Instructor
Mario Fific
2139 Au Sable Hall
Phone: 331-5061
Email: fificm@gvsu.edu

Office hours:
Tuesday 2:30pm-3:45pm
Thursday 2:30pm-3:45pm

Textbook

Required software (available for free):
SPSS: SPSS Statistics is a software package used for statistical analysis
Instructions for Downloading:
http://www.gvsu.edu/stat/spss-instructions-for-downloading-21.htm

Recommended (but not required):

Readings of specific research articles will be announced in class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (from the GVSU Catalog):
Examination of basic research methods in psychology. Emphasis 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 Course (Supplemental Writing Skills)**

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.

**Prerequisites**

**PSY 101 and STA 215**

This course is designated SWS. Completion of WRT 150 and/or WRT 305, as appropriate with a grade of C or better (not C-) is the prerequisite.

**Course Objectives:**

The aim of this course is to acquaint students with basic research methods in psychology while exploring practical, theoretical, and ethical issues regarding research design and its implementation in psychology. Upon completion of this course you should be able to

1. understand and to summarize the essence of research articles,
2. write clearly and cogently in a scientific way,
3. understand how to design an empirical study, and
4. understand and identify major ethical concerns in psychological research

**General Information**

**Class attendance.** It is expected that you inform the instructor about your absence in class in time by email.

**Special needs.** If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of a learning, physical or other disability, please contact me or the Disability Support Services (DSR) at 331-2490.

**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, periodical, speeches, or the writing of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in form of projects or collections without acknowledgement also is considered plagiarism. 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.” (GVSU, Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog 2004-2005, p. 91). **Plagiarism or cheating will result in an F for the course.**

**Support for Writing.** The Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors, with locations at the Allendale, Pew/Grand Rapids and Meijer/Holland campuses, is available to help you with the writing you do in any of your classes. Writing Consultants, who are GVSU students, have been trained to help you with all stages of your writing process, from brainstorming to organizing to editing your papers. The Center’s services are free and appointments are not necessary. Simply bring a draft of your paper, the assignment sheet, and your questions/concerns about the writing to any of the Center’s three locations. For details see [www.gvsu.edu/wc](http://www.gvsu.edu/wc) for hours & location, or call 331-2922. Tell the Writing Consultant you work with that you would like notification of your visit to be sent to your professor.

**Blackboard.** The syllabus, announcements, outside readings, assignments, and grades will be posted on Blackboard. If additional materials are placed elsewhere, e.g. electronic library reserves, I will provide links. I will attempt to make the lecture materials, labs, and other materials available prior to each class, although I cannot guarantee this.

**Communication.** The instructor will communicate all class announcements via Blackboard email. You are expected to check your email regularly. The instructor will send an announcement with this syllabus prior to the first day of class. If it is the first day of class and you haven’t received this email yet, it is your responsibility to figure out why and make sure that you receive future emailed announcements. It is strongly suggested that you keep a record or file of all emails sent by the instructor because you are responsible for all information sent in such emails.

**Laptop Policy.** Laptop computers are permitted for taking notes. You should not surf the web, edit Facebook pages, twitter, email or work on other projects. Such activities will distract you, your peers, and the instructor. You will be asked to put your computer away or leave the class if you do not use it in accordance with this policy.

**Required computer access.** Many assignments will require access to the internet and Excel. Although we will begin some assignments in class, you should make sure you will have access to these applications for at least four hours per week outside of class, either on the GVSU campus or elsewhere. If you have little experience/skill with Excel, you may need to devote substantially more time to this.

**Assignments and Research Paper**

You will be required to fulfill several assignments (see below) including an APA style research paper during the course of the semester. Most of the assignments are turned in by the assignment manager through Blackboard. Late assignments will not be processed.
You will get feedback to the paper and will be asked to revise this draft along these comments. The deadline for the final draft is listed below. Each day your final paper is late, 10 points will be deducted from the final grade.

We will devote four hours of class at least to writing instruction. Half of the final grade in the course is based on the writing assignments.

Exams
There will be two exams during the course of the semester. Each exam is comprised of multiple choice questions. The exams are not cumulative.

The first exam will be on 2/23
The final exam will be on: TBA

If you do not participate, you have to bring a written confirmation by the head of the department or by a physician. If you do not bring any document, I can decide to give you another written exam (maximal 70% of the points) or to do an oral exam.

Quizzes
There will be several quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will cover material learned in the class, and will be announced in the class. Each quiz is comprised either of open questions or multiple choice questions. Answers to the quiz questions should be posted on BB.

Extra Credit Opportunity:

Conduct an extensive analysis and the results interpretation of the data (namely conducting 2-way ANOVA) using the class data. You could receive one grade upgrade. The report writing and the analysis will be conducted at the arranged location. You will be provided with the relevant instruction and literature prior the test.

The final assignment requirement: To get a passing grade a student must (a) Submit the Assignment 1: Research paper, (b) Get more than 59% (F grade) on it. If one of the condition was not met a student will not be able to get a passing grade regardless of the total number of points on other assignments and tests.

Grade Distribution
A    94 - 100%
A-   90 - 93
B+   88 - 89%
B    84 - 87%
Evaluation and Grading
Your final grade in this class will be based upon the following achievements:

Assignment 1: Research paper  150 points
You prepare the different parts of the article throughout
the semester, you turn them in, and you submit a
revised final version at the end of the semester

Assignment 1a: Research paper (only feedback)  20 points
You prepare the first part of the research paper and get a feedback.
You get the maximum of 20 points from your group member evaluations

Assignment 1b: Research paper (only feedback)  20 points
You prepare the second part of the research paper and get a feedback.
You get the maximum of 20 points from your group member evaluations

Assignment 2: PsycInfo Search  20 points
You get an introduction to PsycInfo database and you will
be asked to carry out a specific search for a given topic

Assignment 3: Survey construction  30 +20 points
You are asked to construct a self-report measure, and to administer the test
You get the maximum of 20 points from your group member evaluations

Assignment 4: ANOVA  30 points
You are asked to analyze and describe results of 2-way ANOVAs.

Assignment 5: Peer-review  20 points
You are asked to review an Assignment 1b paper that belongs
to your colleague.

Midterm Exam  50 points
## Tentative Semester Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Quiz TBA</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/12</td>
<td>Course Orientation / Introduction to Research</td>
<td>Syllabus/ Ch. 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/14</td>
<td>Introduction to Research/ Developing Research Hypotheses</td>
<td>Ch. 1/Ch. 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/19</td>
<td>PsychInfo search</td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
<td>Search databases</td>
<td>As. 2-Intro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/21</td>
<td>Developing Research Hypotheses</td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
<td>Intro to the topic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1/26</td>
<td>Ethics in Research</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
<td>Consent form</td>
<td>As. 2 Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/28</td>
<td>APA format for research papers</td>
<td>App. A</td>
<td>Writing research papers/Tools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>Measures – Operational definition</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2/4</td>
<td>Measures – Operational definition</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>As. 1a -Intro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>Reliability and Validity</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>Reliability and Validity</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2/16</td>
<td>Surveys and Sampling</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2/18</td>
<td>Surveys and Sampling/ Exam Review</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>As. 1a Deadline/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2/23</td>
<td><strong>Midterm Exam</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2/25</td>
<td>Naturalistic Methods</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>As. 3 Intro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3/1</td>
<td>Hypothesis testing and inferential Statistics</td>
<td>Ch. 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>Hypothesis testing and inferential Statistics</td>
<td>Ch. 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3/8</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break (3/6-3/13)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3/10</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>Additional Notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>One-Way Design</td>
<td>Ch. 10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>APA</td>
<td>Writing research papers/Tools</td>
<td>As. 1b Intro</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3/22</td>
<td>One-Way Design/ Questionnaire</td>
<td>Ch. 10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3/24</td>
<td>One-Way Design/ Questionnaire</td>
<td>Ch. 10</td>
<td>As.1b Deadline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>3/29</td>
<td>Correlational Research Designs</td>
<td>Ch. 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3/31</td>
<td>Correlational Research Designs</td>
<td>Ch. 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>APA</td>
<td>Writing research papers/Tools</td>
<td>As. 5 –Intro/ As 1 Introduction (final research project)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Factorial Designs</td>
<td>Ch. 11</td>
<td>As3. Deadline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>Factorial Designs</td>
<td>Ch. 11</td>
<td>/ As.5 Deadline/ As. 4 ANOVA-intro</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>APA</td>
<td>Writing research papers/Tools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4/12</td>
<td>LAB</td>
<td>Your data set analysis for the paper</td>
<td>As. 4 Deadline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4/14</td>
<td>APA</td>
<td>Writing research papers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4/19</td>
<td>Preparation of Final Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4/21</td>
<td>Preparation of Final Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td>As 1 Deadline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.