

The Experimental Method

- **An independent variable is manipulated. Conditions are established by the experimenter.**
- **A dependent variable is measured.**
- **There are at least two levels of the independent variable. In the simplest case, there is an experimental and a control group.**
- **Extraneous variables are controlled through either experimental control (keeping variables constant) or randomization.**
- **Because the independent variable is directly manipulated and extraneous variables are controlled, a causal relationship between the independent and dependent variables can be determined.**