

**PSYC 200: RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
Fall Semester 2021

**PROFESSOR**

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Office: SCI D331 (or via Zoom)  
Hours: MWF 8-900am or  
by appointment

**COURSE**

Section: 3  
Credits: 3  
Meetings/Location: Fully Online  
Prerequisite: PSYC 110

**TEXTBOOK AND WEBSITE**

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

This course will be administered online through Canvas. In Canvas, you will review materials, participate in discussions, and complete quizzes. To participate in this online course, you will need internet access and a web browser (login at this website: <https://www.uwsp.edu/canvas/Pages/default.aspx>) or you can download the Canvas Student mobile app for Android or iOS. You will need your UWSP login/password to access the website and app. If you would like to learn more about how to use Canvas features (such as discussions), please review the helpful resources posted on the Canvas website: [https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Student/ct-p/canvas\\_student](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Student/ct-p/canvas_student). If you need technical support, contact Canvas Support directly by clicking on the Help button in Canvas.

**DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES**

This course provides an overview of empirical research methods in psychology. The course begins with an introduction to scientific thinking and the research process. It continues with a detailed examination of the five phases of research—idea, design, measurement, analysis, and communication. The course concludes by considering recent changes in ethical standards and some realities of professional science careers.

After taking this course, you will be able to...

- Explain what it means to think and work as a scientist
- Plan basic empirical studies in psychological science
- Assess the importance of research ideas and studies
- Implement professional standards for communication

**CALENDAR**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Due</b>
<b>Thinking Scientifically</b>	1: Introduction	Leary 1	Discussion and Homework 1	M 9/6
	2: Hypotheses	Stangor 2	Discussion and Homework 2	M 9/13
<b>Designing Studies</b>	3: Descriptive and Correlational	Pelham 8	Discussion and Homework 3	M 9/20
	<b>Focus Week 1</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Quiz 1 (Modules 1-3) Hypotheses and References</b>	<b>M 9/27</b>
	4: Experimental	Leary 9-10	Discussion and Homework 4	M 10/4
<b>Measuring Responses</b>	5: Sampling	Leary 5	Discussion and Homework 5	M 10/11
	6: Scales	Leary 4	Discussion and Homework 6	M 10/18
	<b>Focus Week 2</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Quiz 2 (Modules 4-6) Introduction Draft</b>	<b>M 10/25</b>
	7: Reliability	Leary 3	Discussion and Homework 7	M 11/1
<b>Interpreting Findings</b>	8: Variability	Leary 2	Discussion and Homework 8	M 11/8
	9: Significance	Pelham 12	Discussion and Homework 9	M 11/15
	<b>Focus Week 3</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Quiz 3 (Modules 7-9) Method Draft</b>	<b>M 11/22</b>
<b>Living Scientifically</b>	10: Communication	Leary 16	Discussion and Homework 10	M 11/29
	11: Ethics	Leary 15	Discussion and Homework 11	M 12/6
	12: Conclusion	Silvia selections	Discussion and Homework 12	M 12/13
	<b>Finals Week</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Quiz 4 (Modules 10-12) Final Draft</b>	<b>M 12/20</b>

**The Pelham, Silvia, and Stangor chapters are posted on Canvas. This calendar is subject to revision and any changes will be announced on Canvas or via email.**

## REQUIREMENTS

**Discussions.** There will be 12 graded discussion forums in this course. For each discussion forum, you will be required to post twice: 1) your own response to the prompt (due by Fridays at 11:59pm), and 2) your response to another student's post (due by Mondays at 11:59pm). You are welcome to post more than twice, but there is no extra credit for doing so. The discussions will be available on Canvas in the weekly modules. You will receive an overall score for all of your postings for a week. Although you are only required to post in 9 of the discussion forums, you are strongly encouraged to post in all 12 of them (this will allow you to replace lower scores in other forums). The discussion posts will be worth 20 points each for a total of 180 points (25% of your final grade).

**Homeworks.** There will be 12 graded homework assignments in this course. For each assignment, you will be required to complete research tasks or solve research problems, as well as answer some related questions. The homeworks will be available on Canvas in the weekly modules. Although you are only required to complete 9 of the homeworks, you are strongly encouraged to complete all 12 of them (this will allow you to replace lower scores on other homeworks). The homeworks will be worth 20 points each for a total of 180 points (25% of your final grade).

**Quizzes.** There will be 4 quizzes in this course. Each quiz will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions and will focus on 3 modules of course material. The quizzes will be available on Canvas in the weekly modules. You will have 40 minutes to complete a quiz and are allowed to take each of them twice—you will receive the higher of your 2 attempts. All quizzes are drawn randomly from larger item pools. This means that all quiz attempts are unique (even for the same student). Although you are only required to complete 3 of the quizzes, you are strongly encouraged to complete all 4 of them (this will allow you to replace lower scores on other quizzes). The quizzes will be worth 60 points each for a total of 180 points (25% of your final grade).

**Project.** There will be a research proposal project in this course. A proposal is a detailed plan that develops a novel research question and proposes an empirical study for answering that question. It helps to organize your thinking, as well as to show others that your planned study is important, sound, and feasible. Proposals will be completed in small groups and will include an introduction and method section. This project includes interim deadlines for all submissions and a peer evaluation of your group. The project will be worth a total of 180 points (25% of your final grade).

**Participation Bonus.** If you clearly make a "good faith effort" to complete all of the discussions, homeworks, and quizzes in this course, you will earn an extra credit bonus worth 36 points (an extra 5% on top of your final grade).

**Please review the syllabus calendar, Canvas assignments page, and Canvas modules for specific due dates and more information for all assignments.**

**PERFORMANCE**

Discussion	Earned Points	Possible Points
1		20
2		20
3		20
4		20
5		20
6		20
7		20
8		20
9		20
10		20
11		20
12		20
<b>Total</b>		180

(Total excludes 3 lowest discussions)

Homework	Earned Points	Possible Points
1		20
2		20
3		20
4		20
5		20
6		20
7		20
8		20
9		20
10		20
11		20
12		20
<b>Total</b>		180

(Total excludes 3 lowest homeworks)

Project	Earned Points	Possible Points
Hypothesis		20
Intro. Draft		40
Method Draft		40
Final Draft		80
<b>Total</b>		180

Quiz	Earned Points	Possible Points
1		60
2		60
3		60
4		60
<b>Total</b>		180

(Total excludes 1 lowest quiz)

<b>Grand Total</b>		720
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**GRADING SCALE**

Final Grade	Points	Percent
A	670-720	93-100
A-	648-669	90-92
B+	626-647	87-89
B	598-625	83-86
B-	576-597	80-82
C+	554-575	77-79

Final Grade	Points	Percent
C	526-553	73-76
C-	504-525	70-72
D+	482-503	67-69
D	432-481	60-66
F	0-431	0-59

**POLICIES**

**Communication.** Our communication in this class will occur through digital methods. If you need to contact me with a private matter (such as your grades), you can send me an email. I generally respond to emails within 48 hours (except on weekends). You can also visit my in-person office hours or make an appointment to meet via Zoom. However, if you need to contact me about a public matter (such as asking a question about the project), you can post a question in the Frequently Asked Question discussion forums. These forums are open to all students, which allows questions and answers to be viewed by everyone in the course.

**Disabilities.** UWSP is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you are concerned that you might have a disability, please contact Disability Services and Assistance Technology (DATC; LRC 609, 715-346-3365). Their office can discuss your concerns and provide suggestions on next steps. If you have a disability and would like to setup accommodations, please register with DATC and then follow up with me afterwards. To learn more about DATC, go to: <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>. To learn more about UWSP's policies, go to: <https://www.uwsp.edu/datc/Pages/law-regent-policy.aspx>.

**Illegalities.** Under federal and state laws, as well as university guidelines, professors 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.

**Incompletes.** Incompletes are generally only available to students in exceptional situations, such as medical emergencies or comparable circumstances. Incomplete requests must be accompanied by documentation. Except in extraordinary situations, incompletes must be finished within one semester or a grade of F will be automatically entered for the course.

**Makeups.** Makeups are generally only available to students who cannot complete an assignment by a deadline due to academic, athletic, or religious obligations, serious illnesses, or comparable reasons. Makeup requests must accompanied by documentation. Except in extraordinary cases, makeups must be finished within one week of the deadline to receive credit for the assignment.

**Misconduct.** The professor takes all forms of academic misconduct (such as cheating or plagiarism) seriously. The minimum penalty for any misconduct in this course will be an automatic zero on the assessment. Stronger penalties will also be considered based on UWSP's academic misconduct policy. To learn more about this policy, go to: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>.

**Netiquette.** In an online course, a majority of course communication takes place in the discussion forums. The primary method of communication in the forums is written. The written language has advantages: more opportunity for reasoned thought, more ability to go in-depth, and more time to think through an issue before posting comments. Still, written communication also has disadvantages, such the lack of in-person signaling via body language, intonation, pauses, facial expressions, and gestures. Thus, please be aware of the possibility of miscommunications and compose comments in a positive, supportive, and constructive manner. You can learn more about netiquette at: <http://global.k-state.edu/students/courses/netiquette/>.