

PSYC 200: RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY
Fall Semester 2016

CONTACT INFORMATION

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COURSE INFORMATION

Section: 6
Meetings: MWF 11-11:50am
Location: SCI D217
Prerequisite: PSYC 110
GDR/GEP: CM
Credits: 3

TEXTBOOK AND WEBSITE

Leary, M. R. (2012). *Introduction to behavioral research methods* (6th ed.). Boston: Pearson.

The Desire2Learn (D2L) website (<http://www.uwsp.edu/d2l/Pages/default.aspx>) will be used to distribute documents, post grades, and so on. You need your UWSP login and password to access the system. For assistance, contact the IT Service Desk (see <http://www.uwsp.edu/infotech/Pages/helpdesk/default.aspx> for more information).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of research methods in psychology. The course begins with an introduction to the philosophy of science and the process of conducting research. It continues with an in-depth discussion of the stages of the research process: idea, design, measurement, analysis, and communication. The course concludes with a discussion about the broader importance of being well-versed in research methods.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course-specific. There are three course-specific learning outcomes in this course: 1) gain a deeper appreciation of how the research process actually works, 2) learn how to find and critique previous research studies, and 3) gain experience in summarizing and communicating empirical findings. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: 1) summarize the five stages of the research process, 2) locate and critique existing empirical studies, and 3) create and present an empirical poster in a professional forum.

General education. As a Communication in the Major course, there are two general education learning outcomes for this course: 1) 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, and 2) critique their own and others' writing/oral presentations to provide effective and useful feedback to improve their communication.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Classroom exams. There will be three in-class exams in this course. The exams will consist of 30 multiple choice and 5 short answer questions. You will choose the 25 multiple choice and 3 short answer questions that you prefer to answer. Each exam will cover four units in the course. Check the calendar for exam dates and material covered. The exams will be worth 300 points or 55% toward your final grade.

Online quizzes. There will be 10 reading quizzes in this course. Each of the quizzes will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions and will focus on one chapter of the course readings. All quizzes will be administered through D2L. You should complete quizzes after reading and studying the material. Quizzes will be available on D2L one week before the due date (Wednesdays at 9pm, except for exam weeks). Click “Quizzes” on D2L and select the appropriate quiz. You will have 15 minutes to complete a quiz. You are allowed to take a quiz twice and receive the higher of the scores. This helps you to earn a better score on the second try or to have another chance to complete the quiz in the event of a technology failure. Each quiz is drawn randomly from a larger item pool. This means that all quiz attempts (even for the same person) are unique. Since you have two attempts over a week’s time to complete a quiz, makeup requests are not granted unless they fall under the course policy on makeups. Although you are only required to complete 8 of the reading quizzes, I strongly encourage you to complete all 10 of them. Students who opt out of early quizzes are likely to be disappointed if they receive lower scores on later quizzes. Skipped quizzes are missed opportunities to learn the material and improve your performance in the course. Check the course calendar for quiz due dates and material covered.

The quizzes help you to: 1) keep up with the readings, 2) prepare for class, 3) practice thinking about the material, 4) identify areas that you have not mastered, and 5) lower the percentage of your grade based on exams. Please know that receiving assistance from (or giving assistance to) others on a quiz is academic misconduct and will be so treated. The quizzes will be worth 100 points or 18% toward your final grade.

Poster presentation. There will be a poster presentation in this course. Groups of roughly three students will select an appropriate journal article from an APA journal, summarize the research in an APA-style poster, and discuss this work in an in-class poster session. Groups will submit a draft poster and get feedback before the session. Final posters/presentations will be evaluated by the professor and other students during the session. The requirements, rubrics, and a sample poster will be provided on D2L or in a handout. The presentation will be worth 100 points or 18% toward your final grade.

Class participation. There will be a number of class participation activities throughout the course. Five of these activities will count for credit toward your final grade. These activities and their content will not be announced in advance. In general, activities will involve a combination of handouts, group discussion, and/or a brief writing assignment. These activities will be worth 50 points or 9% toward your final grade.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

This worksheet will help you to track your performance and compute your final grade.

Assessment	Earned points	Possible points
Quiz 1	_____	12.5
Quiz 2	_____	12.5
Quiz 3	_____	12.5
Quiz 4	_____	12.5
Quiz 5	_____	12.5
Quiz 6	_____	12.5
Quiz 7	_____	12.5
Quiz 8	_____	12.5
Quiz 9	_____	12.5
Quiz 10	_____	12.5

Assessment	Earned points	Possible points
Exam 1	_____	100
Exam 2	_____	100
Exam 3	_____	100
Presentation	_____	100
Participation 1	_____	10
Participation 2	_____	10
Participation 3	_____	10
Participation 4	_____	10
Participation 5	_____	10
Total	_____	550

(Total excludes your 2 lowest quizzes)

Final grades	Points	Percent
A	512-550	93-100
A-	495-511	90-92
B+	479-494	87-89
B	457-478	83-86
B-	440-456	80-82
C+	424-439	77-79

Final grades	Points	Percent
C	402-423	73-76
C-	385-401	70-72
D+	369-384	67-69
D	330-368	60-66
F	0-329	0-59

COURSE CALENDAR

Section	Unit	Dates	Reading	Quiz
Thinking Scientifically	1: Introduction	W 9/7, F 9/9, M 9/12	Leary 1	None
	2: Hypotheses	W 9/14, F 9/16, M 9/19	Dunn 3	W 9/14
Designing Studies	3: Descriptive and Correlational	W 9/21, F 9/23, M 9/26	Pelham 6	W 9/21
	4: Quasi-Experimental	W 9/28, F 9/30, M 10/3	Leary 13	W 9/28
	5: Experimental	F 10/7, M 10/10, F 10/14	Leary 9	None
Measuring Responses	6: Sampling	M 10/17, W 10/19, F 10/21	Leary 5	W 10/19
	7: Scales	M 10/24, W 10/26, F 10/28	Leary 4	W 10/26
	8: Reliability	M 10/31, W 11/2, F 11/4	Leary 3	W 11/2
Interpreting Findings	9: Variability	F 11/11, M 11/14, W 11/16	Leary 2	W 11/16
	10: Significance	F 11/18, M 11/21, W 11/23	Dunn 8	W 11/23
Living Scientifically	11: Communication	M 11/28, W 11/30, F 12/2	Leary 16	W 11/30
	12: Conclusion	M 12/5, W 12/7, F 12/9	Silvia 1-4	W 12/7

Poster deadlines	Exams and coverage	Bonus days
Rough Draft: M 10/31 by 9pm	1: W 10/12, Units 1-4	W 10/5
Final Draft: M 12/5 by 9pm	2: W 11/9, Units 5-8	M 11/7
Presentation: M 12/19, 10:15am-12:15pm	3: W 12/14, Units 9-12	M 12/12

Notes: The Dunn, Pelham, and Silvia readings are on D2L under Content/Readings. This calendar is subject to revision. Any changes will be announced in class.

COURSE POLICIES

Assessment. To maintain the integrity of in-class exams, use of electronic devices will not be permitted during exams without prior documented approval from the Disability Services office or other pertinent units on campus. This includes, but is not limited to, requests to use mobile devices for foreign language translation assistance. Students who are found using these devices will be dismissed and earn a zero for their exams. Other penalties will be considered under the misconduct policy.

Attendance. The professor will not take formal attendance in this course. Nonetheless, regular attendance is important for earning a respectable grade. There are participation activities that will be completed in class and count toward your final grade. In addition, lectures and readings will only partly overlap, but material from both will be needed for exams. Students with poorer attendance typically receive lower grades in this course.

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 office hours will be held per week. If you cannot attend office hours, schedule an appointment. Keep in mind that office hours are not times for lecture recaps after unexcused absences. You will need to obtain the missed material from other students. Email is the next most reliable means of contact. Emails are typically responded to within two business days (this does not include evenings or weekends). To avoid email filters, type PSYC 200 in the subject line. Emails requiring considerable discussion will be referred to office hours. Other means of contact (such as calling on the phone or stopping by outside of office hours) are generally unreliable.

Disabilities. UWSP is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you have a disability and need classroom, exam, or other assistance, please register with Disability Services (LRC 609, 715-346-3365) and then contact the professor as soon as possible (early in the semester is best). If you are concerned that you might have a disability, contact Disability Services. They can discuss your concerns and offer suggestions on what to do next. To learn more about Disability Services, go to: <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>. To learn more about the university's policies/procedures, go to: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>.

Emergencies. In the event of a medical emergency, please call 911 or use the Red Emergency Phone (located outside of SCI D230). Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide all emergency responders to the individual in need. In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure. See <http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans.aspx> for floor plans of severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings. In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner and meet on the north side of SCI (by the HEC). Notify the professor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals. In the event of an active shooter, Run/Escapes, Hide, Fight. If trapped in a room, you should hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out, and remain

quiet. Follow instructions of Emergency Responders. See the Emergency Management Plan at <http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt> for details on all emergency response procedures.

Incompletes. Incompletes are only available to students in exceptional situations, such as medical emergencies or similar circumstances. They are not available for those who feel overwhelmed by routine academic or personal activities. Requests for incompletes must be accompanied by documentation. Except in extraordinary cases, incompletes must be finished within one semester or a grade of F will be entered for the course.

Illegalities. Under several federal and state laws, and according to several university guidelines, faculty are required to report acts of an offensive or criminal nature that occur within 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 and current—may be reported to the Dean of Students office (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>) or local authorities.

Makeups. Makeups are only available to students who cannot complete an assessment on time due to academic, athletic, or religious obligations, major illnesses, or other valid reasons. Requests for makeups must be accompanied by documentation, such as letters from coaches, doctors, or spiritual leaders. Except in extraordinary cases, makeups must be completed within a week of the deadline to receive credit for the assessment.

Misconduct. The professor takes academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etcetera) seriously. The minimum penalty for any instance of misconduct in this course will be an automatic zero on the assessment. Stronger penalties will be considered based on the university policy. To learn more about this policy, go to: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/documents/rightsrespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>.

Professionalism. Respectful behavior in the classroom is necessary for creating an environment conducive to learning and intellectual exchange. Although the professor minimizes the formality of class sessions, there are limits that he asks you to respect. Students who—answer cell phones, text message, use their laptop or handheld devices inappropriately (for email, games, internet surfing, listening to music, instant messaging, completing homework for another class, and so on), carry on conversations with others, habitually arrive late and disturb others as they take their seats, pack belongings before the end of class, habitually leave early and disturb others as they exit doors, sleep or snore, and read newspapers, magazines, or other materials during class—distract the professor and other students in the classroom (even when students think that they are being subtle or polite). Such disruptions are disrespectful and hinder the experience of everyone in the class. Students who are unable to respect these limits will be asked to leave the room until they can demonstrate that they are able to give the class their full attention. If you find that one or more students in the class are hindering your learning, please contact the professor privately as soon as possible.