

PSYC 400: ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY
Spring Semester 2019

PROFESSOR

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Hours: M 12:30-1:50pm, TR
1-1:50pm, or by appointment

COURSE

Section: 1
Meetings: F 9-11:30am
Location: SCI D214 & SCI B238-West
Prerequisites: PSYC 110, 200, 300, & 22 crs.
GEP: CM & Capstone
Credits: 3

TEXTBOOK

Kline, R. B. (2009). *Becoming a behavioral researcher: A guide to producing research that matters*. New York: Guilford.

DESCRIPTION

This course serves as a follow-up to research methods and statistics in psychology. It is intended for advanced students who want deeper, more integrated understanding of the research process. If you are interested in learning more about how to conduct research or what research looks like from the inside, this course might be a good choice for you.

The course is structured to achieve three important goals. First, this course will focus on **strengthening your scientific identity**. Whereas many courses emphasize your skills and abilities as an individual, this course emphasizes your connections and contributions to scientific communities. Second, this course will focus on **reorienting your view of research**—from the hoarding of dead answers and to engagement with vibrant questions. Whereas many courses emphasize collecting answers to questions, this course will emphasize the value of developing and pursuing meaningful questions. Third, this course will focus on the **efficient development of effective research**. Whereas many courses emphasize effectiveness of research, few courses focus on efficiency. These goals will help you to develop a deeper appreciation of empirical research and your place in scientific communities.

To accomplish these goals, the course sessions will involve a mix of in-class discussion, lecture, and hands-on activities (many of which will occur in the SCI B238-West computer lab). As an advanced course, I strongly encourage you to keep up the readings, be an active participant in sessions, and contact me for clarifications and assistance with difficulties that arise. These steps will help you to perform better and get more out of this course.

REQUIREMENTS

The final grade in this course will be made up of four elements. The first is a **research project**. You will choose one of the following options: 1) a literature review paper, 2) a research proposal, or 3) an empirical report. The project grade will consist of a rough draft, final draft, and brief presentation. Details will be provided in a separate handout. The research project will be worth a total of 400 points or 40% of your final grade.

The second element is **exams**. There will be two take-home exams in this course over four units of material. Each exam will be made up of essay questions based on readings and class material. These exams will be worth a total of 300 points or 30% of your final grade.

The third element is **lab activities**. There will be six activities in this course. These will involve using research skills to solve practical problems. They will be handed out in class and due the next week. Only your five best activities will be retained. The lab activities will be worth 200 points or 20% of your final grade.

The final element will be a **research-oriented interview** of a psychology professor. You will sign-up to interview a professor and conduct a 30-minute in-person interview. This interview will focus on past experiences with research, current research and interests, and related questions that you choose. Details will be provided in a separate handout. The interview will be worth 100 points or 10% of your final grade.

In sum, your final course grade will be made up of four elements worth a total of 1,000 points. Please use the scale below to determine your final grade.

A = 930-1,000 points
 A- = 900-929 points
 B+ = 870-899 points
 B = 830-869 points

B- = 800-829 points
 C+ = 770-799 points
 C = 730-769 points
 C- = 700-729 points

D+ = 670-699 points
 D = 600-669 points
 F = 0-599 points

CALENDAR

Topic	Dates	Readings
Orientation	F 1/25	None
1. Introduction	F 2/1	R: Kline, Chapters 1 and 3 O: Fiske (2004)
2. Idea	F 2/15 & F 2/22	R: Kline, Chapter 2 O: Crandall (2002)
3. Design	F 3/1 & F 3/8	R: Kline, Chapter 4 O: Wilson (2010)
4. Measurement	F 3/15 & F 3/29	R: Kline, Chapter 7 O: Baumeister (2007)
5. Analysis	F 4/5 & F 4/12	R: Kline, Chapters 5 and 8 O: Cumming (2014)
6. Communication	F 4/19 & F 4/26	R: Kline, Chapters 9 and 10 O: Tesser (2005)
7. Ethics	F 5/3	R: Stroebe (2012) O: Funder (2013)
8. Conclusion	F 5/10	R: Sternberg (2014) O: Lilienfeld (2012)
Presentations	M 5/13 (8-10am)	None

R = required; O = optional (particularly helpful for students interested in graduate school and/or research-oriented careers); readings not in the Kline book can be downloaded from our Canvas course website (<https://www.uwsp.edu/canvas/Pages/default.aspx>).

POLICIES

Attendance. The professor will not take formal attendance in this course. Nonetheless, regular attendance is important for earning a respectable grade. The material in this capstone course will go well beyond slides and readings, and will be needed to complete the labs and exams. Given that our course takes place once a week, missing one day is equivalent to missing an entire week in your other classes. Thus, failure to regularly attend is a bad decision that will undoubtedly lead to a poorer grade. Please report necessary absences to the professor as soon as possible beforehand.

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. Email is the next most reliable means of contact. Emails are typically responded to within two business days (not on evenings or weekends). To avoid email filters, type PSYC 400 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 reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire a condition during the semester where you need assistance, contact Disability and Assistive Technology on the 6th floor of ALB (the library) as soon as possible. DATC can be reached at 715-346-3365 or DATC@uwsp.edu.

Emergencies. In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 or use the Red Emergency Phone outside of SCI D230. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to those in need. In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without windows. See <http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans.aspx> for floor plans showing the severe weather shelters (such nearby classrooms). Avoid wide-span structures (such as gyms, pools, or large classrooms). In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner and meet on the north side of SCI (outside the MCCH). Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals. In the event of an Active Shooter/Code React, run/escape, hide, fight. If trapped, hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out, and remain quiet. Call 911 when it is safe to do so. Follow instructions of emergency responders. See UWSP's Emergency Management site at <http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt> for details on 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, 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.

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 instances of misconduct (such as cheating and plagiarism) seriously. The minimum penalty for an instance of misconduct will be a zero on the assessment. Other penalties will be considered under university policy. Please do not put yourself and others through disciplinary proceedings. To read UWSP's policies, go to: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>.

Professionalism. 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 (called the Community Rights and Responsibilities document) has been developed for students and professors. For more information, go to: https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/2015_Aug_Community%20Rights%20and%20Responsibilities%20Web.pdf.