

**SWS Research Methods in Psychology (PSY 300 – 05)**  
Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 – 9:45am, Lake Superior Hall 229  
Winter 2017

**Instructor:** Ernest Park, Ph.D.

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I will try to respond to emails within 24 hours if they are received Monday-Friday. See me in person (e.g., during office hours) if you have any questions/concerns that may require a lengthy response. Please be aware that I may not respond to email inquiries that involve information that has already been covered in the syllabus or in class.

**Office Hours:** Tues and Thurs: 2 – 4pm; I can also be available by appointment

**Required Textbooks:**

Morling, B. (2015). Research methods in psychology: Evaluating a world of information (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). New York, NY: Norton.

**Prerequisites:** PSY 101 or HNR 234, STA 215 or STA 312, & WRT 150 (grade of C or better)

\*This syllabus is subject to change. Changes (if any) will be announced in class. Students are responsible for keeping informed of any such notices.

**Course Description:** Examination of basic research methods in psychology. Emphasis is on the logic of psychological research, the formulation and testing of hypotheses, research design, sampling procedures, data collection and analysis, and ethics of conducting research. This course is designated SWS. Completion of WRT 150 with a grade of C or better (not C-) is a prerequisite. SWS credit will not be given to a student who completes this course before completing the prerequisite. SWS courses adhere to certain guidelines. Students turn in a total of at least 3000 words of writing. Part of that total may be essay exams, but a substantial amount of it is made up of essays, reports, or research papers. The instructor works with the students on revising drafts of papers, rather than simply grading the finished piece of writing. At least four hours of class time will be devoted to writing instruction. At least one third of the final grade in the course is based on the writing assignments.

**Course Objectives:** Through lecture and assignments, students will better understand the research process and its importance. Students who master the principles of research methodology will be able to see and explain how abstract constructs can be explored in concrete, measurable ways. By the end of the semester students should be able to evaluate scientific research and be able to appropriately interpret data. With an increased understanding of research methodology, students will be able to think critically about research findings and claims, and be able to clearly express and effectively defend their views. In addition to being a more informed consumer of research, students will also grow as practitioners and be able to formulate hypotheses and develop and design research to test such predictions.

**Basis for grading:**

Exam 1 = 100 points

Exam 2 = 100 points

Exam 3 = 100 points

In-class quizzes = 3 X 5 pts. each = 15 points

Article evaluation = 25 points

Research paper (all components) = 150 points (intro draft = 25 pts.; method draft = 25 pts.; final paper = 100 pts.)

Total possible points = 490 points

Number grade = Earned points/490 X 100 (grades ending with .499 and below will be rounded down, and .50 and above will be rounded up)

**Grading scale:**

A = 94 and above      C+ = 77-79      F= 59 and below

A- = 90-93      C = 73-76

B+ = 87-89      C- = 70-72

B = 83-86      D+ = 67-69

B- = 80-82      D = 60-66

**Exams:** Exams will consist of multiple choice questions. Students are required to bring their own No. 2 pencils on exam days. Students are responsible for knowing material from the text and any content discussed in class (**including content from assigned articles**). If an exam is missed due to illness, I must be notified by email within 12 hours of the scheduled exam time and students must be able to provide a doctor's note to reschedule the exam. If an exam is missed for a reason other than illness, students must contact me at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled exam time. A valid excuse must be provided and students should wait for approval from me before assuming the excuse is acceptable. Missed exams or failure to comply with these policies will result in a zero on the exam.

**In-class quizzes:** There will be 4 in-class quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will each consist of 5 multiple choice questions that cover *any material* that has been discussed in the text or in class by the time of the quiz. These will be "pop" quizzes (advanced notice about the quiz will not be provided). To receive credit, students must be in class when quizzes are distributed, and must complete the in-class quiz within the allotted time. To maintain fairness to all, make-up opportunities cannot be granted, but, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Since "pop" quizzes will cover any material discussed up to the time the quiz is taken, it is critical for students to arrive to class on time, keep up with the assigned readings, and to remember what has been covered throughout the semester. Class attendance and attentiveness are thus strongly encouraged.

**Article evaluation:** Each student will read and evaluate a research article. Evaluations will be submitted in essay format (at least two-typed pages, double-spaced). More details and instructions will be provided later in the semester.

**Research Paper:** Students will write an APA-style research proposal that includes the following sections: introduction, methods, results (proposed analyses), discussion, and references. Students may consult with one another, but all aspects of the paper must be written individually. Rough drafts of the paper's major components will be required. More details will be provided later in the semester.

### **Policies:**

**Late assignments:** If an assignment deadline is missed due to illness, I must be notified by email within 12 hours of the scheduled due date and students must be able to provide a doctor's note. For a reason other than illness, students must contact me at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled due date. A valid excuse must be provided and students should wait for my approval before assuming the excuse is acceptable. Assignments that are not turned in, or are turned in late and fail to meet these regulations will result in a zero.

**Academic integrity:** The following are statements provided by the university and can be found in the Student Code, Sections, 223.00 and 223.01.

Students will do original work and will not take or receive the efforts of another person on any test or assignment, use unauthorized resources on quizzes or tests, plagiarize, or give/sell other students papers or assignments not authorized by the instructor. You are responsible for making yourself aware of and for understanding the policies and procedures that pertain to academic integrity. To that end, be sure to familiarize yourself with the GVSU Student Code (Section 223.00 and 223.01) related to academic integrity. Furthermore, be sure to reference sources at all times. If you are uncertain about such an issue prior to submission of an assignment, project, or test, please see me so we can eliminate that uncertainty.

No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his/her own. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. Any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from the internet, books, periodicals, speeches, or from the writing of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgement also is considered plagiarism. In short, any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for the ideas or materials that have been taken from another is guilty of plagiarism.

**Disability:** If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of a learning, physical, or other disability, please contact me and Disability Support Services (DSS) at (616) 331-2490. Furthermore, if you have a disability and think you will need assistance evacuating this classroom and/or building in an emergency, please make me aware so that the university and I can develop a plan to assist you. It is the student's responsibility to request assistance from DSS.

**Cancelled classes:** If the university is closed and classes are cancelled, any scheduled exam will take place the next class meeting (unless you are notified otherwise by me).

**Electronic devices:** Use of computers in class is permitted only for taking notes. Unless authorized by me, phone and internet activity are not permitted since it is distracting to other students and is disrespectful. Unless authorized by me, any audio/visual recordings during class are not permitted. If you fail to comply with these policies you may be asked to leave class.

**Students are expected to read the assigned chapter before the first lecture of the week (note: journal articles will also be assigned; announcements will be made in class)**

### Tentative Schedule

	Topic	Assignments Due
Week 1, Jan. 9	Syllabus, Chapter 1: Introduction Chapter 2: Sources of information	
Week 2, Jan. 16	Chapter 3: Three claims, Four validities	
Week 3, Jan. 23	Chapter 4: Ethics	
Week 4, Jan. 30	Chapter 5: Identifying good measurement	
Week 5, Feb. 6	<b>Exam 1 (Tues class)</b> Writing Instruction (text: APA-Style Reports) (Thurs. Class)	<b>Exam 1 on 2/7/17</b>
Week 6, Feb. 13	Chapter 6: Surveys and observations	<b>Draft of Intro due 2/14/17 (5pm)</b>
Week 7, Feb. 20	Chapter 7: Sampling	
Week 8, Feb. 27	Chapter 10: Simple experiments	
Week 9, Mar. 6	<b>Spring Break – No Classes</b>	
Week 10, Mar. 13	Chapter 11: More on experiments	<b>Draft of Method due 3/14/17 (5pm)</b>
Week 11, Mar. 20	<b>Exam 2 (Tues Class)</b> Chapter 8: Bivariate Correlational research (Thurs.)	<b>Exam 2 on 3/21/17</b>
Week 12, Mar. 27	Chapter 9: Multivariate correlational research	
Week 13, Apr. 3	Chapter 12 – Experiments with more than one IV	<b>Article evaluation due 4/6/17 (5pm)</b>
Week 14, Apr. 10	Chapter 13 – Quasi-experiments	
Week 15, Apr. 17	Statistics Review (text): Descriptive and inferential	<b>Final Research Paper due 4/20/17 (5pm)</b>
<b>Final (Exam 3)</b> Monday, April 24, 10 - 11:50am		