

**SWS Research Methods in Psychology (PSY 300 – 06)**  
Monday and Wednesday, 3:00 – 4:15pm, Mackinac Hall A1171 (**now fully online**)  
Fall 2020

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

**Office:** 2136 AuSable Hall

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I will try to respond to emails within 24 hours if they are received Monday-Friday. Please set up a meeting with me (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:** Monday and Wednesday: 10am-noon. I can also be available by appointment

**Required Textbooks:**

Morling, B. (2018). Research methods in psychology: Evaluating a world of information (3<sup>rd</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 the lectures that are posted online and/or emailed. 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 conduct efficient literature searches, critically 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 ethical research to test such predictions.

**Basis for grading:**

Exam 1 = 100 points

Exam 2 = 100 points

Exam 3 = 100 points

Homework assignments (3 assignments worth 10 points each) = 30 points

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

Total possible points = 480 points

Number grade = Earned points/480 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 responsible for knowing material from the text and any content discussed in class slides (including content from videos and assigned articles). Students will not be allowed to use any course materials during exams, and students are not allowed to talk about exam content with any other students. Exams will be administered through Blackboard. Once students begin an exam they will have a set amount of time to complete them. Exams will be accessible on Blackboard until 11pm of the exam day and must be completed by that time.

**Homework assignment:** Students will be required to complete 3 homework assignments. These are designed to provide students with the opportunity to thoughtfully apply principles that have been covered in class. More information about these assignments will be provided later in the semester.

**Research Paper:** Students will write an APA-style research paper 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:**

**Grading:** Students are not permitted to redo/re-take any assignments or exams, and so it is important to be prepared for class and on exam days. Please see me if you have questions about this policy.

**Late assignments:** If an exam or assignment deadline is missed due to illness, I must be notified by email within 12 hours of the scheduled due date. To turn in late work for reasons other than illness, students must contact me at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled due date. A valid excuse must be provided and students should wait for approval from me 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.

### **Integrity of Scholarship and Grades**

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>

Truth and honesty: The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. The university expects that both faculty members and students will honor these principles and in so doing protect the validity of university grades. This means that all academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid of any kind. Instructors, for their part, will exercise care in the planning and supervision of academic work, so that honest effort will be positively encouraged. Compliance shall include compliance with the following specific rules:

1. No student shall knowingly, without authorization, procure, provide, or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment.
2. No student shall, without authorization, complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
3. No student shall, without authorization, allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person.
4. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own.
5. No student shall submit work that has been previously graded or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course without authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.

### **Plagiarism**

Any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodicals, speeches, or the writing of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment also is considered plagiarism. Any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for ideas/materials taken from another is guilty of plagiarism.

Such activity may result in failure of a specific assignment, an entire course, or, if flagrant, dismissal from Grand Valley. For further information see the Student Code.

**Disability:** If you are in need of accommodations due to a learning, physical, or other disability you must present a memo to me from Disability Support Resources (DSR), indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested reasonable accommodations. If you have not already done so, please contact the Disability Support Resources office (4015 JHZ) by calling 331-2490 or email to [dsrgvsu@gvsu.edu](mailto:dsrgvsu@gvsu.edu). Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received a copy of the DSR issued memo. All discussions will remain confidential.

**Well-being:** Your health and your family's health should be your priority. If you are dealing with illness, sick family members, travel difficulties, a bad internet connection, increased anxiety, childcare challenges, or any other issues, please reach out and we will figure out accommodations.

GVSU remains committed to supporting you because of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and is here to help you in times of financial need, including technology requirements. Financial hardship funds are available to help student's meet their basic needs, and help cover educational costs (such as housing, food, and textbooks) that a student could not otherwise pay out of pocket. Please visit the GVSU [Special Circumstance & Financial Hardship Requests](#) web page for more information.

### **Face Coverings**

Face coverings, such as masks, are required to be worn in buildings on campus. Students who have forgotten their face coverings may get a disposable mask at a campus office. The evidence is clear that face coverings are a crucial part of keeping coronavirus at bay and support the university's commitment to providing all members of its community with an inclusive living and learning environment with equitable opportunities for success. GVSU's policy on face coverings is posted on the Lakers Together web site. Students who are not able to wear a face covering due to a medical condition should contact Disability Support Services (DSR) to discuss their situation.

**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).

**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 in the class slides)**

**Tentative Schedule**

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
Week 1, Aug. 31	Syllabus, Chapter 1: Introduction Chapter 2: Sources of information	
Week 2, Sept. 7	<b>Labor Day recess – No class on Monday</b> Chapter 3: Three claims, Four validities	
Week 3, Sept. 14	Chapter 4: Ethics	<b>HW1 due 9/14/20 (5pm)</b>
Week 4, Sept. 21	Chapter 5: Identifying good measurement	
Week 5, Sept. 28	Writing Instruction (text: APA-Style Reports) <b>Exam 1 (Wednesday class)</b>	<b>Exam 1 on 9/30/20</b>
Week 6, Oct. 5	Chapter 6: Surveys and observations	<b>Draft of Intro due 10/7/20 (5pm)</b>
Week 7, Oct. 12	Chapter 7: Sampling	<b>HW 2 due 10/12/20 (5pm)</b>
Week 8, Oct. 19	Chapter 8: Bivariate Correlational Research	
Week 9, Oct. 26	Ch. 9: Multivariate Correlational Research	
Week 10, Nov. 2	<b>Exam 2 (Monday Class)</b> Ch. 10: Introduction to simple experiments (Wednesday Class)	<b>Exam 2 on 11/2/20</b>
Week 11, Nov. 9	Chapter 11: More on experiments	<b>Draft of Method due 11/9/20 (5pm)</b>
Week 12, Nov. 16	Chapter 12 – Experiments with more than one IV	
Week 13, Nov. 23	Ch. 12 continued <b>Thanksgiving break – no classes on 11/25</b>	<b>HW3 due 11/23/20 (5pm)</b>
Week 14, Nov. 30	Chapter 13 – Quasi-experiments	
Week 15, Dec. 7	Statistics Review (text): Descriptive and inferential	<b>Final Research Paper due 12/11/20 (5pm)</b>
<b>Final (Exam 3)</b> Monday, Dec. 14, 2 - 3:50pm		