



**PSYC 200: Research Method in Psychology
Spring 2019**

T/R 11:00-12:15pm @ D216

Professor: Jiaxi (David) Wang, Ph.D.
Email: jwang@uwsp.edu
Phone: 715-346-3096
Office: SCI D-239
Office Hours: T/R @ 10-10:50am; T/R @ 1-1:50pm.

Required Text and Materials

Leary, M. R. (2004). *Introduction to behavioral research methods, 6th ed.* Pearson 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 (470 pts.)

Topic	5 bonus point
10 Article Reports	10 x 10
Article Presentation	50
Annotated Bibliography	50
Research Report	100
Project Presentation	50
Presentation Attendance	20
Final Exam	100

Letter Grades (Percentage)

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: Find a research question that you find interesting. Write a brief introduction of this question. Explain what the question is, why it is important, and why you are interested. This should be roughly half a page long. APA style is required, but you do not need to cite anything here.

Annotated Bibliography: For each student, find five articles that are relevant to your research question. Cite each one in APA format, and attach a brief description of the study.

Research Report: For each student, find three articles that contribute to answering the research question. Write a research report on what you have found. See next sub-section for detail on what a report is.

Project Presentation: By the end of the semester, each student will do a brief presentation on the research project. Specifically, you will be expected to explain what you researched about, what you found, and what conclusion can you make.

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; and finally 5) did you find anything confusing or misleading in the paper. Please write the summary in APA format (e.g., as a tiny APA style paper, instead of bullet points).

Article Presentation: For one of the ten articles, you will present it in front of the class with one or two classmates. The presentation should cover all of the important information from the article. The presentation will be graded based on clarity and accuracy.

Presentation Attendance: 5 sessions will be dedicated to the research presentations. Other than your presentation session, you will need to attend the other 4 to receive attendance 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	1/22 1/24	Syllabus Introduction (ch1)	
2	1/29 1/31	Statistics in Research (Ch2, 3, 6, 7) Lab – How to find information (cps 107)	Sign-up sheet available
3	2/5 2/7	Research Ethics (ch15) Selecting Research Participants (Ch 5)	Topic due
4	2/12 2/14	Individual Session: front two rows Individual Session: back two rows	
5	2/19 2/21	Special Topic: APA style writing/citation Special Topic: reading and presenting articles	Article presentation sign-up deadline
6	2/26 2/28	Observational Methods (read Ch 4, 6) Article 1&2	
7	3/5 3/7	Ch7 – Survey Research (Ch 4, 7) Article 3&4	
8	3/12 3/14	Experimental Design (Ch. 9, 10) Article 5&6	
9	3/19 3/21	Spring Break	
10	3/26 3/28	Experimental Design (Ch. 9, 10) Article 7&8	
11	4/2 4/4	Special - Developmental Research Article 9&10	
12	4/9 4/11	Work Day Special Topic: How to present your findings.	Annotated Bibliography due
13	4/16 4/18	Presentation Presentation	
14	4/23 4/25	Presentation Presentation	Research Report due
15	4/30 5/2	Presentation Presentation	
16	5/7 5/9	Reserved Reserved	
Final	5/15	8-10am	

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