

Stats lab

Week 1

Write this down!

- ▶ Meetings:
 - ▶ Instructor:
 - ▶ Office:
 - ▶ Phone:
 - ▶ email:
 - ▶ Office Hr.:
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- ▶ Handouts on website will be posted every week - you need to print and bring them!

Why write?

- ▶ The ability to analyze and COMMUNICATE findings is critical to most jobs you would get with a psych degree
- ▶ You need to be able to:
 - Formulate a question
 - Develop a method to address the question
 - Collect data
 - Analyze data
 - Interpret findings in relation to the initial question
- ▶ You are likely to be asked to do some or all of these...

Lab structure

- ▶ Lab supplements the class and the work
- ▶ You must complete the writing portion of the class to pass the course!!
- ▶ You will complete a project as a scientist by
 - Developing a research idea and variables
 - The data you collect will form the basis for the projects that you complete for the rest of the semester.
 - You will learn to conduct relevant statistical tests by hand and in SPSS
 - and will learn to make appropriate inferences from the results and to report the results to others.

Attendance

- ▶ Things move quickly in the lab
- ▶ Attendance and reading before class will help you keep up
- ▶ Ask questions!!! Staying engaged will help you learn
- ▶ If you miss a class, contact another student for the missed information
 - Be prepared – get another student's info
 - I will not re-lecture or hold specific make up sessions
 - Your grade on the group project may be affected (other students will rate your contributions)

Writing

- ▶ Writing assignments are mandatory!
- ▶ Assigned and due in lab
- ▶ Much of the work required for the assignments will be done in groups in lab
- ▶ BUT everyone must turn in their own assignment that they completed independently – plagiarism is not permitted.
- ▶ Must be typed, APA style, stapled
- ▶ Must have your output attached!!

- ▶ Grades: ability to analyze data, report findings, AND quality of writing
- ▶ 10% deducted each day late

Group assignments

- ▶ Get contact info!!

Pick a topic

- ▶ Pick something relatively broad that's interesting and can be reported or observed
- ▶ Must not be likely to result in physical or psychological harm to anyone (including you)

Pick outcomes

- ▶ Will you observe or have people complete questions?
- ▶ Who will you observe/ question?
- ▶ Pick 3 outcome measures
 - Be specific about what you will observe or ask
 - Must be continuous – interval data (or ordinal scale that we'll treat as interval) or ratio data

Pick predictors

- ▶ Things you think will change scores on your outcome measures
- ▶ You need to have:
 - Two–group category that should result in different scores on the outcome measures
 - A categorical predictor with 3 or more categories/groups
 - One continuous predictor that theoretically or methodologically comes before the outcome measure
 - One continuous measure that may relate to the outcome but doesn't necessarily precede it
- ▶ Also: get gender and age

Now go collect the data!

- ▶Collect your data from 20–25 people.
- ▶Can do this as a group or everybody can do 4–5

- ▶Make sure that everybody is going to ask the same questions or observe the same things

Bring this data to the next lab!!!!