

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT PSY 310

DURING THE FALL / SPRING:

The LECTURE PORTION:

is designed to teach research methods, which includes homework and tests.

The LAB PORTION: (REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY)

meets twice a week **during the regular semester** for only an hour. What students don't realize ahead of time is:

the LAB section is NOT 'lab time to sit and type' but rather a lecture on HOW to write / get articles / design an experiment.

During the Summer Terms, PSY 310 is taught as a LECTURE and a LAB over the summer just as it is during the Fall/Spring semesters.

DURING THE SUMMER:

BOTH LECTURES blur into one. Therefore, there's not an easy way to say "this section is lecture or this section is part of the lab." Additionally, it's a pretty standard measure that:

for EVERY HOUR a student spends in the classroom, they should allot TWO (2) HOURS for homework.

The lab course is not always taught in a room with computers. At least half of the lab sections are taught in lecture rooms rather than lab rooms. Unless the students are being asked to do an in-class assignment on the computer, there usually isn't a time to do work on the computers in class.

The research PAPER is meant to be WRITTEN OUTSIDE of class.

Even during the Fall / Spring:

CLASS TIME does NOT equal time to type, but rather time to LEARN HOW to ORGANIZE the paper.

How to Survive PSY 310

- 1) Attend class regularly.
 - a. Lectures and recitations are equally important in receiving a good grade.
 - b. Missing classes will put you behind, there is a lot to cover in this class and it is very hard to catch up after missing classes.
- 2) Choose a topic you are interested in.
 - a. You will be writing a mock research paper on one topic and spending a lot of time researching it. Don't pick something that you think will be easy; choose something you would actually like to research. This will make the paper less of a chore and more fun to write.
 - b. I was an athlete and choose a topic relating to sports and academic achievement. I used my own experiences and articles to get ideas.
 - c. Doing a paper on a topic that is of no interest to you is a poor decision; it will make the paper a chore to do.
- 3) Take statistics before 310
 - a. You will be using your stats in this class and on the paper. It will be impossible to earn a good grade if you do not know your stats.
 - b. Keep your old stats notebook and reference it when working on your paper.
 - c. Not having knowledge of stats will mean you will need to learn stats along with all the other information in the class thus doubling the workload.
- 4) Keep up with deadlines in recitation.
 - a. The deadlines in recitation are there to help not to hurt you. Each section of the paper is due separately. This gives the opportunity to have the TA review your progress and allow for revisions when necessary. This makes the paper more like writing a few small papers instead of one huge paper.
 - b. The TA will give you opportunities to fix sections of the paper that are not done well. Take advantage of this. If all of your sections are done on time at the end of the semester all you will need to do is staple the separate parts together and the paper is done!
- 5) Relax!!!
 - a. Stay up to date with all assignments and this class will not be a problem.
 - b. Don't overwhelm yourself, this class can be very easy or very difficult and you will be the one to make that distinction.
 - c. PSY 310 takes you step by step through writing a research paper. This paper is the suggested way to meet the upper division writing requirement for a PSY degree. The TA and professor are there to assist you each step of the way. This class is a challenge but is well worth it. Students who do poorly in PSY 310 have the difficult task of finding a class that requires a research paper and then completing it on their own instead of with the assistance of a professor and a graduate student TA.
 - d. Take the time that is required of this class and get all you can out of it. Successful completion of PSY 310 makes all other upper division PSY classes easier. If you are prone to missing class or struggle with writing try to take PSY 310 over the summer, or with a light class load. This class is required to graduate and should be taken very seriously.