



PSYC 200: Research Method in Psychology
Spring, 2017

M/W 9:35-10:50am @ D223

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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 11-12pm or by appointment

Required Text and Materials

Cozby, P. C. & Bates, S. C. (2014). *Methods in behavioral research*. New York, NY: McGraw Hill Education.

Course Description

This course is designed to present the fundamentals of conducting psychological research. In the beginning, basic definitions and properties of scientific research will be covered. Then students will learn the specific research methods that are necessary to continue pursuit in psychology. Lastly, this course will focus on how to interpret numerical results and generalize findings.

Course Objectives

By the end of this semester, students should know: 1) why research is important in psychology; 2) how to read and interpret scientific findings (e.g., academic articles); 3) how to design research projects to answer specific research questions; and finally 4) how to interpret research results, derive conclusions, and present findings.

Grading Procedure: Total (100 pts.)

Topic Proposal	5
Literature Review	15
10 Article Reports	3 x 10
Article Presentation	10
Project Presentation	15
Presentation Attendance	5
Final Exam	20

Letter Grades

A:	100-94	C+:	79-77
A-:	93-90	C:	76-74
B+:	89-87	C-:	73-70
B:	86-84	D+:	69-67
B-:	80-83	D:	66-60

Assignments and Assessments

Topic Proposal: Students will need to think about a potential research topic they are interested in, and write a short proposal. Within the proposal, identify and define the topic, and describe what the student would like to know about it. This should be roughly one page. APA style is required, but no citations are needed.

Literature Review: For the interested topic, find a minimum of 5 relevant articles, and summarize each one, including: research question, general methods, and conclusion. Make sure to pay attention to the flow of the paper. This should be between 2 - 3 pages.

Article Reports: Ten articles will be assigned for reading and in class discussion. For each of them, students will write a short summary of the article, including: 1) what was the research about; 2) who did the researchers study; 3) how was the research carried out; 4) what did the researchers find/concluded. Please write the summary in APA format (e.g., as a tiny APA style paper, instead of bulletin points). In addition, **two questions** will be needed from students about the articles in the reports. Each report should be about 1 page long.

Article Presentation: For one of the ten articles, you will present it in front of the class with two class mates. The presentation should cover all of the important information from the article. The presentation will be graded based on clarity and accuracy. Basically, for someone who did not read the article, he/she should have a good idea on what the research project after listening to your presentation.

Research Project: You will need to conduct a mini-experimental research project for this course. Specifically, you will need to identify a topic of interest, design a research plan, collect data and interpret the data. By the end of the semester, you will present your research findings in front of the class. Students will evaluate each other's presentations.

Presentation Attendance: A total of 6 sessions will be dedicated to the research presentations. Other than your presentation session, you will need to attend the other five to receive points.

Final Exam: The exam for this course will be standard multiple choice exams (40 items).

Class Policies

Attendance: No formal attendance will be recorded for this course. However, it is strongly recommended for students to attend every lecture to receive the full benefit of this course. In addition, absent individuals are expected to obtain lecture notes and information on their own (e.g., from class mates).

Makeups: Makeup opportunities for late/missed assignments will only be granted for valid reasons that can be substantiated by students.

In Class Technology: No technology is permitted during exams, the only exception is when student has prior approval from the Disability Services office or other pertinent units on campus. Laptops are permitted for note taking purposes during lectures.

Disability: In accordance with the University policy, if a student has a documented disability and requires accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, he or she should notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester and make this need known. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through Disability Services (DS: LRC 609, 715-346-3365). To learn more about DS, 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>

Professionalism: The instructor and students in this course will adhere to the University's general Codes of Conduct defined in the University's Community Rights and Responsibilities. The Code of Academic Conduct (Academic Honesty Policy) requires that students do not engage in academic dishonesty. For details, refer to:

- *Community Rights and Responsibilities*
(<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>)
- *Academic Misconduct Webpage* (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Misconduct.aspx>)

My Policy: Be respectful to yourself, your fellow students and your instructor throughout the semester. Disruptive/disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.

Tentative Schedule

Wks	Dates	Class Topic	Assignments
1	1/23 1/25	Syllabus Ch1 – Scientific understanding of behavior	
2	1/30 2/1	Ch2 – Where to Start Library tour	
3	2/6 2/8	APA format: Writing Research Papers Ch3 – Ethics in Behavioral Research	Topic proposal due
4	2/13 2/15	Individual Session: 1-14 Individual Session: 15-29	
5	2/20 2/22	Ch4 – Fundamental Research Issues Ch5 – Measurement concepts	Article presentation signup sheet on my office door
6	2/27 3/1	Ch6 – Observational Methods Article 1&2	
7	3/6 3/8	Ch7 – Survey Research Article 3&4	
8	3/13 3/15	Ch8 – Experimental Design Article 5&6	
9	3/20 3/22	Spring Break!	
10	3/27 3/29	Ch9 – Conducting Experiments Article 7&8	
11	4/3 4/5	Ch11 – Single-case, quasi-Experimental and Developmental Research Article 9&10	
12	4/10 4/12	Ch12 – Description and Correlation Ch13 – Statistical Inference	
13	4/17 4/19	Individual Session: 1-14 Individual Session: 15-29	
14	4/24 4/26	Presentation Presentation	Literature Review Due
15	5/1 5/3	Presentation Presentation	
	5/8 5/10	Presentation Presentation	
Final	5/16	2:45 – 4:45PM	

*The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as deemed necessary and will communicate any changes to the class.