

# Online Homework is not Significantly Associated with Course Enjoyment

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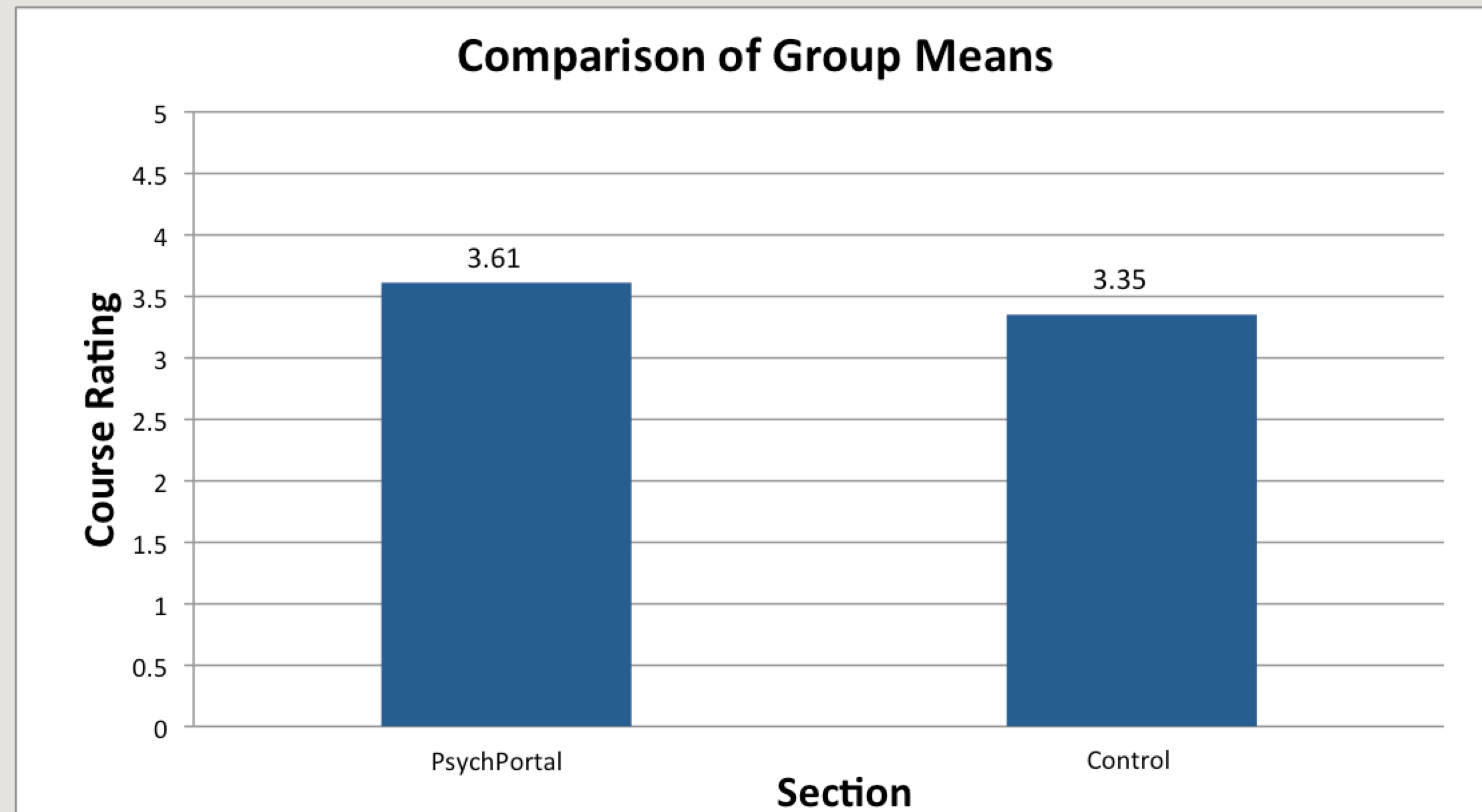
## Introduction

Previous research has identified factors that contributed to student satisfaction (Byrne, et al., 1986; Frenzel, et al., 2009). We can construe that possible factors are roughly classified into two general groups: the course structure and the classroom setting. The course structure includes online homework, midterms and the instructor. The classroom setting encompasses technical supplies, external noise, and other environmental related distractions.

The purpose of this research was to discover if using online homework contributes to an overall higher enjoyment of the Introductory Psychology class, given that other factors are held constant.

## Method

During the Fall of 2013, 236 undergraduates in introductory psychology course completed anonymous Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) forms online. All of these participants took the same introductory psychology course from the same instructor in one of two sections. Section 1 consisted of 118 participants and Section 2 consisted of 118 participants. The classes were the same in content but one of the classes had mandatory homework assignments in an online software program called PsychPortal while the other did not. The SET forms asked students to rate the course on 12 different criteria on a scale from 0 (very poor) to 5 (excellent) or “unable to rate.” For this analysis, we compared the first question on the SET form: “The course as a whole was...”.



## Hypothesis

Students who used the online homework PsychPortal for the Introductory Psychology 202 class would rate the “overall enjoyment of the psychology 202 class” higher than those students who didn’t used PsychPortal as a practice tool for the class.

## Results

Data analysis revealed no differences between the groups ( $t=1.577$ ,  $p= 0.116$ ).

## Conclusion

In conclusion, our findings from comparing class data sets showed that there was no relationship between the overall enjoyment of the class and the use of PsychPortal. Instructors often hear from students that they enjoy the added component of online homework, instead of a course based solely on tests. Our research indicates that there was no significant difference between the average course enjoyment of students who completed online homework and those who did not.

## Discussion

Future research should be done to investigate other main factors that contribute to the overall student satisfaction of the course. Our research suggest that often, students are unable to accurately predict or measure which factor actually contributes to their overall enjoyment of the class. In this research, there was a weak association with the overall enjoyment of the class with the usage of Psychportal. Many instructors received feedbacks from students reporting that Psychportal is necessary in learning the materials, however, this research findings could suggest possible revision of the future course requirement for Psychology 202.

## References

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