# Evaluation of experimental methods of teaching on achievement in general psychology at Iowa Central Community College 

Prem Nath Sahai<br>Iowa State University

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# EVALUATION OF EXPERIMENTAL METHODS OF TEACHING ON ACHIEVEMENT IN GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY AT IOWA CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE 

 by Prem Nath SaheiA Dissertation Submitted to the
Graduate Faculty in Partial Fulfillment of The Requirements for the Degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Major Subject: Education

## Approved:

Signature was redacted for privacy.

## In Charge of Major Work

Signature was redacted for privacy.

## Head of Major Area

Signature was redacted for privacy.
Dean of Gradaate College

Iowa State University Ames, Iowa

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## INTRODUCTION

The history of mankind has continuously evidenced the need for lengthening the period of minimum education for its children. Early settlers in the 16 th century in the United States considered six to eight years' education as the minimum for their children. In the $19 t h$ century, the local communities felt the pressures of advancing culture. Twelve-year high school education became an aspiration for the local communities. In the first half of the 20 th century, high school education reached the stage of minimum level of education.

Complexities of the modern world and affluence in the society prompted a greater desire for education beyond high school. This resulted in the establishment of a number of universities and four-year colleges all over the country. The Morril Act of land grant colleges in 1862 was a great step rorward for propagation of education. Their growth and influence in the communities, through extension education, enhanced the growing need of minimum education for future generations. In 1902, the first junior college was established. In the 1920's. local communities began to establish their own junior colleges to provide two years of education beyond high school.

Educational Policies Commission of the National Education Association (7) recommended in 1964 the universal opportunity for education beyond the high school. The publication stated in the foreword:

> "That every American should receive education through the high school has long been a national goal. In this regard, the United States has been pacesetter for the worid. Yet, as America approaches this goal, it becomes apparent that it is not enough to meet present and future demands. The Educational Policies Commission proposes that the nation now raise its sights to make available at least two years further education, aimed primarily at intellectual growth, for all high school graduates."

In proposing the accessibility of the universal two years'
education beyond the high school, the Commission proposed:
"Nonselective colleges should exist in every population center, and they should expand their range beyond their immediate environs through radio, television, self-teaching devices, extension programs, and correspondence courses."

Morrison and Witherspoon (17) reported in 1966 the follow-
ing changes in junior college enrollments throughout the country:

```
"Junior colleges have increased greatly in number and in
    enrollment size since the beginning of this century
    when there were eight junior colleges which enrolled
    a total of 100 students. By 1950 the number of junior
    colleges had increased to 506 and to 593 by 1960. The
    644 junior colleges in 1963 represented a }9\mathrm{ percent
    increase in the number of junior colleges in the pre-
    ceding three years. One of six students enrolled in
    institutions of higher education in the fall of 1963
    was enrolled in a junior college. Publicly supported
    junior colleges enrolled }90\mathrm{ percent of all junior
    college students."
```

Total enrollment of two-year institutions in the United
States in 1967 was $1,518,079$ (22, p. 301).
Presently, several states such as California, Florida, and New York have systems where the junior colleges serve as feeder institutions to the larger state universities. Starrak and

Hughes (27) stated that in Iowa the major objective of the
junior colleges has been to make it conveniently possible for the college bound students to remain at home while completing the first one or two years of a regular degree curriculum.

Junior colleges are being replaced by comprehensive community colleges. This is relatively a new concept of comprehensive post-high school education for two years. Its purpose is to meet the educational needs of the people oî the community. These needs result from the growth of functional illiteracy of adults in all walks of life, increased demand for college education, need for terminal education of noncollege bound younger population, and the urge for self-actualization of the grown-ups. The importance of its role increased due to a growing demand of professional education and graduate study programs at the university level.

Another research study reported in the Phi Delta Kappan Journal of February, 1970 (21) estimated an increased demand of 2,388 full-time instructors in the area of general subjects and 2,200 in the area of technological subjects during the year 1969-70 over the year 1968-69.

As early as 1956, Conant (4) advocated the development of a strong force in the two-year colleges. Emphasizing the role of the two-year colleges, he said,
> "For those whose interests are focused on the education of all our future citizens, irrespective of their vocations, the proposal to channel a large proportion of high school graduates into local colleges instead of publicly supported universities also has much to recommend it. First, because a local two-year college can of ten take care of a boy
or girl looking for a short general education better than a university. The combination of vocational training and general studies offered may yield results more lasting than exposure to instruction in enormous classes in a University. Psychologically, there are of ten great advantages in being in a smaller and more familiar group. Second, because there is a certain relation between the expansion of our state universities and the type of education offered to all the youth of the state in the high school. The taxpayer's money supports public education at all levels. . . And it is clear that twoyear colleges are a far less expensive form of advanced education than that provided by a university, unless the university is doing a wretched job for its freshmen and sophomore classes."

Community College Growth In Iowa
Growth of the community colleges is evidenced by the yearly increase in enrollment of the students in these colleges. A report of the Iowa State Department of Public Instruction (12) Indicated that the enrollment of students in the junior colleges in Iowa had continuously been rising in the 1950's and 1960's. During a period of sixteen years, from 1953 to 1969, the increase was more than 1.160 percent. The data in Table 1 indicate the increase. This table was constructed from the information furnished by the Iowa State Department of Public Instruction. ${ }^{1}$

On the three campuses of the Iowa Central Community College, the increase was more than 10 percent in one year, from 1,875 in 1968-69 to 2,071 in 1969-70.

[^0]Table 1. Enrollment of full-time community college students 1953-1969

| Year | Total enrollment |
| :--- | :--- |
| $1953-54$ | 1,457 |
| $1955-56$ | 2,332 |
| $1957-58$ | 2,677 |
| $1959-60$ | 2,783 |
| $1961-62$ | 3,511 |
| $1963-64$ | 4,752 |
| $1965-66$ | 8,468 |
| $1969-70$ | 13.497 |

Today the two-year colleges are playing a unique role in the field of education. Erickson (8) wrote about the two-year college:
> "The American two-year junior college was a unique invention adapted from the land-grant college idea, which brought with it the introduction of the new degree, associate in arts. The junior college idea has flowered--our open-door, comprehensive junior colleges have a wide selection of offerings leading both to transfer to the university and to employment in business, technology, health sciences, and public service."

The wide variety of the needs of the increased enrollment at the community college was reflected in the increasing number of course offerings at the various community colleges in Iowa. At the Iowa Central Community College, Webster City, Iowa the
number of course offerings rose from 79 in 1966-67 to 108 in 1969-70.

Rationale for the Study
To fulfill the specific needs of the student population, the community colleges have started evening classes on-and-off campus, like the universities. The difference between universities and community colleges is that the former have tried to develop graduate level courses to serve the needs of education for professional growth. Whereas the community colleges are trying to offer courses at the undergraduate level for all types of students.

A survey of the students in the Iowa Central Community College indicated that the students take advantage of the opendoor policy of the community colleges. The high school ranks for these students range from the lowest decile to uppermost decile. The composite scores on the American College Testing Program tests, referred to as A.C.T. tests henceforth, ranged from eight to 30 with a mean ranging from 19.39 to 21.69 during the years 1967-69. These scores were lower than the scores of their counterparts in the three state institutions of higher learning in Iowa. All the state institutions of higher learning generally admit students from the upper half of the graduating class of the high schools. The average A.C.T. scores reported for the 1966-67 year freshmen were 24.24 , 22.50 , and 20.81 for the State University of Iowa, Iowa State

University, and the University of Northern Iowa as compared to an average of 19.43 of the Iowa Central Community College. All these flgures were taken from student profiles of the Iowa Central Community College for three years.

Several educators have gathered subjective information and expressed their opinions about the off-campus and on-campus evening courses. Conant (5) made a similar study in the course of his journey around the country. He especially commented about extension courses offered off-campus, saying.
"However, within the profession the suspicion is rife that some, if not many, of them are far below standard. And because of this suspicion, I suppose, the number of credits, out of a total of 30 toward a master's degree, that can be 'rung up' by taking extension courses is commonly limited to about eight. There is of ten, however, no limit to the number of extension courses that can be counted toward an increase in pay."

In conclusion, he recommended for on-campus and off-campus courses, both, "No credit toward the degree should be given for extension course or courses taken on campus while the teacher is engaged on a full-time teaching job."

Sheats (24) has stated that,
". . . there would be general agreement, in principle, that university extension activities should reflect the kind of qualitative standards which characterize on-campus teaching and research activities."

Research findings, as cited by Bail et al. (2), support this viewpoint. Price (20) found that, in general, the ability levels of on-campus and off-campus groups were comparable.

Marcus (13) found that on-campus and off-campus courses
differed little in terms of marks, difficulty of work, or testing. Moore (15) discovered that instructors of graduate extension classes rated their students as highly as on-campus students in the quality of work done. Indeed, one study found that extension students did significantly better than on-campus students on tests of vocabulary and level of comprehension.

In brief, the importance of the role of the community college can be emphasized due to the following factors:

1. Open-door policy resulting in increasing enrollments.
2. Wide variety of course offerings to satisfy the specific needs--education for terminal, continued, vocational and technical, and transfer programs of their student population.

These virtues of the community college make the task of the instructor more complex. They are confronted with the problems of:
a. Maintenance of academic standards to compare favorably with their counterparts in the academically-oriented institutions of higher learning, satisfying the needs of transfer students.
b. Serving the needs of semi-professional groups comprising most of the vocational-technical programs.
c. Satisfying the desire for self-improvement of those who seek continued education.
d. Meeting the challenge of terminal students who like to try for an opportunity of post-high school education.

The present investigator had an opportunity to teach a course in general psychology at the Iowa Central Community College, Webster City, Iowa scheduled during the day for three days a week and an on-campus night course for one night a week. Both the classes carried an equal credit of three semester hours.

This investigator considered it beneficial in the interests of the standards of education imparted in the community colleges to investigate the effects on the achievement of students in two types of classroom structure: one, three onehour classes three days a week; and the other, a one-night-aweek three-hour class in general psychology.

Past subjective experiences of the investigator in a high school general psychology class seemed to indicate that the students favored teaching and testing by chapters of the textbook rather than by the units. It was, therefore, decided to determine the effectiveness, as measured by student achievement, of the types of course organization--by units and by chapters.

Statement of the Problem
Iowa Central Community College, Webster City, Iowa first offered night classes for credit courses in the spring of 1968. One of the courses, general psychology, was taught by the investigator. It was the purpose of this investigation to compare the achievement of the students taught in two types of class structure--one three-hour class taught one night a week
and three one-hour classes taught three days a week. Also planned within this investigation was the study of the effects of the two types of course structure: one, teaching and testing by chapters; and the other, teaching and testing by the units given in the textbook.

## Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were postulated:

1. There is no difference in the educational background of different groups of students as measured by a) high school percentile ranks and b) composite scores on test of A.C.T. program.

The following specific hypotheses were stated:
(1) There is no difference between the students in the two types of class structure on the basis of the mean high school percentile ranks.
(11) There is no difference between the students in the two methods of course organization on the basis of their mean high school percentile ranks.
(i11) There is no difference between males and females on the basis of their mean high school percentile ranks.
(iv) There is no difference between the students of two types of class structure as measured by the mean A.C.T. composite scores.
( $v$ ) There is no difference between the students of two methods of course organization as measured by their mean A.C.T. composite scores.
(vi) There is no difference between boys and girls as measured by their composite scores on the A.C.T. test.
2. There is no difference in the academic achievement of the students in the general psychology course who have had a general psychology course in high school or any other psychology course prior to taking the general psychology course at the Iowa Central Community College and those who did not have one.
3. There is no difference in the academic achievement in general psychology in college among the students grouped into four categories according to outside work load to earn money and to maintain a family in case of married women.
4. There is no difference in the academic achievement of the students taught under two types of class structure: first, teaching three one-hour classes three days a week; and the second, teaching one three-hour class one night a week.
5. There is no difference in the academic achlevement of the students taught under the two methods of course organization: first, one-chapter teaching and testing; and the second, teaching and testing by units.
6. There is no difference in content retention by students taught in two types of class structure, as measured by the achievement on the semester test.
7. There is no difference in the content retention by students taught in two methods of course organization, as measured by the achievement on the semester tests.
8. There is no difference in the achlevement in general psychology of the students grouped according to academic loads: 16 semester hours or more; 13 to 15 semester hours; and 12 or less semester hours during the semester they took general psychology.
9. There is no difference in achievement of students taught through self-study of Chapter 14 and through a combination of classroom discussions and self-study of 18 chapters.
10. There is no difference in the learning of assigned units of the general psychology as measured by the average achlevement of students when units are compared with one another in the second method of course organization--teaching and testing by units of the textbook in the course (general form).

Six units were involved in this comparison. Thus the hypothesis was subdivided into 15 sections to determine the differences in learning among different units, as measured by the achievement on tests for these units (specific hypotheses tested).
(1) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 1 and Unit 2 of the general psychology.
(11) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 1 and Unit 3 of the general psychology.
(i11) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 1 and Unit 4 of the general psychology.
(1v) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 1 and Unit 5 of the general psychology.
(v) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 1 and Unit 6 of the general psychology.
(vi) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 2 and Unit 3 of the general psychology.
(vi1) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 2 and Unit 4 of the general psychology.
(vi1i) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 2 and Unit 5 of the general psychology.
(1x) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 2 and Unit 6 of the general psychology.
(x) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 3 and Unit 4 of the general psychology.
(xi) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 3 and Unit 5 of the general psychology.
(xii) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 3 and Unit 6 of the general psychology.
(xi11) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 4 and Unit 5 of the general psychology.
(xiv) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 4 and Unit 6 of the general psychology.
(xv) There is no difference between the achievement in Unit 5 and Unit 6 of the general psychology.
11. There is no difference in the achievement in general psychology among the four groups of students when classified by college credits earned: 46 semester hours or more; 31 to 45 semester hours; 16 to 30 semester hours; and 15 or less semester hours prior to taking the general psychology course.
12. There is no difference in the achievement of the students in general psychology classified by the chronological age, measured to the nearest whole year at the beginning of the semester.
13. There is no difference in the learning between the two sexes as measured by the total performance on the tests in general psychology.
14. There is no relationship between the high school percentile ranks and the achievement in the general psychology course.
15. There is no relationship between the composite scores on the A.C.T. tests taken by the students and the achievement in the general psychology course.
16. There is no relationship between the students' achievement in general psychology and the evaluation of the teacher by the students.

## REVIEW OF THE RELATED RESEARCH

The growth of the two-year community college and the role played by its comprehensive nature has helped it get a separate identity in the education system of the country. Researchers have begun to investigate its effectiveness and experiment with different methods and organizational structures. Up to 1967, especially in Iowa, these colleges were run by the local school systems. In most colleges, the teaching staff and the buildings were shared with the local high schools. Three-hour evening classes at the two-year colleges were planned by the institutions of higher learning as their extension courses. Most of these courses were oriented toward the in-service education of teachers. Thus research had been restricted to the investigation of effectiveness of such extension courses by the university.

Sheats (24) summed up his review of the research about extension education, saying.

> "It is appropriate to point out that organized research into the problems and assumptions implicit in the role of university extension in the total adult education effort of this country is of extremely recent vintage and still woefully inadequate. . . But it is safe to assert that the forgotten child of educational research in the United States is what some educators term the fourth level of our educational system--adult education."

The Clearing House on Higher Education ${ }^{1}$ and other
${ }^{1}$ Sumner. David E., Clearing House on Higher Education, Educational Resources Information Center. The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Letter in response to inquiry. Private communication. January 2, 1970.
departments of the Educational Resources Information Center were contacted. Only two research references could be located with their help.

## Growth of Extension Courses

Farnum (9) determined several factors for the growth of
extension courses:
"There are several factors which have initiated this
trend and which may cause it to continue to expand
and spread throughout the educational hierarchy. The
first factor is the greater weight being placed on
education by the general public. Second is industry's
emphasis on higher educational requirements for both
initial selection and promotion of employees. Related
to this is the necessity for increased technical
training brought about by the complexity of recent
technological developments in industry. A third fac-
tor related to the increasing interest in adult edu-
cation is the increasing age level of the general
population. Many retired individuals or individuals
approaching retirement are enrolling in courses
either to train themselves for a new field of work or
for cultural and avocational purposes. A fourth
factor which will lead to the expansion of college
and university adult education classes is the expected
tidal wave of students applying for admission to
college starting in 1958. It is expected that college
enrollments will increase from a current enrollment
figure of $2,629,293$ students to $3,338,656$ by 1960 and
4.382 .082 by 1965 . It is a generally accepted fact
among college administrators that due to limited
facilities many students who are capable of doing
college level work will be unable to gain admission.
It is to be expected that many of these students will
enroll in college or university extension programs.
Some institutions will set up formal degree programs
for these students in extension centers where they
may take one or two years of work toward their
bachelor's degree, while others may not make formal
programs avallable but the students may take courses
which will carry credit toward a degree when they do
matriculate in a full-time status."

Farnum's predictions for growth of college enrollments
were confirmed by the actual enrollment figures in 1967. It
was $6,963,687$ for all post-high school institutions in the States (22, p. 289). Total estimated in 1969 was 7,100,000 (10, p. 660). P1ckett (18) explored the emphases, practices, problems, and issues at six private universities about their evening programs in teacher education. He found the most frequently mentioned problem was that the evening students did not seem to perform as well academically nor did they seem to obtain as good academic programs as did their day-divisions counterparts.
On-and-Off Campus Course Comparisons

In his comparison of the academic aptitude of the university extension degree students and campus students, Farnum
(9) reported
". . . that those extension students working toward a college degree have as much aptitude for college work as campus students and in some specialized areas, may have some advantage over campus students. Hence, taking into consideration the level of ability of extension students plus their strong motivation to learn, it follows that they should be able to do college level work, and they should be entitled to receive college credit for that work. . . . No significant difference was found between the mean scores of the two groups for the total score on the ACT test."

Bridgman and Dysinger (3) measured the final examination performance of correspondence and resident students in an introductory course in psychology. No significant difference in achievement was noted.

Pressey and Kinzer (19), as reported by Anderson et al., differentiated between the high school students and the college
freshmen in their learning of the same material from an educational psychology course. They have, evidently, not taken into consideration some of the other factors like work pressures, academic work load, and courses previously taken in the field of psychology. Obviously, it is safe to assume that tile college students are under different pressures than the high school students, resulting in differences of motivational involvement in the learning of material in any course. It would seem to be probably more so in the field of educational psychology because, at the college level, only those students usually take this course who plan to go into the teaching profession. Whereas at the high school level, involvement in an experiment like this would appear more to be for reasons other than the learning of the material. Further, students at the college level are generally assumed to have taken a course in general psychology prior to their taking a course in educational psychology. High school students are generally not offered an opportunity to take a course in general psychology. Pressey and Kinzer do not seem to have recognized this fact when they compared the achievement and retention of the two groups of students.

Bail. Treffinger and Ripple (2) researched student performance in on-campus and off-campus educational psychology classes. This project aimed at investigating differences between an on-campus course and two off-campus courses. The authors have pointed out that this was an exploratory study
with several limitations. One of the main limitations was that this project did not take into consideration the academic work load of the students who were involved in it. The authors have brought this out specifically in their discussion. They have stated:
> "It seems logical that there would be substantial motivational differences between regular and extramural classes: for those in the on-campus setting, the class is usually the primary occupation; for those in extramural classes, it is not. Consider the teacher with a family, taking extramural courses for credit towards a master's degree and, at least partially, for later financial gain. After working hard all day and incurring the everyday problems of teaching and raising family, it is probably unreasonable to expect this teacher and part-time student to be able to compete academically with the full-time student. It is in the best interests of the full-time student to maintain the best possible grades for optimal future employment; the standards for extension students, who are already employed, are not nearly so exacting. Also, the fulltime student has the advantage of many interrelated courses to aid continuity and retention. It is likely that the extramural student has neither as much inclination nor (more importantly) as much time to study the material as does the full-time student."

Prediction of Academic Achievement
Marshall (14) investigated noncognitive variables as a predictor of academic achlevement for freshmen, sophomores, and Juniors at Abilene Christian College. His investigation revealed that:

1. The cognitive variable which had the highest correlation coefficient with actual student grade-point average was High School Grade-Point Average.
2. Noncognitive variables do not correlate as closely with actual student grade-point average as do cognitive variables.
3. Selected noncognitive variables combined with selected cognitive variables and correlated with actual student gradepoint average can increase correlation.

Stough (29) analyzed selected factors as predictors of success in Vocational Industrial Certification Courses. His study revealed that:
"1. The high school achievement, measures of intelligence, and reading ability have been the most consistent predictors of achievement at the college level. The students entering the vocational industrial certification programs are usually between twenty and fifty-five years of age with varied experience since graduation from high school; therefore. high school achievement was not considered appropriate as a predictor for this population.
2. Two hundred fifteen non-degree students from six location groups were tested: 89 of the students were beginning the certification program, and 126 of the students had completed at least two-thirds of the certification program.
3. There were no significant differences found between the scores of the beginning students and those of the finishing students."

A review of research studies by Stough (29) indicated that the optimum combination of predictors is most frequently attained through multiple correlation analyses. The multiple correlation technique was, therefore, adopted for the study. The five part-test scores were used as the predictor variables for the grade-point average. The multiple correlation analysis of the combined populations in the study indicated that the most appropriate equation for predicting success in the
vocational industrial certification courses with the scores from the tests used in his study would be:

Grade point estimate $=1.15474+.00668$ ("Vocabulary" score) + . 02327 ("The World Around You" score) + . 00832 ("Reading Comprehension" score). The Multiple $R$ obtained with these three predictors was .64465 . The other two predictors, "Reasoning" and "Reading Rate" scores, increased the cumulative standard error of estimate but did not add significantly to the Multiple R.

Spector (26) analyzed certain characteristics and the educational success of the junior college freshmen. He found:
"1. Students of nearly all ages and from all socio-economic status levels enrolled in the junior college. The eighteen year old student comprised 51 percent of the entering freshmen and this age group represented 57 percent of the educationally successful students at the end of four semesters. Sixty-eight percent of the freshmen were from middle-class socio-economic backgrounds.
2. Aptitude scores and performance level of students admittea to college varied through approximately the entire percentile range, so too did the range of scores of the educationally successful students at every semester interval.
3. Students who attended college immediately after high school had a significantly better probability of educational success than did students who delayed their college entrance.
4. The high school rank in class of the student was the best single indicator of college performance. A correlation of .55 was attained between high school rank in class and grade point average for all successful students at the end of four semesters. Multiple correlation coefficients as high as . 80 were attained."

Morgenfeld (16) found that the adjusted high school grade average has been the best single predictor of college success.

In his study, adjustments were made to correct for differences in grading standards. Those used were two statistical methods for adjusting high school grades as presented by B. S. Bloom and F. R. Peters in their book, The Use of Academic Prediction Scales, published in 1961. He found the correlation of .54 for scaled values using internal method. This was statistically significantly better than the correlation of .47 with the unscaled values. The other method of aptitude resulted in slightly lower correlation of . 44 .

Differentiated Class Size
Stephens (28) studied the effects of differential class size in a college course. Small size classes had 35 to 36 students, medium-sized classes had 76 to 78 students, and large-sized classes had 189 students. The large-sized class had small discussion groups ranging in size from eight to 23 students.

Major findings of the study were:
"1. On a measure of attitudes toward the teaching profession the medium-sized classes had the highest mean score; the small classes had the next highest mean score; and the large class had the lowest mean score. The difference among mean scores for the groups is statistically significant $(P=.01)$.
2. On a measure of acquisition of functional information and understandings, the large group had the highest mean score; the medium-sized groups had the next highest mean score; and the small groups had the lowest mean score. The difference among mean scores for the groups was statistically significant ( $P=.01$ ). Also the large class proved superior on the same measure for upper ability and lower ability students and for upper division and lower division students."

Corey (6) investigated the outcomes of the introductory psychology course in a junior college. In the investigation, five basic groups were involved in the research design including: small discussion, small lecture, large lecture taught by the investigator, large lecture taught by another instructor, and a group of college students who had not taken Introductory Psychology. . . . Between in group comparisons were made to determine the effect of method, class size, teacher difference, and psychology versus no psychology, upon students' attitudes and adjustment. In general, there were no differences between the groups on the variables studied with the exception that the psychology groups improved their personal adjustment to a greater degree than did the nonpsychology group.

Enrollments in colleges and the evening course offerings in the institutions for post-high school education have increased every year. Evening courses have become more popular and gained more importance. These have created many types of problems, especially for the community college instructors. Several studies seemed to support the evidence that there was no significant difference in achievement between the full-time day students and the students attending evening and extension courses.

Almost all studies were unanimous in their finding that the high school grades or ranks were the best single predictor for academic achievement in college. The differentiated class size showed some effects on the achievement of selected groups
of students. Most of the research centered on the problems confronting the universities and four-year colleges. The unique problems of the comprehensive community colleges have begun to attract the attention of the researchers.

## METHOD OF PROCEDURE

The investigator taught an introductory course in general psychology at the Iowa Central Community College for three semesters--fall and spring 1968-69 and fall of 1969-70. In the fall of 1968-69, referred to as the first method later, the whole course was divided into chapters as given in the textbook, Introduction to Psychology, by Ernest R. Hilgard and Richard C. Atkinson, 4th edition. Each chapter was taught individually and the tests given after each chapter for the first 19 chapters. Tests over Chapters 20 through 24 were included in the semester test. Students' scores on the chapter, unit or the semester tests were interpreted as their achievement in general psychology.

In the spring of 1969 and fall of 1969-70, the course was divided into eight units as given in the text. These units included two to five chapters each. Teaching corresponded to the units, and tests were given at the completion of each unit for the first six units. But the seventh and eighth units covering Chapters 20 through 24 were included in the semester test. This method will be referred to as the second method henceforth.

In this study, day students always took their test at least two days after the study of their chapter or unit. In the case of the night students, they took their tests either immediately after the complete study of the chapter or the unit
or a week later. Thus, basically, there did exist a difference in the time lag between the two groups.

Roden'cle and Anderson (23) have pointed out that there was a smaller decrement over the retention on multiple-choice items with delayed testing situation where the delay was from six to nine days in the completion of the reading material and the testing situation. In the present study this factor could not be and was not controlled for the reasons that the normalcy of the classroom instruction environment would have been lost and the timings could not be controlled. Moreover, the effects of this could be eliminated in the comparisons of the results on the semester test because both the groups would have had almost equal time lag between the time of material studied and the semester test. The semester test included equal numbers of test 1 tems from each chapter of the textbook.

During all three semesters, two types of class organization were used: first, three one-hour classes three days a week; and second, one three-hour class one night a week. Both types of classes were taught on the campus and carried an equal college transfer credit of three semester hours. Three onehour classes and one three-hour class will be referred to as day and night classes, respectively, hereafter.

Originally the study was planned for only two semesters. Since only 39 students enrolled in the second semester, and only eleven in the night classes, it was decided to continue
the project for the third semester. The same course organization was used in the third semester as in the second. Students of all three semesters enrolled in the day or night classes according to their own convenience of scheduling. This was done to have a natural setting for the project, rather than influencing it by any external controls. To eliminate any chance of the Hawthorne Effect, at no stage during the semester were the students told that an experiment was being performed to compare two types of course organization or class structure. Total number of students enrolled in the beginning of the three semesters was 138.

Table 2. Number of students included in the study by course organization and class structure

| Course <br> organization | Day | Night | Total |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | 28 | 18 | 46 |
| Second method | 59 | 22 | 81 |
| Total | 87 | 40 | 127 |

Preliminary statistical analysis was done at the end of the first semester. The calculated correlations seemed high enough to encourage the continuation of the project.

During the three semesters, the investigator made a concerted effort to use the same test materials, audio-visual alds, notes and discussion topics. Tests used were those supplied by the textbook publisher. This was done to save the time and effort in their construction, validation, and reliability testing. Time allotted for all the tests was in proportion to the number of test items on each test. Generally, two minutes were allotted for every three test items. Every test item had four responses. This did require lengthening of the class time of the one-hour day classes by a few minutes in a few situations. All students had ample time to complete the test. All the tests were reviewed in the class after the test was checked and graded. This was invariably done in the following week in the case of the night class students. The semester test consisted of five selected items from each chapter.

Data concerning the age, A.C.T. scores, high school ranks, college grade point, and the students' academic classification were obtained from the counselor of Iowa Central Community College, Webster City, Iowa. Other information such as grades given by the students to the instructor, number of hours worked for pay, and previous psychology course taken, was obtained from the students by means of a questionnaire. It may be mentioned that different instructors at the Iowa Central Community College use their own course evaluation sheets and other questionnaires for gathering desired information. As such, the
use of questionnaires for grading the course and instructor was not new or novel for this investigation. Questionnaires used by the present investigator are given in the Appendix.

Four of the students had not taken the tests of the A.C.T. program. High school ranks were not available for three students. For the purposes of this study, missing data for these students were assigned by allotting average A.C.T. scores and average high school ranks, as determined by the trial calculations for the first semester.

There were only four students who had been enrolled for 11 or fewer hours of college credit in the three semesters of the study of this class. It was, therefore, decided to divide the students into three categories for comparisons according to the academic load; namely, 16 or more; 13 to 15; and 12 or less semester hours of academic load. Similarly, there were only five students of 22 years of age or more. They were included in the group of students of age 21 years. This resulted in four classifications for maturity levels according to chronological age; 1.e., 18, 19, 20, and 21 or more years of age.

## Statistical Techniques

The students at the Iowa Central Community College came from numerous high school systems. Thus, one way that was considered suitable was to convert their high school ranks into percentile ranks. The initial differences among different groups of students were then figured out by computing
the average percentile ranks and their standard deviations for the groups.

Standard statistical techniques developed into computerized programs by the Statistical Data Processing Service of the Iowa State University were used for analysis of the data. Formulas used were for student "t" statistics for correlated samples, regression analyses, the analyses of variance (factorial analyses), correlation matrix as used by Snedecor and Cochran (25) and a linear regression model building system as given in the Mouflon Reference Manual (11). The author was aware that the procedure of using "t" statistics for correlated samples could lead to a larger number of significant "t" values than some of the other procedures available.

Six independent variables--sex, college classification based on educational standing, high school percentile ranks, A.C.T. composite scores, outside work load, and college grade point average--were selected to build a model for prediction of achievement of total scores in general psychology. Two methods tried for this were Stepwise Regression and Hocking and Leslie's Use of the $C_{p}$ Statistic. These methods are described in the Mouflon Reference Manual (11, pp. 3-11).

To test Hypothesis 9, comparing self-study and teaching in class, an average score obtained on all the chapters was calculated. Similarly, to compare the achievement in different units taught by the second method, Hypothesis 11, the average score for a chapter was calculated by dividing the score for
the unit by the number of chapters in that unit. For example, Unit 1 had two chapters. The mean score and the standard deviation were calculated after dividing the scores attained in the unit by two.

For comparisons involving total scores in general psychology, the scores obtained on tests for the first 19 chapters by either method and the scores obtained on the semester test were added together.

## FINDINGS

The purpose of this study was to compare students' achievement as measured by the semester grades with two different types of class structure in general psychology: first, the teaching of three one-hour classes on three days a week; and the second class structure was a three-hour night class once a week. Also planned was a study of the effects of two methods of course organization in the same classes: one. teaching and testing by chapters of the textbook; and the second, teaching and testing by units of the textbook in general psychology. Further development of the study was to attempt a model for prediction of achievement scores in general psychology.

Various hypotheses that were stated for this study were tested with the use of computerized programs developed by the Statistical Data Processing Service of the Iowa State University.

Hypothesis 1 (1): There was no difference between the students in the two types of class structure on the basis of the mean high school percentile ranks.

Mean scores, standard deviations, and the analysis of variance were presented in Tables 3 and 4. Analysis of the data resulted in an $F$ value of 2.35 . This was insufficient to reject the null hypothesis.

Hypothes1s 1 (11): There was no difference between the students in the two methods of course organization on the basis of their mean high school percentile ranks.

Mean scores, standard deviations, and the analysis of variance were presented in Tables 3 and 5. The hypothesis could not be rejected as the $F$ value was 3.04, not significant at . 05 level.

Hypothesis 1 (11i): There was no difference between males and females on the basis of their mean high school percentile ranks.

Mean scores, standard deviations, and the analysis of varlance were recorded in Tables 3 and 6 . The $F$ value for this comparison was 35.31, which was highly significant beyond the . 01 level. The null hypothesis for this comparison was rejected.

Hypothesis 1 (iv): There was no difference between the students of the two types of class structure as measured by the mean A.C.T. composite scores.

Mean scores, standard deviations, and the analysis of variance were recorded in Tables 7 and 8. The $F$ value for this comparison was very low, 0.08. The hypothesis could not, therefore, be rejected.

Table 3. Means and standard deviations of students' high school percentile ranks by groups

| Groups | High school ranks | MeanStandard <br> deviation | Number of <br> students |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Class structure |  |  |  |
| Day class | 52.31 | 23.82 | 87 |
| Night class | 59.31 | 23.41 | 40 |
| Course organization | 59.41 | 25.78 | 46 |
| First method | 51.74 | 22.31 | 81 |
| Second method | 44.39 | 21.60 | 57 |
| Sex | 66.95 | 20.51 | 70 |
| Male | 54.52 | 23.92 | 127 |
| Female |  |  |  |

Table 4. Analysis of variance of high school ranks by class structure

| Source | df | Sum of <br> squares | Mean sum <br> of squares | F value <br> calcu- <br> lated | Hypothesis |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |

Table 5. Analysis of variance of high school ranks by course organization

| Source | df | Sum of <br> squares | Mean sum <br> of squares | F value <br> calcu- <br> lated | Hypothesis |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |

Table 6. Analysis of variance of high school ranks by sexes

| Source | df | Sum of squeres | Mean sum of squares | F value calcu1ated | Hypothesis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Betweensexes 1 15,998,24 15,998.24 35,31** Rejected |  |  |  |  |  |
| Error | 125 | 56,635.68 | 453.08 |  |  |
| Total | 126 | 72,633.92 |  |  |  |
| Table value $\mathrm{F}_{(.01)}=6.85$ |  |  | Degrees of freedom $=1,125$ |  |  |

[^1]Table 7. Means and standard deviations of A.C.T. scores by groups

|  | A.C.T. scores <br> (composite) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Groups | Mean | Standard <br> deviation |
| Number of <br> students |  |  |

Class structure

| Day class | 20.99 | 9.34 | 87 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Night class | 21.42 | 4.08 | 40 |

Course organization
First method
21.72
12.02

46
Second method
20.79
4.43 81

## Sexes

| Male | 21.44 | 10.07 | 57 |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Female | 20.74 | 4.49 | 70 |
| Total for the class | 21.13 | 8.06 | 127 |

Table 8. Analysis of variance of A.C.T. scores by class structure

| Source | df | Sum of <br> squares | Mean sum <br> of squares | F value <br> calcu- <br> lated | Hypothesis |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Between class <br> structure | 1 | 5.21 | 5.21 | 0.08 | Not <br> rejected |
| Error | 125 | $8,250.77$ | 66.01 |  |  |
| Total | 126 | $8,255.98$ |  |  |  |
| Table value $\mathrm{F}_{(.05)}$ | $=3.92$ | Degrees of freedom $=(1.125)$ |  |  |  |

Table 9. Analysis of variance of A.C.T. scores by course organization

| Source | df | Sum of <br> squares | Mean sum <br> of squares | F value <br> calcu- <br> lated | Hypothesis |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- |

Table 10. Analysis of variance of A.C.T. scores by sexes

| Source | df | Sum of <br> squares | Mean sum <br> of squares | F value <br> calcu- <br> lated | Hypothesis |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |

Hypothesis 1 (v): There was no difference between the students of two methods of course organization as measured by their mean A.C.T. composite scores.

Mean scores, standard deviations, and the analysis of variance for this hypothesis were presented in Tables 7 and 9. The $F$ value of 0.38 presented insufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis.

Hypothesis 1 (vi): There was no difference between boys and girls as measured by their composite scores on the A.C.T. test.

The mean, standard deviation, and analysis of variance of the composite scores on the A.C.T. test for the two sexes were recorded in Tables 7 and 10. Computation of the $F$ value yielded a result of 0.24 , which was too low to reject the null hypothesis.

Hypothesis 2: There was no difference in the achievement of the students in the general psychology who have had a general psychology course in high school or any other psychology course prior to taking the general psychology course at the Iowa Central Community College and those who did not have one.

The students were divided into two groups: one, those who had had any course in psychology at high school or in college, before taking a course in general psychology at the college; and the second, those who had not taken any course in psychology before. Means and standard deviations for different groups were given in Table 11. The factorial analysis was given in

Table 12. The $F$ value was 0.01 . The null hypothesis could not

Table 11. Total scores in general psychology with and without previous psychology course by methods of course organization

| Total scores | With previous psychology course |  |  | Without previous psychology course |  |  | Total for all students |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | First method | Sec ond method | Total | First method | Second method | Total |  |
| No. of students | 17 | 29 | 46 | 29 | 52 | 81 | 127 |
| Mean | 331.65 | 282.31 | 300.54 | 286.59 | 280.83 | 286.89 | 289.28 |
| Standard deviation | 87.11 | 63.15 | 76.72 | 89.52 | 62.06 | 73.14 | 74.94 |

Table 12. Factorial analysis of valiance using general psychology scores by methods of course organizatinn and with or without previous psychology course

| Source | df | Sum of squares | Mean sum of squares | $\begin{gathered} \text { F value } \\ \text { calculated } \end{gathered}$ | Hypothesis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Course organization methods | 1 | 617.52 | 617.52 | 0.11 |  |
| Previous psychology course or not | 1 | 40.97 | 40.97 | 0.01 | Not rejected |
| Interaction | 1 | 12,916.57 | 12,916.57 | 2.35 |  |
| Error | 123 | 677.322.57 | 5,506.69 |  |  |
| Table value $\mathrm{F}_{(.05)}=3.92$ |  |  | Degrees of freedom $=(1,123)$ |  |  |

be rejected. The interaction $F$ value of 2.35 did show results favoring the students with previous psychology course in the first method of course organization.

The total scores in general psychology were computed by adding scores on all chapter or unit tests during the semester and the semester test. These were defined as their achievement in general psychology.

For some of the following analyses, course organization methods were included as a control type variable or to examine the interaction between methods and another factor. In testing the hypotheses, the additional effect of one factor (adjusted for the other factor in analysis) was the area of interest. For this reason, the general linear model approach was used. Changing the variables in the equation changed the sum of squares due to a given factor. As in multiple regression, the adding and dropping or changing variables resulted in changes in the partial regression coefficients.

Hypothesis 3: There was no difference in the achievement in general psychology in college of students grouped into four categories according to outside work load to earn money and to maintain a family in case of married women.

The students were grouped into four categories: first, with 10 or less hours of average work load; second, with 11 to 20 hours of average work load; third, with 21 to 30 hours; and the fourth, with 31 or more hours of outside work load per week for the semester. Married women were included in the fourth
category. The $F$ value for comparisons of these four groups was 1.70, which was not significant at . 05 level of confidence. This resulted in nonrejection of the hypothesis. Data were given in Tables 13 and 14.

Hypothesis 4: There was no difference in the achievement of the students taught under two types of class structure: first, teaching three one-hour classes three days a week; and the second, teaching one three-hour class one night a week. Hypothesis 5: There was no difference in the academic achievement of the students taught under the two methods of course organization: first, one-chapter teaching and testing; and the second. teaching and testing by units.

These two hypotheses were tested in a factorial analysis to examine the two factors of class structure and course organization and any interaction.

The comparison of the students who studied in one-hour classes for three days a week with the students who studied for three hours at a time for one night a week was made. Looking at the means of the subgroups formed by $2 \times 2$ analysis with two methods, it was found that the students in the night class in Method I secured the highest average score with greater variance within the group. The $F$ value, 0.02 , given by analysis of variance was very low. This resulted in nonrejection of Hypothesis 4.

The total mean scores and the standard deviations for the four subgroups of students formed by the two methods of course

Table 13. Scores in general psychology for students with different outside work loads

| Outside work load <br> Hours per week | Mean scores | Both methods |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Standard deviations |  |  |  |
| $1-10$ | 286.39 | 77.17 |  |
| $11-20$ | 303.39 | 73.48 |  |
| $21-30$ | 271.97 | 71.33 |  |
| 31 or more | 318.75 | 64.64 |  |

Table 14. Analysis of variance of total psychology scores by outside work load

| Source | df | Sum or squares | Mean sum of squares | F value calculated | Hypothesis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Between work load groups | 3 | 28,354.00 | 9,451.33 | 1.70 | Not rejected |
| Error | 123 | 684,818.00 | 5,567.63 |  |  |
| Total | 126 | 713.172 .00 |  |  |  |
| Table value | $F_{( }$. | $=2.68$ | Degrees | of freed | $n=(3,123)$ |

organization and day and night classes showed greater homogenelty between the day and night classes under the second method. The night group of the first method affected the overall results for the first method. The analysis of variance for the comparison of the two methods of course organization showed a high $F$ value of 12.20. The null hypothesis was rejected beyond . 01 level of significance. The data were presented in Tables 15 and 16.

Means, standard deviations and the analysis of variance were computed to determine the difference, if any, between the achievement scores in general psychology by different groups of students under experimental conditions using two different types of class structure and two types of course organization. These were given in Tables 15 and 16. The $F$ value for differences in the two methods was 12.20 which is highly significant beyond the . 01 level of significance. The $F$ value for differences between two types of class structure, day and night, was 0.02 .

When there is significant interaction, the main effects of the factors should be examined with caution. The high $F$ value of 11.11 for the interaction showed lack of uniformity with the best combination favoring teaching and testing by chapters at night. Data were presented in Tables 15 and 16.

Table 15. Total scores in general psychology by class structure and course

$a^{\text {on }}$ this and the following tables, $N$ is number of students in the group.

Table 16. Factorial analysis of variance using total scores in general psychology by class structure and course organization

| Source | df | Sum of squares | Mean sum of squares | F value calculated | Hypothesis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Class } \\ & \text { structure } \end{aligned}$ | 1 | 109.43 | 109.43 | 0.02 | Not <br> rejected |
| Course organization | 1 | 60,645.72 | 60.645 .72 | 12.20** | Rejected |
| Interaction | 1 | 55.223 .00 | $55.223 .00^{\text {4 }}$ | 11.11** |  |
| Error | 123 | 611.235.51 | 4.969.39 |  |  |
| Table value F | (.01 | $=6.85$ | Degrees of freedom $=(1,123)$ |  |  |

Hypothesis 6: There was no difference in content retention by students taught in two types of class structure, as measured by the achievement on the semester test.

Hypothesis 7: There was no difference in the content retention by students taught in the two methods of course organization, as measured by the achievement on the semester test.

The data for the two hypotheses were calculated and presented in Tables 17 and 18.

Semester test scores in general psychology classes were analyzed to determine differences in retention due to two types of class structure and two methods of course organization. Means, standard deviations, and the analysis of variance were
given in Tables 17 and 18 . The $F$ value for the two types of class structure was 0.07 and for two methods of course organization was 10.62. The latter was highly significant beyond the . 01 level. The null hypothesis was rejected. The $F$ value for the interaction was 2.62 but not high enough to suggest significant compatibility of any one type of class structure with any one method of course organization. Hypothesis 8: There was no difference in the achievement in general psychology of the students grouped according to three different academic loads: 16 semester hours or more; 13 to 15 semester hours; and 12 or less semester hours during the semester they took general psychology.

The students were divided into three groups with different educational loads carried during the whole semester. The analysis of variance was calculated. The $F$ value of 1.76 was insufficient to reject the null hypothesis at . 05 level of significance. The interaction F value was also low, 0.49 , insufficient to detect differences among the students in the three groups when taught by two methods of course organization. The data were presented in Tables 19 and 20.

Total scores in general psychology in Table 19 represented a sum of scores achieved by the students on all tests during the semester, including the final semester test.

Table 17. Semester test scores in general psychology by class structure and course organization

| Course organization | Class structure |  |  |  | Course organization totals |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | MeanDay <br> Standard <br> deviation |  | MeanNight <br> Standard <br> deviation |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Mean | Standard deviation |  |  |
| Method I | $\mathrm{N}=28$ |  |  |  | $\mathrm{N}=18$ |  | $\mathrm{N}=46$ |  |
|  | 67.70 | 20.49 | 78.22 | 23.68 | 71.91 | 22.41 |
| Method II | 57.88 | 14.01 | 59.09 | $\frac{\mathrm{N}=22}{} 14.40$ | 58.21 | $=81$ |
| Totals for | $\mathrm{N}=87$ |  | $\mathrm{N}=40$ |  | $\mathrm{N}=127$ |  |
| class structure | 60.97 | 16.94 | 67.70 | 21.37 | 62.61 | 19.55 |

$\left.\begin{array}{llllll}\text { Table 18. Factorial analysis of variance using semester test } \\ \text { scores by class structure and course organization }\end{array}\right]$

Table 19. Total scores in general psychology with different education loads and course organization methods

| Methods of course organization | Education load |  |  | Total for methods |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 12 or less semester hours | $\begin{gathered} 13-15 \\ \text { semester hours } \end{gathered}$ | 16 or more semester hours |  |
|  | Mean Standard <br> deviation | MeanStandard <br> deviation | MeanStandard <br> deviation | MeanStandard <br> deviation |
| Method I | $303.38^{\frac{\mathrm{N}=8}{}} 84.04$ | $291.89 \quad 94.23$ | $314.53^{\frac{N}{3}=19} 89.77$ | $303.2 \frac{\mathrm{~N}=46}{4} 91.27$ |
| Method II | $327.33^{\frac{N}{}=3} 16.21$ | $261.88^{\frac{\mathrm{N}=27}{1}} 55.53$ | $289.0 \frac{\mathrm{~N}=51}{0} 64.51$ | $281.3^{\frac{N}{6}=81} 62.45$ |
| Totals for education | $\mathrm{N}=11$ | $N=46$ | 第 $=70$ | $\frac{\mathrm{N}=127}{8}$ |
| loads | $309.91 \quad 72.95$ | $274.2 \overline{4} \quad 75.48$ | 295.9373 .13 | $289.28 \quad 74.94$ |

Table 20. Factorial analysis of variance using total general psychology scores by education loads and course organization methods

| Source | df | Sum of squares | Mean sum of squares | $F$ value calculated | Hypothesis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Between course organization | 1 | 9,019.91 | 9,019.91 | 1.62 |  |
| Between education load | 2 | 19,631.88 | 9.815.94 | 1.76 | Not <br> rejected |
| Interaction | 2 | 5.453 .61 | 2.726 .80 | 0.49 |  |
| Error | 121 | 674,627.14 | 5.575 .43 |  |  |
| Table value $\mathrm{F}_{( }$ | $=$ |  | Degrees of freedom $=(2,121)$ |  |  |

Hypothesis 2: There was no difference in achlevement of students taught through self-study of Chapter 14 and through a combination of classroom discussions and self-study of 18 chapters.

Mean scores for 18 chapters included in Units 1 to 6, inclusive, but excluding Chapter 14 , were calculated by adding all the scores for these chapters and dividing by 18. Scores for Chapter 14 were calculated separately. For the purpose of this hypothesis, $t$ value was calculated using the formula for correlated samples. The $t$ value, 5.27, was highly significant. This provided sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis, beyond . 01 level. Further comparison was made for the
two methods of course organization separately. The $t$ values were 4.13 and 5.23 for the first and the second methods of course organization, respectively. These were also significant at . 01 level of confidence. Data were given in Table 21.

Table 21. Mean scores on chapters studied in class and the self-studied Chapter 14

| Course organization | Scores on 18 chapters |  | Scores on Chapter 14 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Mean | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Standard } \\ & \text { deviation } \end{aligned}$ | Mean | Standard deviation |
| Method I | 12.37 | 3.77 | 11.39 | 4.41 |
| Method II | 11.85 | 2.78 | 10.30 | 3.71 |
| Total for both methods | 12.04 | 3.19 | 10.69 | 4.01 |

Table values

$$
\begin{aligned}
& t_{(.01,40)}=2.704 \\
& t_{(.01,80)}=2.639 \\
& t_{(.01,120)}=2.617
\end{aligned}
$$

## Calculated values

$$
\begin{aligned}
& { }^{t}(126) \text { both methods }=5.27^{* *} \quad H_{0} \text { rejected } \\
& { }^{t}(80) \text { second method }=5.23^{* *} \\
& t^{(40)} \text { first method }=4.13^{* *}
\end{aligned}
$$

Hypothesis 10: There was no difference in the learning of assigned units of the general psychology as measured by the average achievement of students when units were compared with one another in the second method of course organization--teaching and testing by units of the textbook in the course (general form).

Six units were involved in this comparison. Thus the hypothesis was subdivided into 15 sections (specific form) to determine the differences in learning among different units, as measured by the achievement on tests for these units. Calculated means, standard deviations, and "t" values were presented in Table 22.
(1) There was no difference between the achlevement in Unit 1 and Unit 2 of the general psychology. The hypothesis was rejected at . 01 level of significance.
(11) There was no difference between the achievement in Unit 1 and Unit 3 of the general psychology. The hypothesis could not be rejected.
(1i1) There was no difference between the achievement in Unit 1 and Unit 4 of the general psychology. The hypothesis was not rejected.
(1v) There was no difference between the achievement in Unit 1 and Unit 5 of the general psychology. The "t" value presented sufficient evidence to reject the hypothesis at . 10 level of significance.
(v) There was no difference between the achievement in Unit 1 and Unit 6 of the general psychology. The " $t$ " value justified rejection of null hypothesis at . 05 level of significance.
(vi) There was no difference between the achievement in Unit 2 and Unit 3 of the general psychology. The " $t$ " value was significant to reject the null hypothesis beyond .01 level.
(vii) There was no difference between the achievement in Unit 2 and Unit 4 of the general psychology. The hypothesis could be rejected at . 01 level of significance.
(vi11) There was no difference between the achievement in Unit 2 and Unit 5 of the general psychology. The "t" value was significantly high to reject the null hypothesis beyond . 01 level.
(1x) There was no difference between the achievement in Unit 2 and Unit 6 of the general psychology. The " $t$ " value was significantly high to justify rejection of null hypothesis beyond . 01 level.
(x) There was no difference between the achievement in Unit 3 and Unit 4 of the general psychology. The hypothesis could not be rejected.
(xi) There was no difference between the achlevement in Unit 3 and Unit 5 of the general psychology. The " $t$ " value presented sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis beyond . 01 level of significance.
(xi1) There was no difference between the achievement in Unit 3 and Unit 6 of the general psychology. The "t" value was significant to reject the null hypothesis beyond .01 level.
(xiii) There was no difference between the achievement in Unit 4 and Unit 5 of the general psychology. The "t" value was high enough to reject the hypothesis at . 05 level of significance.
(xiv) There was no difference between the achlevement in Unit 4 and Unit 6 of the general psychology. The null hypothesis could be rejected at . 01 level of significance.
(xv) There was no difference between the achievement in Unit 5 and Unit 6 of the general psychology. The null hypothesis could not be rejected.

The over-all pattern showed that there was significant decline in achievement, as measured by the tests, with the increased length of covered material for the test.

Hypothesis 11: There was no difference in the achievement in general psychology among the four groups of students when classified by college credits earned: 46 semester hours or more; 31 to 45 semester hours; 16 to 30 semester hours; and 15 or less semester hours prior to taking the general psychology course.

This comparison involved comparison of students grouped according to different educational standing in the college. The calculated means, standard deviations for the total scores

Table 22. Mean scores on chapters in different units and matrix of "t" values


* $H_{0}$ rejected at .05 level of significance.
** $H_{0}$ rejected at . 01 level of significance.

In general psychology and the covariance analysis were given in Tables 23 and 24. The $F$ value for the comparison among the groups was 0.89 . The null hypothesis could not, therefore, be rejected. The perusal of the data in Table 23 suggested better academic achievement in direct proportion to the college credits earned in the first method.

Hypothesis 12: There was no difference in the academic achievement of the students in general psychology classified by the chronological age, measured to the nearest whole year at the beginning of the semester.

The students were divided into four categories by their age, measured to the nearest whole year at the beginning of the semester. Means and standard deviations were calculated for their total scores on all the tests taken during and at the end of the semester. Analysis of variance resulted in $F$ value of 0.49 for comparison among four groups. The null hypothesis was not rejected. The $F$ value of the interaction showed that the first method of course organization was better suited to the 21-years-or-older group of students according to age at . 05 level of significance. The value for the interaction was 3.12. Data were recorded in Tables 25 and 26.

Table 23. General psychology scores of students by educational standing and course organization

| Course organization | General psychology scores by educational standing <br> (Semester hours of college work earned before taking general psychology) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 15 or less |  | 16-30 |  | 31-45 |  | 46 or more |  |
|  | Mean score | Standard deviation | Mean score | Standard deviation | Mean score | Standard deviation | Mean score | Standard deviation |
| Method I | 282.30 | 94.89 | 300.18 | 84.26 | 321.00 | 68.00 | 351.20 | 74.12 |
| Method II | 274.06 | 61.72 | 311.17 | 63.01 | 275.75 | 64.62 | 283.60 | 30.61 |
| Total for both methods | 276.77 | 74.37 | 305.91 | 74.15 | 280.78 | 66.54 | 328.60 | 70.64 |
| Number of students |  | 46 |  | 31 |  | 38 |  | 12 |

Table 24. Factorial analysis of variance using total general psychology scores by educational standing and course organization

| Source | df | Sum of squares | Mean sum of squares | ```F value calcu- lated``` | Hypothesis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Between course organization | 1 | 12,341.00 | 12,341.00 | 2.26 |  |
| Between educational standing | 3 | $14,600.31$ | 4,866.77 | 0.89 | Not rejected |
| Interaction | 3 | 12,875.99 | 4.292 .00 |  |  |
| Error | 119 | 650,708.41 | 5.468 .14 |  |  |
| Table value $\mathrm{F}_{(.05)}=2.68$ |  |  | Degrees of freedom $=(3,119)$ |  |  |

Hypothesis 13: There wes no difference in the achievement between the two sexes as measured by the total performance on the tests in general psychology.

Total scores for all the tests taken by the students divided by sex were computed. The means, standard deviations, and the analysis of variance by sexes were given in Tables 27 and 28. The F value of 10.076 was highly significant beyond the .01 level and the null hypothesis was rejected.

Table 25. Total general psychology scores by different age groups and course organization

| Course organization method | 18 years or below |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Age groups } \\ 19 \text { years } \quad 20 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  |  | 21 years or more |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Mean | Standard deviation | Mean | Standard deviation | Mean | Standard deviation | Mean | Standard deviation |
| Method I | 241.38 | 45.55 | 307.55 | 97.97 | 288.60 | 76.77 | 346.27 | 81.73 |
| Method II | 288.69 | 65.44 | 281.44 | 64.78 | 266.71 | 25.30 | 254.00 | 50.17 |
| Total for different |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| age groups | 280.09 | 64.92 | 292.07 | 81.01 | 275.83 | 54.27 | 313.71 | 84.58 |


| Source | df | Sum of squares | Mean sum of squares | F value calculated | Hypothesis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Between course organization | 1 | 33.055 .35 | 33.055 .35 | 6.16** |  |
| Between age groups | 3 | 7.929 .67 | 2,643.22 | 0.49 | Not <br> rejected |
| Interaction | 3 | 50,226.26 | 16.742.09 | 3.12* |  |
| Error | 119 | 638,727.65 | 5.367 .46 |  |  |

Table value $F_{(.01)}=3.95$

$$
F_{(.05)}=2.68 \quad \text { Degrees of freedom }=(3,119)
$$

*Significant at . 05 level. **Significant at . 01 level.

Hypothesis 14: There was no relationship between the high school percentile ranks and the achievement in the general psychology course.

Hypothesis 15: There was no relationship between the composite scores on the A.C.T. tests taken by the students and the achievement in the general psychology course.

Hypothesis 16: There was no relationship between the students' achlevement in general psychology and the evaluation of the teacher by the students.

Data for the three hypotheses were recorded in correlation matrix Table 29.

Table 27. Total scores of students in general psychology by sexes

|  | Total scores |  | Mean |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Sex | Standard <br> deviation | Number of <br> students |  |
| Female | 270.81 | 68.54 | 57 |
| Whole class | 311.96 | 76.21 | 70 |

Table 28. Analysis of variance using total general psychology scores by sex groups

| Source | df | Sum of squares | Mean sum of squares | F value calculated | Hypothesis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Between sexes | 1 | 53.197 .00 | 53.197 .00 | 10.076** | Rejected |
| Error | 125 | 659.975 .00 | 5,279.80 |  |  |
| Total | 126 | 713.172 .00 |  |  |  |
| Table value $\mathrm{F}_{(.01)}=6.85$ |  |  | Degrees of freedom $=(1,125)$ |  |  |

**Significant at . 01 level.

Table 29. Correlation matrix for total general psychology scores and other inde-

| Variables | College classif1cation | H.S. rank | A.C.T. scores | Outside work load | Grade <br> given to instructor | $\begin{aligned} & \text { College } \\ & \text { G.P.A. } \end{aligned}$ | Total scores general psych. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sex | -0.10567 | 0.46931 | -0.04355 | -0.10269 | -0.10838 | 0.21114 | 0.27313** |
| College <br> classification |  | 0.24262 | 0.12200 | 0.13444 | 0.12128 | 0.14736 | 0.19443* |
| H.S. rank |  |  | 0.33750 | 0.11765 | 0.06265 | 0.27070 | $0.48520 * *$ |
| A.C.T. scores |  |  |  | 0.05013 | 0.02384 | 0.19834 | 0.12455 |
| Outside work load |  |  |  |  | -0.05655 | 0.25992 | 0.07068 |
| Grade given to instructor |  |  |  |  |  | -0.35096 | 0.04090 |
| College G.P.A. |  |  |  |  |  |  | $0.37304 * *$ |
| Critical table value of $\mathbf{r}(.05)=.174$ |  |  |  | Mean grade given to instructor $=6.19$ |  |  |  |
| $r_{(.01)}=.228$ |  |  |  | Standard deviation |  | $=1.72$ |  |
| Degrees of freedom $=125$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* Significant at .05 level.
** Significant at . 01 level.

It was decided to compute the correlation between the high school percentile ranks and the achievement in general psychology. The correlation coefficient between the two variables was .485. This was sufficiently high to reject the null hypothesis beyond . 01 level of significance.

The second variable used was the composite A.C.T. score for correlation with the total scores in general psychology. The correlation, 0.125, was insufficient to reject the null hypothesis.

The investigator was interested in finding the relationship between students' achievement and their evaluation of the instructor. Students graded the instructor on a nine-point scale yielding a mean of 6.19 and standard deviation of 1.72 . The correlation coefficient between the two was 0.041 , insufficient to reject the null hypothesis.

Model building was tried using six selected variables: high school percentile ranks $\left(X_{1}\right)$; college classification $\left(X_{2}\right)$; A.C.T. scores $\left(X_{3}\right)$; college grade point average $\left(X_{4}\right)$; sex $\left(X_{5}\right)$; and outside work load $\left(X_{6}\right)$, to predict the achievement scores in general psychology (Y). The regression analysis and prediction equation were presented in Table 30. The best equation evolved using all the six variables resulting in multiple $R$ square 0.310. Two of the variables--sex and outside work load--could be eliminated without any significant loss. This gave a multiple $R$ square value 0.307 .

Table 30. Regression analysis using six variables and their values in the equation predicting total scores in general psychology (Y)


Second regression analysis, presented in Table 31, using three variables--high school percentile ranks ( $\mathrm{X}_{1}$ ), college classification $\left(X_{2}\right)$, and A.C.T. scores $\left(X_{3}\right)$--was tried. This was done to eliminate college grade point average, as the same could not be made available in real situation for the first semester college students. This resulted in multiple $R$ square value 0.244. Prediction equations were developed using three, two and one variables, and recorded in Table 32. The best single indicator of achievement in general psychology was the high school percentile rank.

Third regression analysis and prediction equation were calculated using high school percentile ranks ( $X_{1}$ ) and college grade point average $\left(X_{4}\right)$. Results were given in Table 33. After the students have established their grade point average at the college, these two variables can be used to the best advantage of the students with economy. This gave a multiple R square value of 0.298 .

Table 31. Regression analysis using H.S. percentile ranks $\left(X_{1}\right)$, college classification $\left(X_{2}\right)$, and A.C.T. scores ( $X_{3}$ ) for predicting total scores in general psychology

| Source | df | Sum of squares | Mean sum of squares | F ratio | $\mathrm{R}^{2 \mathrm{a}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Due $\mathrm{X}_{1}, \mathrm{X}_{2}, \mathrm{X}_{3}$ | 3 | 173.805.20 | 57.935 .07 | 13.21 | 0.244 |
| Due $\mathrm{X}_{1}$ alone | 1 | 167.891.13 | 167.891.13 | 38.29 | 0.235 |
| Due $\mathrm{X}_{2}, \mathrm{x}_{3} \mid \mathrm{x}_{1}$ | 2 | 5.914 .07 | $2,957.04$ |  |  |
| Due $\mathrm{X}_{1}, \mathrm{X}_{2}$ | 2 | 172,350.81 | 86,175.40 | 19.65 | 0.242 |
| Due $\mathrm{X}_{3} \mid \mathrm{X}_{1}, \mathrm{X}_{2}$ | 1 | $1,454.39$ | 1,454.39 | 0.33 |  |
| Due $\mathrm{X}_{1}, \mathrm{X}_{3}$ | 2 | 169.127.77 | 84,563.89 | 19.05 | 0.237 |
| Due $\mathrm{X}_{2} \mid \mathrm{X}_{1}, \mathrm{x}_{3}$ | 1 | 4.677 .43 | 4,677.43 | 1.06 |  |
| Due $\mathrm{X}_{2} \mid \mathrm{X}_{1}$ | 1 | 4.459 .68 | 4.459 .68 | 1.00 |  |
| Due $X_{3} \mid x_{1}$ | 1 | 1,236.64 | 1,236.64 | 0.28 |  |
| Error | 123 | 539.366 .60 | $4,385.09$ |  |  |
| $F_{(3,120,0.99)}=3.95$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $P_{(3,120,0.95)}=2.68$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $F_{(2,120,0.95)}=3.07$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{F}_{(1,120,0.95)}=3.92$ |  |  |  |  |  |

$a_{R^{2}}$ was worked out individually.

Table 32. Coefficients, "t" values, standard errors, and prediction equations using H.S. percentile ranks $\left(X_{1}\right)$, college classification ( $X_{2}$ ), and A.C.T. scores ( $X_{3}$ ) predicting total scores in general psychology ( $Y$ )

| Variables | Coefficients | "t" value | Standard error |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| For $\mathrm{X}_{1}+\mathrm{X}^{\prime}$ | $\underline{R^{2}}=0.244$ |  |  |
| $\mathrm{X}_{1}$ | 1.51 | 5.64 | 0.26 |
| $\mathrm{X}_{2}$ | 5.05 | 1.03 | 4.89 |
| $\mathrm{X}_{3}$ | -0.45 | -0.58 | 0.77 |
| Intercept | 207.02 | 10.68 | 19.39 |
| Equation: | $Y=207.02+1.51 X_{1}+5.05 X_{2}-0.45 X_{3}$ |  |  |
| For $\mathrm{X}_{1}+\mathrm{X}^{\prime}$ | $\mathrm{R}^{2}=0.242$ |  |  |
| $\mathrm{X}_{1}$ | 1.46 | 5.77 | 0.25 |
| $\mathrm{X}_{2}$ | 4.93 | 1.01 | 4.87 |
| Intercept | 200.51 | 12.76 | 15.71 |
| Equation: $\quad Y=200.51+1.46 \mathrm{X}_{1}+4.93 \mathrm{X}_{2}$ |  |  |  |
| For $\mathrm{X}_{1}$ | $\mathrm{R}^{2}=0.235$ |  |  |
| $\mathrm{X}_{1}$ | 1.52 | 6.20 | 0.25 |
| Intercept | 206.40 | 14.15 | 14.59 |
| Equation: | $6.41+1.52 \mathrm{X}$ |  |  |


| Table 33. | Regression analysis using $H . S$. percentile ranks $\left(X_{1}\right)$ and college grade point average $\left(X_{4}\right)$ and prediction equation predicting total scores in general psychology ( $Y$ ) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Source | $d f$ | Sum of squares | Mean sum of squares | Fratio | $\mathrm{R}^{2}$ |
| Due $\mathrm{X}_{1}, \mathrm{X}_{4}$ | 2 | 212.846 .13 | 106,423.06 | 26.38 | 0.298 |
| Iue $\mathrm{X}_{1}$ | 1 | 167,891.13 | $167,891.13$ | 28.16 | 0.235 |
| Due $\mathrm{X}_{4}, \mathrm{X}_{1}$ | 1 | 44,955.00 | 44.955 .00 | 11.41 |  |
| Residual | 124 | 500,325.59 | 4.034 .88 |  |  |
| Variable |  | Coefficient | Stan | ard error |  |
| $\mathrm{X}_{1}$ |  | 1.39 |  | 0.24 |  |
| $\mathrm{X}_{4}$ |  | 9.35 |  | 0.28 |  |
| Constant | 189.26 |  |  |  |  |
| Equation: | $\underline{Y}=189.26+1.39 \mathrm{X}_{1}+9.35 \mathrm{X}_{4}$ |  |  |  |  |

## DISCUSSION

The objective of the study was to determine the effects of two experimental approaches to class structure and two methods of course organization in general psychology class. The students in this project had their choice to enroll in any type of class structure--day or night--and in any semester. This gave them freedom of selection of class structure that suited their needs. Course organization was predetermined by the investigator. Students had no knowledge of this prior to their registration.

Review of the research studies cited earlier indicated conflicting outcomes. Price (20) and Marcus (13) found that the students in on-campus and off-campus classes were comparable. Research conducted by Farnum (9) and Bridgman and Dysinger (3) both seemed to confirm findings of favorable comparability of performance of the on-and-off-campus students.

Studies by Pressey and Kinzer (19), Bail, Treffinger, and Ripple (2) and Pickett (18) gave the opposite results. According to these three studies, the of $f$-campus students did not perform as well as did the on-campus students.

The present study appeared to confirm the findings that the groups of students in the day and night classes were quite comparable to each other. This is based on the comparisons for initial differences using high school ranks and the composite A.C.T. scores and their achievement in general
psychology. The $F$ values given by the analysis of the data were not significant at .05 level. The interaction $F$ value for interaction between class structure and course organization seemed to favor the students of the night class under the first method. The present investigator did not attribute this either to the better suitability of the three-hour class structure or to the learning ability of the students. He attributed this to the immediacy of the testing situation after studying in the class. It was reflected a little on the semester test scores, however. The $F$ value, 2.62, of the interaction was, however, not significant.

The findings of the present investigation suggested that the teaching and testing by chapters was significantly better than the teaching and testing by units of the textbook, using the over-all performance for the semester. This investigator was of the feeling that teaching and testing by chapters required too much time in the administration of tests. Some via-media should be tried to serve the best interests of the students and also the better utilization of the instructor's time. The instructor's time is limited by class hours that he can devote to teaching during a semester for a course.

Further perusal of the results revealed by the mutual comparisons of first six units of the textbook under the second method suggested no loss in academic achievement of the students up to four chapters per unit as compared to one-chapter teaching and testing for the whole semester. He was, therefore,
of the opinion that the general psychology course should be reorganized into units consisting of material covered by three to four chapters of reading in one unit, resulting in about 75 to 80 pages of reading material for the test. This could help also in easy adjustment to the college situation after the high school. The experience of the investigator in the high school education showed that the students were more used to testing after shorter intervals and lesser quantity of reading material covered for the tests. This was further substantiated by the observation that:

1. There was inmediate decline in the scores on tests when the number of chapters was increased compared with the previous tested unit.
2. On subsequent tests, the students appeared to recover their achievement scores with the increased number of chapters per unit.

The correlation found between the academic achievement by the student and the evaluation of the instructor by the students in this study was consistent with the findings of the Institutional Self-Study Survey (1, p. 55) conducted by the A.C.T. Program, Iowa City, Iowa in 1969. The correlations found by the latter for evaluation of different characteristics of the instructors by the students and their academic achievement in two-year colleges ranged from 0.00 to 0.12 with the majority of them being below 0.08 . The correlation coefficient found in the present study between the performance
on tests by the students and their grading the instructor for his over-all teaching was 0.04 .

The high school rank was the best single indicator for the academic achievement of the students. The correlation between the high school rank and the academic achievement in general psychology was 0.49. This finding further confirmed the results of several research studies reviewed by this investigator and reported by many others that the high school grade point average can be the most useful single criterion for prediction of success in academic courses in college.

Correlations of six variables--high school rank, college grade point average, sex, college classification, A.C.T. scores, and outside work load with the performance on tests in general psychology were calculated. Model building for prediction of achievement scores using two methods resulted in similar results.

Two of these variables--sex and outside work load--could be eliminated without any significant loss. The resultant prediction equation included high school percentile ranks $\left(X_{1}\right)$. college classification $\left(X_{2}\right)$. A.C.T. scores $\left(X_{3}\right)$, and the college grade point average $\left(X_{4}\right)$. This could be used for the students who had already established their college grade point average. To make it less involved, the investigator suggested the use of only two variables--high school percentile ranks $\left(X_{1}\right)$ and the college grade point average $\left(X_{4}\right)$. This gave a multiple $R$ square value of 0.298 .

The college grade point average used in this study was the grade point average earned to the close of the semester in which the general psychology course was taken. This was done to include the first semester students in the study.

Since the college grade point average could not be had for the first semester students--and there are many students taking general psychology in their first semester at the college--it was decided to use only three variables: high school percentile ranks ( $X_{1}$ ); college classification ( $X_{2}$ ); and A.C.T. scores $\left(X_{3}\right)$. Results, as given in Table 31, gave multiple $R$ square value of 0.242 , using only $X_{1}$ and $X_{2}$. This indicated that the high school ranks and college classification, jointly, can give better prediction results.

It was of interest to note that the $F$ value for comparisons of high school ranks was relatively higher than the $F$ values for comparisons using A.C.T. scores for the same groups. The comparison of the two sexes resulted in great initial differences, using the high school ranks, between the two sexes. This was also in the comparisons for achievement in general psychology. The results favored the females over the male sex. This could be attributed to several reasons like outside interests, individual interests in subjects like psychology, value attached to the grades in academic achievement, socio-econo- and political demands. There was, however, no difference between the two sexes using the A.C.T. scores for comparison.

The perusal of the results for comparisons of four groups of students with varied outside work load appeared to favor the group with 31 or more hours of outside work load. This observation was in conflict with the observations of Conant (5) reviewed earlier. It appeared that these students valued education the most. Next in order of performance was the group with 11-20 hours of outside work load. This group consisted mostly of those students who were on work-study programs. Their needs to improve their socio-economic status through academic achievement could be the most important influencing factor.

Comparisons of students grouped according to their academic loads evidenced no statistically significant results. The group with 13-15 semester hours lagged behind in over-all performance on tests, when compared with the other two groups with 12 or less and 16 or more semester hours of academic load. This possibly could be explained on the empirical observation that it was usually the mediocre student who fell in this category for several reasons.

There is a popular bellef that even though the instructor may simply repeat what is given in the textbook, it has an impact on the academic achievement of the students suggesting their class attendance and provision of the teacher. This belief could be said to have gained strength using the findings of this study. The students fared significantly better on all the tests for the material covered in class discussions as
compared with the material that was left to the students for their self-study alone.

The analysis of the results for the comparison among students grouped according to their educational standing was not statistically significant. The perusal of the means and standard deviations for the first method only indicated that the groups as a whole performed better in direct relationship to their educational standing--like the group with 46 or more semester hours earned credit achieved the highest scores. This was also supported by the correlation coefficient of 0.194 between the college classification and the total test scores in general psychology. There could be only one possjble explanation for this--the students with the longest time lapse between the high school's general practice of teaching and testing by lesser quantity of textbook material cherished the revival of similar situation the most. Similar results in the comparisons based on chronological age of the students were evidenced in the interaction $F$ value of 3.12 .

In general, the investigator recommends that the community colleges and the institutions of higher learning provide easy transition from high school to college by reorganizing the course content for all types of courses during the freshman year. Slowly the change could be made toward covering more material for any test during the sophomore, junior and senior years. Introduction of evening classes at the undergraduate
level needs further study for its effectiveness and comparability to the day classes.

SUMMARY

The present study was an evaluation of the experimental methods on achlevement in general psychology at the Iowa Central Community College. The study was conducted for three semesters. Experimental methods tried were:

1. Two types of class structure: one, teaching three one-hour classes three days a week; and two, teaching one three-hour class one night a week.
2. Two methods of course organization: first, teaching and testing by chapters; and second, teaching and testing by the units consisting of a different number of chapters.

The sample of the students' population used in this study was a group of all the students, 127, that enrolled in the general psychology course at the Iowa Central Community College, Webster City, Iowa during fall and spring semesters of 1968-69 and fall of 1969-70.

This study was divided into four sections:

1. Study of differences in academic achievement due to two types of class structure and two methods of course organization.
2. Study of differences in academic achievement due to sex, outside work load, academic load, self-study and a combination of self-study and class discussion, differing number of chapters in the units studied under the second method, college classification, and chronological age of the students.
3. Determination of correlation between different independent variables and the academic achievement and the evaluation of the teacher by the students related to their academic achievement.
4. Development of a prediction equation for academic achievement in general psychology using six independent variables.

Investigation of initial differences between the groups of students under different comparisons for testing the hypotheses was done using the high school percentile ranks and the A.C.T. composite scores. Tests at rive percent level of significance revealed no significant initial differences between the groups of students under two types of class structure and two methods of course organization, using either one of the characteristics. The only significant difference, beyond one percent level, was between males and females, using the high school percentile ranks. No difference was evidenced using the A.C.T. scores.

Comparison of the achievement scores in general psychology for two types of class structure did not evidence any significant differences between the two. Statistically a highly significant difference beyond one percent level did appear in the comparison of the two methods of course organization. Evidence of better suitability for teaching and testing by chapters for the night class resulted from a covariance analysis. Identical results were obtained in comparing the
results of a semester test for two types of class structure and two methods of course organization except that the interaction $F$ value was not very high.

The second section of the study required comparisons of students grouped according to other independent variables. Computation of $F$ values for comparisons using outside work load, academic load, college classification, and chronological age did not result in significant differences in the academic achievement. The sex difference in achievement was highly significant. Difference was also evidenced in the learning when comparisons were made among six units with number of chapters varying from two to five in a unit. Calculation of the "t" statistic resulted in statistically significant differences. This might be interpreted that students learned more in inverse proportion to the number of chapters studied in a unit. Students achieved higher average scores in units comprising two chapters compared with units of three, four, or five chapters in descending order.

The examination of differences between self-study by the students, and a combination of self-study and class discussion, gave statistically significant results. This favored the combination of classroom discussion and self-study, significant beyond one percent level.

Under the third section, correlations were calculated using different independent variables. The coefficient of correlation between the grade given to the instructor by the
students was a low of 0.04 , insignificant at five percent level. A.C.T. scores also had a correlation of 0.12 , not sufficient to reject the null hypothesis.

The null hypothesis of no correlation between high school ranks and the achievement in general psychology was rejected beyond one percent level of significance.

The last section was to develop a prediction equation for achievement scores in general psychology (Y). Six variables were included in descending order of importance, dependent upon their correlations with the dependent variable (Y). These were high school percentile ranks $\left(X_{1}\right)$, college grade point average $\left(X_{4}\right)$, $\operatorname{sex}\left(X_{5}\right)$, college classification $\left(X_{2}\right)$, A.C.T. scores $\left(X_{3}\right)$, and outside work load $\left(X_{6}\right)$. The model building resulted in an equation:

$$
\begin{aligned}
Y= & 195.34+1.31 X_{1}+4.30 X_{2}-0.71 X_{3} \\
& +9.85 X_{\frac{14}{}}+2.73 X_{5}-0.30 X_{6}
\end{aligned}
$$

Further considerations led to two separate equations: one, for those who had established their grade point average at the college; and the second, for those who were first semester students.

For established students:

$$
Y=189.26+1.39 X_{1}+9.35 X_{4}
$$

For first semester students:

$$
Y=200.51+1.46 X_{1}+4.93 X_{2}
$$

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This investigator is inspired by the couplets written by a poet, Kabir, in 1398 in Hindi.


These couplets mean:
Teacher and God. Both are standing, to whom pay respects?
To thee, Teacher, who showed me God.
Blind they, who see Teacher as different than God,
If God refuseth, thou saveth;
If thou refuseth, none saveth.

According to this author's confirmed beliefs, the education of a person starts from the time of conception. The first teacher is the mother and next is the father. This line of teachers continues to grow every moment of one's life. Special emphasis is, however, placed on the teachers engaged in the formal education of the man. This list is also fairly long.

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Last, but not the least important, were the students who helped the author learn more through a process of mutual learning and understanding.

APPENDIX

The following information is only for research purposes. Please give the information as accurately as possible. If you do not have any information, please let me know if it is available in the college records so that I may have it from there. This implies your kind permission to get the relevant information.

Prem Sahai
Course: General Psychology
Name of the Student:
Age, nearest whole years: ACT scores:
High School Grade Point Average on 4.00 scale:
Number of Semester hours that you will have completed at the end of the Fall 1968-1969 semester:

Spring 1969:
Fall 1969-70:
Average number of hours per week for the whole of Fall 19681969 semester that you may have been working to earn your way through college, household chores, and upkeep of your family if married:

For the following questions, your reactions will be kept confidential and used only for the above referred research. Please circle any one response on the line. Score of 9 is the highest score and that of 1 is lowest.

1. How has been the use of audio-visual aids in your class?

Great help .. . . 8 .. 7 .. 6 .. 5 . 4 . 3 .. 2 .. 1 ..No help
2. How would you grade your instructor for his over-all performance in teaching, knowledge of subject matter, desire to help you, and any other criteria you like to consider?

Excellent .. 9 .. 8 .. 7 . 6 .. 4 .. 3 . 2 .. 1 ..Poor

Sem. 1/2 1968-69
Sem. 11969 (69-70)

Name:
Married/ Unmarried
High School Grade Point Average on 12 pt. scale
College Classification: Freshman / Sophomore
If Sophomore, Your College Grade Pt. Average up to the end of last semester

Have you previously taken any course in Psychology? Yes / No

If yes, what course and when
Number of credit hours that you are registered this semester

Number of semester hours that you have completed at the posthigh school level up to the end of last semester ............

Number of hours that you are working per week to pay for your college education?

If you had full freedom to schedule your classes, what time schedule you would like to select for your General Psych. Class? Circle time.

Three days a week, day time. One day a week, in the evening.


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Moench, Charles R.. Department of Public Instruction, State of Iowa. Letter in response to inquiry. Private communication. January 28, 1970.

[^1]:    **Sionificant at . 01 level.

