

PSYC 200 – Research Methods in Psychology (sec 003)



Instructor

Sean Mooney-Leber Ph.D.

Office: D329

E-mail: smooneyl@uwsp.edu

In-Person Office Hours: Monday 1:45pm – 3:15pm; Tuesday 12:45pm – 2pm (or by appointment)

Zoom Office Hours: Wednesday 9am-10am (or by appointment)

Class Schedule

September 6th – December 16th; MoWe 3:30pm – 4:45pm, SCI D223

Course Description

PSYCH 200 – Research Methods in Psychology, 3 credits hours

Introduction to the research methods used in psychology including experimental and nonexperimental designs. Library research, conducting research, research ethics, and basics of writing in APA style.

Prerequisite – PSYC 110 – Intro to Psych

Course Structure

This course will be conducted in-person. Materials that will be used to supplement the text (journal articles etc..) will be provided via Canvas. You can access Canvas from the UWSP [log in page](#) using your UWSP credentials. If you have not activated your UWSP account, please visit the [Manage Your Account](#) page to do so.

Objectives

- Apply discipline-specific standards of oral and written communication to compose an articulate, grammatically correct, and organized presentation/piece of writing with properly documented and supported ideas, evidence, and information suitable to the topic, purpose, and audience.
- Critique their own and others' writing/oral presentations to provide effective and useful feedback to improve their communication.

Required Materials and Online Canvas Page

- *Methods in Behavioral Research*, 11th Edition by Cozby & Bates.
- Materials that will be used to supplement the text (journal articles etc..) will be provided via Canvas.
- Canvas will be used regularly to distribute documents, grades, and exams. If you have any troubles accessing the course Canvas page please inform IT Service Desk (<http://www.uwsp.edu/infotech/Pages/helpdesk/default.aspx>)

Grading/assessment

Final grades will be based on in class activities/homework, APA paper, and exams

- There will be 5 graded in class activities/homework throughout the semester. These are bolded in the class schedule below. Activities/homework will be used to facilitate the learning process of research methods, critical thinking skills, and proper APA writing style. Each assignment will be worth 5 points. If the assignment is not completed during the class period it will become homework the next day by 11:59pm.
- **APA paper report:** Throughout the semester you will write an APA paper report on a study conducted in class. Certain sections of the paper will due through the semester and be peer-reviewed by other members of the class. Peer review of each assignment will be worth 5 points. I strongly encourage you to consider incorporating peer review edits. The final paper with the edited sections will be due at the end of the semester.
- **Exams:** There will be four-unit exams. Exams will consist of choice questions and each will be worth a total of 50 points. Exams will take place during the normally scheduled class time. There will be no makeup exams unless I am provided with a legitimate, documented excuse. In the case of an absence during an exam please contact me as soon as possible. **I must be notified before the exam start in order to reschedule an exam.**

The following will comprise your final grade:

• In class activities/homework	25 pts
• Drafts of various APA paper sections	70 pts
• Paper peer review	25 pts
• APA final paper	50 pts
• Exams	200 pts
Total	370 pts

Grading Scale

Final grades will be based on the percentages shown below. I reserve the right to lower/raise these cutoff points. The cutoff points are:

94%- 100%	A	80%- 83%	B-	67%-69%	D+
90%- 93%	A-	77%-79%	C+	64%-66%	D
87%- 89%	B+	74%-76%	C	60%-63%	D-
84%- 86%	B	70%-73%	C-	0%-59%	F

Attendance

Attendance will not count explicitly in the calculation of your grade, but attending class is imperative since all of the tests and final exam will be mostly based on what we cover in class. If you miss a class, please obtain the lecture notes from a classmate.

University Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and verification from the Disability Resource Center and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to DRC and meet with a counselor to request special accommodation before classes start. The DRC is located in CCC 108 and can be contacted by phone at (715) 346-3365 or via email at drc@uwsp.edu.

UWSP Technology Support

- Seek assistance from the [IT Service Desk](#) (Formerly HELP Desk)
 - IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
 - IT Service Desk Email: techhelp@uwsp.edu

Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider unenrolling from a course. Refer to the UWSP [Academic Calendar](#) for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

Statement of Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is an expectation of each UW-Stevens Point student. Campus community members are responsible for fostering and upholding an environment in which student learning is fair, just, and honest. Through your studies as a student, it is essential to exhibit the highest level of personal honesty and respect for the intellectual property of others. Academic misconduct is unacceptable. It compromises and disrespects the integrity of our university and those who study here. To maintain academic integrity, a student must only claim work which is the authentic work solely of their own, providing correct citations and credit to others as needed. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and/or helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. Failure to understand what constitutes academic misconduct does not exempt responsibility from engaging in it. Students suspected of academic misconduct will be asked to meet with the instructor to discuss the concerns. If academic misconduct is evident, procedures for determining disciplinary sanctions will be followed as outlined in the University System Administrative Code, Chapter 14.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings	Class Activities/Homework
9/7	Course introduction and expectations	N/A	
9/12	Ch 1. Scientific Understanding of behavior	Ch. 1	Activity 1
9/14	Ch 2. Starting the process of behavioral research	Ch. 2	Activity 2
9/19	Ch 3. Ethics in behavioral research & Article breakdown	Ch. 3; Liu 1973 article	
9/21	Library methods	Library demonstration on article research	
9/26	Writing a research report – APA basics	Appendix A	Article summary 1 due
9/28	Ch 3. Ethics in behavioral research	Ch. 3	Activity 3
10/3	Exam 1 review session		Be prepared to ask questions
10/5	Exam 1 – Ch. 1-3		
10/10	Ch 4. Fundamental research issues Methods writing	Ch. 4	
10/12	Ch 5. Measurement concepts	Ch. 5	Activity 4
10/17	Ch 6. Observational methods	Ch. 6	Article summary 2 due
10/19	Introduction writing – putting everything together	Introduction writing time	Methods section due
10/24	Ch 7. Using survey research	Ch. 7	
10/26	Data Analysis Results Section	Writing results	
10/31	How to give and get proper feedback		
11/2	Exam 2 review session		Peer review of methods due Be prepared to ask questions
11/7	Exam 2 Ch. 4-7		
11/9	Ch 8. Experimental design	Ch. 8	Introduction – Background and hypothesis paragraphs due
11/14	Ch 9. Conducting experiments	Ch. 9	Activity 5

11/16	Ch 10. & Complex experimental design	Ch. 10	Results section due
11/21	Discussion writing Abstract writing Exam 3 review	Discussion writing Abstract writing	Peer review of introduction and results sections due Be prepared to ask questions
11/23	Catch up day		
11/28	Exam 3 – Ch. 8-10		
11/30	Ch 11. Quasi-experimental design	Ch. 11	
12/5	Ch 12. Understanding research results	Ch. 12	Discussion section due
12/7	Ch14. Generalizing results	Ch.14	Abstract section due
12/12	Writing time/final exam review		Peer review of discussion and abstract due Be prepared to ask questions
12/14	Final paper due		
12/19	Exam 4 – Ch. 11-14 SCI D233 12:30pm-2:30pm		

This syllabus is subject to change and you are responsible for keeping up with any changes and announcements. Any changes will be announced in-class and on the Canvas course page.