

PSY 400: Advanced Research Methods
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Spring 2023
MWF, 12-1pm

Instructor: Erica Weisgram

Office: Science D235

Office Hours: 1-2 MW, by appointment

E-mail: eweisgra@uwsp.edu

Text: Jackson, S. (2015). Research Methods: A Modular Approach; APA Style Manual 7th Edition

Course Website: Canvas (canvas.uwsp.edu)

Prerequisites: PSY 200, 300, 27 credits in Psychology

Course Objectives

Psychology is the science of behavior and mental processes. To investigate behavior and mental processes scientifically, psychologists must use the scientific method including: developing a theory, constructing a testable hypothesis, collecting data, and drawing conclusions. In this course, students will examine all of the steps in the research process. In addition, students will complete a research project in psychology including an APA style report. By actively engaging with course material through in-class activities, lab activities, and writing assignments, students will gain a comprehension of and appreciation for the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

At the conclusion of this semester, students will be able to:

- identify and describe major terms, research designs, and methodology in psychology.
- locate and evaluate journal articles in psychology
- synthesize previous research and identify areas in which more work is needed
- develop a detailed and testable hypothesis
- collect data to test hypotheses
- analyze data to test hypotheses
- write an APA style research report
- give a presentation in poster and oral format

Course Requirements

150 pts.	Exams (75 pts. each)
100 pts.	Final APA style paper
25 pts.	Draft—Introduction and Methods Section
25 pts.	Draft—Results and Discussion (with Tables and Figures)
25 pts.	Oral Presentation (Group)
25 pts.	Poster presentation (Group)
50 pts.	Labs (10 pts. Each)

Exams. There will be two exams: one given at midterm and one at the end of the semester with the last exam taking place during finals week. All exams will cover material presented in lecture, labs, and the textbook. Exams will be multiple choice, short answer, and essay in nature. If a student is unable to take the exam on the scheduled date for a University-Approved Reason (with documentation), arrangements may be made *beforehand* to take a make-up the exam at another time. All No Shows (students who do not notify the instructor of an absence before the exam) who do not have documentation of illness or accident on that day will receive a 0 on the exam and will not be allowed to take the test at an alternate time. Exams will be, in part, comprehensive as information learned earlier in the semester will be necessary for understanding material presented later in the semester. Final exams will be given on the date scheduled by the Registrar's office,

Final APA Style Research Paper. The goal of this course is to complete one research project in psychology. This task includes writing an APA style paper that includes the following sections:

Title Page, Abstract, Introduction, Method, Participants, Procedure, Measures, Results, Discussion, References, Table, Figure

We will spend most of the semester learning about each section of the paper (e.g., how to construct a method section, how to create figures) and completing this project. While some of the work here will be done in groups (e.g., developing an idea, collecting data), all of the writing of this project will be done on an individual basis. Drafts for the paper will be turned in throughout the semester, and peer reviews of others' work will also be used in order to make these papers as high in quality as they can possibly be. Late papers will not receive full credit. Papers will be turned in using Canvas.

Drafts. Drafts of the research paper will be turned in twice during the semester: once upon completion of the introduction and methods sections, and once upon completion of the results and discussion sections. The purpose of these drafts will be to give students feedback on the content and style of their writing, thus improving the result of the final paper. To ensure that students are putting their best efforts into completing these drafts, the drafts will be graded. In addition, a component of the final paper grade will be how much student has responded to feedback on these drafts. It is in students' best interests to make these drafts as complete and high in quality as possible. Papers will be turned in using Canvas.

Oral Presentation. As psychologists, we often present the results of our studies in multiple formats such as journal articles, oral presentations, and poster presentations. In groups, students will be asked to give an oral presentation (15-20 minutes) summarizing previous research, their method and results, and conclusions they can draw from the findings. If a student is unable to give the presentation on the scheduled date for a University-Approved Reason (with documentation), arrangements may be made *beforehand* to give the presentation at another time within a week of the scheduled time. All No Shows (students who do not notify the instructor of an absence before the presentation) who do not have documentation of illness or accident on that day will receive a 0 on the presentation and will not be allowed to give the presentation at an alternate time. A group grade will be given on the presentation, with possible adjustments made based on peer input by group members.

Poster Presentation. As psychologists, we often present the results of our studies in multiple formats such as journal articles, oral presentations, and poster presentations. In groups, students will be asked to create a poster representing their work and present this poster to other students and faculty in psychology. If a student is unable to give the presentation on the scheduled date for a University-Approved Reason (with documentation), arrangements may be made *beforehand* to complete an alternate form of presentation. All No Shows (students who do not notify the instructor of an absence before the presentation) who do not have documentation of illness or accident on that day will receive a 0 on the presentation portion of the project and

will not be allowed to give the presentation at an alternate time. A group grade will be given on the presentation, with possible adjustments made based on peer input.

Labs. Labs will be conducted throughout the semester to (a) provide intermittent checks of progress on the research project and/or (b) to provide practice for completing sections of the research paper. Labs may include: gathering and summarizing research in psychology, practice writing sections of an APA style paper, setting up databases, and other research activities. Preparation for these labs will occur in class, but much of the work will be completed independently.

Attendance. Attendance is **imperative** for this course. We will be working together throughout the semester learning about each part of the research process from start to finish. Missing even one day can be the equivalent to missing how to write a method section or conduct the key statistical analysis needed for your project. The class will also include many practice sessions and time to work collaboratively with your group on your project. Missing these days can hamper your own learning and your group members' progress. In addition, exams will include a significant "lecture" component.

Final Course Grades:

The total number of points possible for this course is 450

Therefore, final grades will be determined as follows:

- A: 93%-100%
- A-: 90%-92%
- B+: 87%-89%
- B: 83%-86%
- B-: 80%-82%
- C+: 77%-79%
- C: 73%-76%
- C-: 70%-72%
- D+: 67%-69%
- D: 60%-66%
- F: 0%-59%

Course Policies

- Students should arrive to class on time with cell phones turned off. Any students found to be using their phones during class will be asked to leave until they are finished. Please remove earbuds or headphones.
- Students should read the appropriate readings assigned in the text and reserve readings before attending class
- Students should be open-minded to learning new information
- Students should demonstrate respect and professionalism toward fellow students and the instructor throughout the course

Course Communication

E-mail will be the official mode of communication for this course. Students should feel free to e-mail the instructor at any point with questions about course content. Students can generally expect a prompt response. (However, e-mails sent past 5pm may not be read until the next business day.) When e-mailing, please put "PSY 400" in the subject line to prevent being sorted into Junk Mail by the e-mail filter.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty of any form (i.e., cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated. If a student is participating in any dishonest behavior, they will receive a "0" for the assignment or exam. It is important to uphold the academic integrity of this institution. Additional information about the consequences of academic dishonesty can be found in the Course Catalog. Please consult this website if you have any questions or concerns about academic plagiarism: <http://library.uwsp.edu/guides/vrd/plagiarism.htm>

Withdrawal from Courses

See Registration and Records for more information and dates for withdrawing from courses this term: <http://www.uwsp.edu/reg-rec/>

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities will be appropriately accommodated. Please see Disability Services (<https://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>) for further information and contact me with your form within the first two weeks of class.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, a set of expectations has been developed for both students and professors (see <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>). All students are expected to be familiar with and to abide by these expectations.

Mandatory reporting

Under several federal and state laws, and according to several university guidelines, I am required to report acts of a criminal or offensive nature. 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 – both current and in the past – may be reported to the Dean of Students office (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>) or the local authorities. Due to recent legislation, if any disclosure of unreported neglect or abuse of a child, elder, or disabled individual is made to a University instructor, he or she is required to report such information to the appropriate administrative or law enforcement officials. This includes instances of sexual assault of an adult.

Use of Electronic Devices

Electronic Devices are not to be used during class time without the consent of the instructor. Any student found distracting others or the instructor with their use of electronic devices will be asked to put said device away or leave the classroom. Students may not photograph, videotape, or audio record the instructor without the express permission of the instructor. To maintain the integrity of in-class exams, the use of electronic devices will not be permitted during exams without prior documented approval from the Disability Services office or other pertinent offices on campus. This includes, but is not limited to, requests to use cellular or wireless network-enabled mobile devices for foreign language translation assistance. Students who are found using these devices will be dismissed and receive a zero for their exams. Other penalties will be considered under the misconduct policy. Moreover, students who arrive late to an exam will only be allowed to take it if they arrive before the first student finishes and leaves the room. After that point, requests to take exams will be declined unless they are consistent with the makeups policy

Emergency Procedures

In the event of a medical emergency call 911 or use Red Emergency Phone (List Location). Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide Emergency Responders to victim. In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window.). See www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans.aspx for floor plans showing 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. Meet at the HEC Center. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals. Active Shooter – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of Emergency Responders. See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at www.uwsp.edu/rmgt for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point

FAQ:

Do I need Psych 300 before enrolling?

Yes, you will be asked to drop the class if you have not previously had PSY 300.

I've heard this class is hard. How can it be easier?

You can make the class easier for yourself by (a) reading the textbook as we go along and (b) attending and paying attention in every single class period. Due to the nature of the class, missing one class period may mean missing information on a crucial part of the project. Also, the class periods will be used for practicing concepts and skills and working with your group members to complete the research project. Missing one class can be really critical!

Date	Class Material *	Text/Assignments
Week 1 (Jan 23-27)	Syllabus, Why study research methods?, Parts of a research paper Research Designs in Psychology	Jackson Modules 1 & 2
Week 2 (Jan 30-Feb 3)	Developing Research Questions, Reviewing the Literature, Writing an Introduction *Meet with groups to develop research idea! Reviewing the Literature, Writing an Introduction (and avoiding Plagiarism), Developing Hypotheses	Bordens Chapter 3 Lab #1 Due Feb 3—Journal Article Summary
Week 3 (Feb 6-10)	Writing in APA Style/Writing for Psychology (Bring APA Manual to Class) Writing a method section	APA Manual Chapter 3
Week 4 (Feb 13-17)	Writing for Psychology/Setting up Studies Finding Participants/Ethics/Consent/IRB	Lab #2 Due Feb. 17—IRB Training Completion Jackson Module 4
Week 5 (Feb 20-24)	Measures/Reliability/Validity/Finding Measures IRB forms—putting your study together for review	Jackson Modules 5 & 6 Lab #3 Due Feb. 24—IRB Forms for Study
Week 6 (Feb 27-Mar 3)	Making Tables and Figures in Excel (Bring APA Manual to class)	Scan APA Chapter 5
Week 7 (March 6-10)	**Exam 1!*** March 6 Using SPSS, Creating Datasets, Descriptive Stats	Jackson Module 15

Date	Class Material*	Readings/Assignments
Week 8 March 13-17	Choosing the right statistics/Creating the dataset for your study	Jackson Module 18 & 20 Due: Drafts of Intro and Methods MARCH 17
Week 9 March 20-24	Spring Break—WHOO HOO!	
Week 10 March 27-31	ANOVA-Between Subjects/Writing a Results Section	Jackson Module 21 Lab #4 Due March 31—Practice Results
Week 11 April 3-7	Writing a Discussion/Analyzing your data	
Week 12 April 10-14	Within Subjects Design More Results/Discussion	DUE: Drafts of Results and Discussion (including tables and Figures)(April 14)
Week 13 April 17-21	Within Subjects Design	
Week 14 April 24-28	Work on Presentations	Sternberg Chapters 14&15 Lab #5 Due—Peer Review of Paper April 27
Week 15 May 1-5	Work on Presentations	POSTER PRESENTATION MAY 5 (3-5pm) COLS Undergraduate Research Symposium
Week 16 May 8-12	Oral Presentations on Final Project	Oral Presentations on Final Project
Finals Week 5/18/23 8am	Exam 2	

* Note: Topics are subject to change.