

**PSYC 400: ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
Spring Semester 2022

**PROFESSOR**

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Hours: MWF 11am-12pm or  
by appointment

**COURSE**

Section/Credits: 1/3  
Meetings: MW 9:30-10:45am  
Location: SCI A203  
Prerequisites: PSYC 110, 200, 300, &  
22 credits of PSYC

**TEXTBOOK**

Kline, R. B. (2020). *Becoming a behavioral researcher: A guide to producing research that matters* (2nd ed.). Guilford.

**DESCRIPTION**

This course serves as a follow-up to research methods and statistics in psychology. It is intended for advanced students who want deeper, more integrated understanding of the research process. If you are interested in learning more about how to conduct research or what research looks like from the inside, this course might be a good choice for you.

The course is structured to achieve three important goals. First, this course will focus on **strengthening your scientific identity**. Whereas many courses emphasize your skills and abilities as an individual, this course emphasizes your connections and contributions to scientific communities. Second, this course will focus on **reorienting your view of research**—from the hoarding of dead answers to engagement with vibrant questions. Whereas many courses emphasize remembering answers to questions, this course will emphasize the value of developing and pursuing meaningful questions. Third, this course will focus on the **efficient development of effective research**. Whereas many courses emphasize effectiveness of research, few courses focus on efficiency. These goals will help you to develop a deeper appreciation of empirical research and your place in scientific communities.

To accomplish these goals, class sessions will involve a mix of lecture, discussion, and hands-on activities. As an advanced course, I strongly encourage you to keep up the readings, be an active participant in sessions, and contact me for clarifications and assistance with difficulties that arise. These steps will help you to perform better and get more out of this course.

## REQUIREMENTS

The final grade in this course will be made up of three elements. The first is a **research project**. You will choose one of the following three options: 1) a review paper, 2) a research proposal, or 3) an empirical report. The project grade will consist of a rough draft, final draft, and short class presentation. Details will be provided in a separate handout. The research project will be worth a total of 400 points or 40% of your final grade.

The second element is **exams**. There will be two take-home exams over three or four units of course material. Each will be made up of four-of-six essay questions. You will have a week to submit responses. The exams will be worth a total of 300 points or 30% of your final grade.

The third element is **lab activities**. There will be six activities. These will generally involve using research skills to solve practical problems. Labs will be touched upon in class and due the next week. Lab activities will be worth 300 points or 30% of your final grade.

In sum, your final course grade will be made up of three elements worth a total of 1,000 points. Please use the scale below to determine your final grade.

A = 930-1,000 points  
A- = 900-929 points  
B+ = 870-899 points  
B = 830-869 points

B- = 800-829 points  
C+ = 770-799 points  
C = 730-769 points  
C- = 700-729 points

D+ = 670-699 points  
D = 600-669 points  
F = 0-599 points

**CALENDAR**

<b>Units</b>	<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	
Orientation	M 1/24 & W 1/26	None	F 1/28	Background Survey
1. Introduction	M 1/31 & W 2/2	Kline, Chapter 1	F 2/4	Knowledge Pretest
	M 2/7 & W 2/9		F 2/11	Project Survey
2. Idea	M 2/14 & W 2/16	Leong et al. (2012)	F 2/18	Lab 1 : Introduction
	M 2/21 & W 2/23		F 2/25	Project Sources
3. Design	M 2/28 & W 3/2	Kline, Chapter 2	F 3/4	Lab 2 : Idea
	M 3/7 & W 3/9		F 3/11	None
4. Measurement	M 3/14 & W 3/16	Kline, Chapter 8	F 3/18	Lab 3 : Design
	M 3/28 & W 3/30		F 4/1	Project Draft
5. Analysis	M 4/4 & W 4/6	Kline, Chapters 6, 7, & 9	F 4/8	Lab 4 : Measurement
	M 4/11 & W 4/13		F 4/15	Exam 1 (Units 1-4)
6. Communication	M 4/18 & W 4/20	Kline, Chapters 4, 10, & 11	F 4/22	Lab 5 : Analysis
	M 4/25 & W 4/27		F 4/29	Project Final
7. Conclusion	M 5/2 & W 5/4	Kline, Chapters 3 & 5	F 5/6	Lab 6 : Communication
	M 5/9 & W 5/11		F 5/13	Exam 2 (Units 5-7)
Finals Week	W 5/18 (8-10am)	None	W 5/18	Project Presentations

Kline readings are found in your textbook; Leong et al. (2012) is posted on Canvas. Please see Canvas for other required (we will likely discuss in class) and optional materials (we might not discuss in class, but they help to expand your knowledge of class topics or assignments). The optional materials will be particularly useful for students interested in graduate school and/or research-oriented careers. Assignments will generally be due by Fridays at 5pm on Canvas.

## POLICIES

**Attendance.** The professor will not take formal attendance in this course. Nonetheless, regular attendance is important for earning a respectable grade. The material in this capstone course will go well beyond slides and readings, and will be needed to complete the labs and exams. Thus, failure to regularly attend is a bad decision that will undoubtedly lead to a poorer grade. Please report any necessary absences to the professor as soon as possible beforehand and request a copy of the class notes from another student.

**Communication.** Please contact the professor with your questions or concerns related to this course, as well as other academic and career-related issues. Office hours are the most reliable means of contact. Three in-person office hours will be held per week. If you cannot attend these hours, schedule an appointment (in-person or via Zoom). Email is the next most reliable means of contact. Emails are typically answered within two business days (not on evenings or weekends). If emails will require considerable discussion, they may be referred to office hours. Other means of contact (voicemails, dropping by my office, etc.) are generally unreliable.

**Disabilities.** UWSP is committed to reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire a condition that necessitates assistance, please contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall. They can be reached at 715-346-3365 or [DATC@uwsp.edu](mailto:DATC@uwsp.edu).

**Emergencies.** In the event of a *medical emergency*, call 911 or use one of the Red Emergency Phones in the hallway outside of our classroom. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to those in need. In the event of a *tornado warning*, proceed to the lowest level interior room without windows. See <https://www.uwsp.edu/emergency/Pages/floor-plans.aspx> for floor plans showing the severe weather shelters (such as interior hallways and classrooms near our classroom). Avoid wide-span structures (such as gyms, pools, or large classrooms). In the event of a *fire alarm*, evacuate the building in a calm manner and meet on the east side of SCI (near CCB). Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals. In the event of an *Active Shooter/Code React*, run/escape, hide, fight. If trapped, hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out, and remain quiet. Call 911 when it is safe to do so. Follow instructions of emergency responders. See the Emergency Management site for details on UWSP's emergency response procedures: <https://www.uwsp.edu/emergency/Pages/emergency-procedures.aspx>.

**Illegalities.** Under several federal and state laws, as well as university guidelines, the professor is required to report acts of a criminal or offensive nature that occur inside and outside of class. This includes acts of sexual harassment and assault, bias and hate crimes, illicit drug use, and acts of violence. Any disclosure or description of these incidents—past or current—may be reported to the Dean of Students (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>) or local authorities.

**Incompletes.** Incompletes will only be considered for students in exceptional situations, such as serious medical or emergency situations. They are generally not for students overwhelmed by routine academic or extracurricular work. Requests for incompletes must be accompanied by documentation. In most situations, all coursework must be finished within one semester to avoid receiving an F in the course.

**Makeups.** Makeups assignments will generally only be considered for students who cannot complete them on time due to academic, athletic, or religious obligations, major illnesses, or comparable reasons. Requests for makeups must be accompanied by documentation. In most cases, makeups must be completed within one week of the original deadline to avoid receiving a zero for the assignment.

**Misconduct.** The professor takes instances of misconduct (such as cheating and plagiarism) seriously. The minimum penalty for an instance of misconduct will be a zero on the assignment. Additional penalties will be considered under university policy. Please do not put yourself and others through discipline proceedings. To review UWSP's misconduct policies, go to: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>.

**Professionalism.** UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, a set of expectations (called the Community Rights and Responsibilities document) has been developed for students and professors. For more information, check out: [https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/2015\\_Aug\\_Community%20Rights%20and%20Responsibilities%20Web.pdf](https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/2015_Aug_Community%20Rights%20and%20Responsibilities%20Web.pdf).