max)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The grading scale is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>89.50 – 100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.50 – 89.49</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79.50 – 84.49</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74.50 – 79.49</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.50 – 74.49</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64.50 – 69.49</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.50 – 64.49</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 – 59.49</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policy on grade changes: I will adhere to these cut-offs. Extra credit is the only way to increase your point total if you are concerned about falling on the wrong side of one of these cut-offs. At the end of the semester, if you believe that I made an error in calculating your grade, please let
me know. I will check your grade, and I will change it if I have made an error. This is the only circumstance under which I will change a grade. Under no circumstance will I “bump up” your grade, or give you a special extra credit opportunity. I never do this, so please don’t ask. There will be no exceptions.

**Academic Honesty:** Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the Psychology Department adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations.

You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, unless authorized, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source (except as specified in the assignment). This also means that you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com website or similar websites to complete any course work in this course. In addition, plagiarism of written work is forbidden. It includes taking the work of another individual or source and presenting it as your own. This is considered plagiarism even if the source has given you permission to use their work, or the work is in the public domain (e.g., on the web). **Any student who violates these rules will receive a penalty grade, possibly a failing grade on the assignment or in the course, and will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Student Affairs.** See also: https://www.msu.edu/~ombud/academic-integrity/student-faq.html

Contact your instructor, or TA, if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work.

Consistent with MSU's efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, I have chosen to use a tool called Turnitin to compare your papers with multiple sources. The tool will compare each paper you submit to an extensive database of prior publications and papers, providing links to possible matches and a 'similarity score.' The tool does not determine whether plagiarism has occurred or not. Instead, I will make a complete assessment and judge the originality of your work. All submissions to this course will be checked using this tool.

**Policy on Religious Observations:** If you anticipate being absent from class due to a major religious observance, please provide notice of the date(s) to me and your TA, in writing, by the second class meeting.

**Note taking and recording:** You are encouraged to take notes on the lecture and are permitted to tape-record class sessions for your own purposes. However, you are not permitted to take notes or tape-record for purposes of sale and distribution.

**E-Mail Policy:** E-mail is the best way to get a hold of us (Dr. Clark and TAs). However, please use the following guidelines when e-mailing one of us:

1) First, ask yourself this question: “Can this question be answered by looking in the syllabus or looking on the D2L course site?”
2) Use PSY 395 in the subject line. That makes it clear you are a student in this course asking a question. This helps to prevent e-mails from going directly to the junk folder.
3) Please sign your e-mail with your full name, so we know who you are.
4) Check your e-mail regularly! During the course, we will e-mail you from time to time with announcements and reminders. Please read these e-mails as soon as you receive
them, and please check your e-mail regularly.

**Students with Special Needs:** Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.

If you require testing accommodations (additional time, less disruptive room, etc.) you must contact me and present your VISA at least two weeks before the exam date to schedule an alternative exam. Typically, I will schedule for you to take the exam during special exam sessions offered by the Psychology Department. Those exams occur in small group settings and are offered every Wednesday at 3:00pm and Thursdays at 9:00am in Giltner 346. If you are unable to make either of those times, or that option does not meet your VISA accommodations, you may be able to schedule to take your exam at the RCPD office. In either case, the exam must be scheduled well in advance, so you need to adhere to the two week prior notification requirement.

**Academic Assistance:** This is a university and you are expected to produce college level work. If you have any trouble with assignments or the material covered in class, please make an appointment to speak with me. Additionally, the university has resources to assist students, such as the Campus Tutorial Center, the Campus Writing Center, Adult Student Services, and more. A lot is expected of you, but the university wants to help you to produce your best work.

**Limits to Confidentiality:** Please be aware that class materials are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University’s student policies. However, all University employees, including instructors, cannot maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues based on external legal obligations or health and safety considerations of MSU community members and others. As the instructors, the TAs and I must report the following information (including your name and the details of the disclosure) to the Office of Inclusion if you share it with one of us:

- Suspected child abuse, even if the maltreatment happened when you were a child
- Allegations of sexual assault or harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff
- Credible threats to harm of oneself or others

The Office of Inclusion will reach out to you via a confidential email, to see if you would like to pursue legal action and to provide you with additional university resources. You have the right to choose whether or not you would like to utilize any of these services or even respond to the university’s email. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling Center (http://counseling.msu.edu).

**Disclaimer:** As the instructor, I reserve the right to make any changes that I deem necessary to the details and/or policies listed in this syllabus. This includes adjusting the schedule according to the pace of the course and the needs of the students. Check D2L regularly to keep up with the topics. You will be given notice of any changes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 8/31</td>
<td>Intro to Course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9/5</td>
<td>What is Psychology</td>
<td>Morling—Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 9/7</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Morling – Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9/12</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Morling – Start of Chapters 3 &amp; 5 (p. 55-59 &amp; p. 121 – 128)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 9/14</td>
<td>Ethics/Basic ingredients of a study</td>
<td>Morling – Statistics Review (p. 441 – 486)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9/19</td>
<td>Basic ingredients of a study</td>
<td>Morling – Statistics Review (p. 441 – 486)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 9/21</td>
<td>Basic Stats Review</td>
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<td>Thursday 9/28</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10/5</td>
<td>Scientific Inquiry</td>
<td>Morling – Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Tuesday 10/10</td>
<td>Scientific Inquiry</td>
<td>Morling – Chapter 5</td>
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<td>Thursday 10/12</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
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<td>Tuesday 10/17</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Morling – Chapter 7</td>
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<td>Thursday 10/19</td>
<td>Sampling</td>
<td>Morling – Chapter 6</td>
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<td>Tuesday 10/24</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Thursday 10/26</td>
<td>Survey Research</td>
<td>Morling – Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10/31</td>
<td>Experimental Research</td>
<td>Morling – Chapter 10</td>
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<td>Thursday 11/2</td>
<td>Experimental Research</td>
<td>Morling – Chapter 11</td>
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<td>Tuesday 11/7</td>
<td>Experimental Research</td>
<td>Morling – Chapter 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11/9</td>
<td>Experimental Research</td>
<td>Morling – Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11/14</td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 11/16</td>
<td>Relational Research</td>
<td>Morling Chapter 9</td>
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<td>Tuesday 11/21</td>
<td>Relational Research</td>
<td>Morling – Chapter 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 11/23</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11/28</td>
<td>Complex Experimental Designs</td>
<td>Morling – Chapter 12</td>
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<td>Thursday 11/30</td>
<td>Complex Experimental Designs</td>
<td>Morling – Chapter 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12/5</td>
<td>Exam 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12/7</td>
<td>Review session for final exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday December 12</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>B119 Wells Hall 10:00am – 12:00pm</td>
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Labs start the day after Labor Day on September 5th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Lab</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Exercise</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/5-9/11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Observational Study</td>
<td>Lab Report 1 handed out</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/12-9/18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Analysis of Observational Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/19-9/25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Data Collection for Lab Report 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Lab Report 1 Due by the start of assigned lab time / Lab Report 2 handed out</td>
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<td>9/26-10/2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Writing a Method section / Analysis of Data for Lab Report 2</td>
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<td>10/3-10/9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Writing an Introduction / Setting up the Data for Lab Report 3</td>
<td>Lab Report 2 Due by the start of assigned lab time / Lab Report 3 handed out</td>
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<td>10/10-10/16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Analysis of Data for Lab Report 3</td>
<td>Proposal Overview Form handed out</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/17-10/23</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Work on Final Project</td>
<td>Lab Report 3 Due by the start of assigned lab time</td>
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<td>10/24-10/30</td>
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<td>Work on Final Project</td>
<td>Proposal Overview Form Due by the start of assigned lab time</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/31-11/6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>TA Feedback / Prep for Data Collection</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/7-11/13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Work on Final Project and Presentation / Data Collection</td>
<td>Written Research Proposal Due by the start of assigned lab time</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/14-11/20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Presentation Prep / Data Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of 11/20</td>
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<td>Tuesday-Friday lab cancelled; Monday labs still meet</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/27-12/1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Final Research Presentations</td>
<td>In-Lab Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of 12/4</td>
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<td>No lab—Final Research Paper due by 8am</td>
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