Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 2:30-3:30 pm & by Appointment

Class Days/ Hours: Tuesday & Thursday

Psy300_13  8:30 – 9:45  ASH 1310
Psy300_14  10:00 – 11:15  ASH 1302

No Final Exam

Prerequisites (passed already): PSY101 or HNR234, STA215 or STA312, & WRT150 (C or better). This 300-level course requires a basic understanding of statistics and writing. Please refer back to your notes from these prerequisites in preparation for Psy300.

Required texts:
1. Research Methods Design and Analysis 12th Edition; Christensen, Johnson, and Turner

Required computer & software access: Assignments require access to the internet and Microsoft office programs. A laptop is a plus for working in class. Uploads to BB must be as MS office files (e.g. word, PPT, excel). Some assignments require SPSS (available on most university computers). Please make sure you have access to these applications for at least six hours per week outside of class.

Course Description (Dr. Flandreau): This course will introduce research methods in psychology from the perspective of a researcher and from the perspective of a consumer of research-related reports. You will learn the logic of research, study design and implementation, and a theory-guided interpretation and presentation of findings. Through project-based learning, you will carry out a ‘research’ study, conduct analyses and interpret results using SPSS software, and prepare an APA-style research report.

Transforming data into results requires statistical analyses. You must understand basic statistics (If you have not successfully completed STA215 you should not be enrolled in this course). We will use MS excel and SPSS in this course. If you are unfamiliar with the basic functions of excel, you will need to devote time outside of class to learning it.

After researchers analyze their data, they discuss the results and interpretation in formal scientific reports. Success requires strong writing skills and understanding formatting and structural issues related to the reports. PSY300 is designed to foster this learning and writing skill acquisition. As with other SWS courses, completion of WRT150 with a grade of C or better (not C-) is a prerequisite. SWS courses adhere to certain guidelines: At least four hours of class time are devoted to writing instruction, students to turn in a total of at least 3,000 words of writing, and one third of the final grade in PSY300 is based on writing assignments including homework, drafts, and the final paper.

Please be prepared to spend a significant amount of time each week (6-8 hours, in addition to class time) on work related to the course.
Course Objectives:

1. Conduct a literature search and identify the most appropriate previous literature related to your research topic. Evaluate and summarize the previous literature.
2. Transform a research topic into a specific research question and, based on previous literature, develop a hypothesis.
3. Identify and operationally define independent, dependent variables
4. Identify potential mediating, moderating, and confounding variables
5. Determine the most appropriate research method(s) to test the hypothesis
6. Collect data using reliable and valid methods
7. Determine the most appropriate method of statistical analysis and analyze data in SPSS
8. Determine the most appropriate way to display the data and create graphs and tables
9. Conduct a literature search and identify the most appropriate previous literature related to your research findings.
10. Interpret your results in the context of previous literature.
11. Identify limitations of and future directions for your research study.
12. Effectively communicate your research process and results through writing an APA-style research paper and through oral presentation.

Academic Integrity:

- **It is your responsibility** to maintain academic integrity and avoid appearance of a violation. Students will not take or receive the efforts of another person, use unauthorized resources, plagiarize, or give or sell other students papers or assignments not authorized by the instructor.
- Students are responsible for making themselves aware of and for understanding the policies and procedures that pertain to academic integrity in the GVSU Student Code [Section 223.01].
- If you are uncertain prior to submission of an assignment, project, or test, please see the instructor as soon as possible to eliminate any uncertainty.
- In addition, please do your part to hold your peers accountable to these same standards.
- **Rearranging the words or substituting synonyms is still plagiarism.** Review the APA method for citing research.
- At instructors’ discretion, a violation of this code of conduct may result in failing an assignment, a reduced grade for the semester, failing the course, and / or initiating disciplinary action through the university.
- Violations of academic integrity may jeopardize your career at GVSU.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59.99%</td>
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Please consider the following description of each grade:

C: You did all the necessary work, you learned all the basic material – you know the correct answers.

B: The above, plus you could teach the material to a friend. You understand the correct answers.

A: The above, plus you understand WHY the answers are what they are, and how this relates to material from other classes.
Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Category Points</th>
<th>% Total Grade</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BB Quizzes</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7.50</td>
<td>(Required attendance, daily content quizzes, peer eval, group assessment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>17.50</td>
<td>(Required attendance, daily content quizzes, peer eval, group assessment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>(Writing quality will be considered in grading criteria)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Drafts</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>8.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6.50</td>
<td>A portion of this grade will be determined by your peers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>100</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Extra Credit</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing center (1 point per visit) – Individual</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Writing center (1 point per visit) – Individual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stats center (1 points per visit) - Group</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Stats center (1 points per visit) - Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-test</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pre-test</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Test</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Post-Test</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-semester Feedback</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mid-semester Feedback</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Early submission; preferences survey</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Early submission; preferences survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total EC</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>Possible EC points</td>
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**Attendance:** Attendance is required. You can miss up to 3 ‘regular’ classes (excludes exam, peer-review, and presentation days) without forfeiting points. See “attendance and participation” link on BB for additional information.

**Participation:** In addition to attendance and pop quizzes, participation in in-class peer-evaluation of writing is required. Please note that if you are absent on a peer-evaluation day, you can complete this participation assignment outside of class and avoid forfeiting all the points. See schedule and let me know ASAP if there is a conflict.

**Participation in Group:** Each group member is responsible for evaluating the overall performance and participation of everyone in the group. Your participation-in-group grade will be a combination of an individual assessment, assessment from your group, and assessment from instructor. Receiving a participation grade is contingent upon completing ‘participation’ declarations (see due dates on schedule).

**Assignments:** Assignments must meet the following requirements to be considered for credit.

1. The file you upload must have your name as part of the filename. Unfortunately its insufficient to just name the file within BB it must be the name of the file on your computer
   a. e.g FlandreauIntroDraft
   b. e.g. Group7MethodsDraft
2. Assignments will not receive credit if there is any sign of academic dishonesty. Use SafeAssign to check your work in advance of the deadline so you have time to correct and resubmit.
3. All assignments must be in Microsoft Office
4. Late assignments cannot be accepted
5. Emailed assignments cannot be accepted
Quizzes on BB: The information in this syllabus and other instructions (especially for the final research paper) are essential for success in this class. Online quiz(es) to test your understanding of these instructions may be due at multiple times throughout the semester to ensure that this critical information reaches you. Content quizzes will also be available on BB to test your understanding of the material and / or ensure you are prepared for class. See schedule and announcements for details.

Exams: During exams, you will be required to turn off all digital devices, such as cell phones, pagers, and computers. Any student identified with such a device powered on during an exam will receive an F on the test at the instructor’s discretion. Students are responsible for bringing their own #2 pencils to the exams. Exams begin and end on time. Missed Exams: If you miss an exam due to illness, you must provide a doctor’s excuse within 24 hours following the scheduled exam time. The note should explicitly state that you were unable to take that exam at that day and time due to illness. Please do not include personal health information. If you must miss an exam for any reason other than illness, you MUST email me with a valid rationale 24 hours in advance. Failure to notify me in advance will result in a zero on the exam. Rescheduled exams will be different from the in class exam and may be an oral exam.

Research Paper Draft: A hard copy of the draft is due at the start of class on our “in class peer-review” days. After you make changes based on the in-class peer-review you will submit the draft online. I will provide comments on drafts as “track changes” in MS word. It is your responsibility to let me know if you have trouble opening or viewing the file.

Grading Drafts: Each draft should be your best possible work to date. Grading will be based on the same check list as the final paper (see BB rubric for each ‘draft’ assignment).

Research Paper: Please see BB for detailed instructions on each section of the research paper and the grading checklist / rubric. The final paper is due as a hard copy and to BB.

Research Presentation: Each group will present their research. Grading will be based on content (group grade) and style (individual grade). Each individual will also be responsible for evaluating the other groups’ presentations. A portion of your presentation grade will come from your peers. Each individual is also responsible for asking at least one question of another group. See details and rubric on blackboard.

IMPORTANT NOTES
Blackboard: Course syllabus, schedule, instructions, and grading rubrics are currently available on BB. PPT slide outlines will be posted to BB in advance of class whenever possible. Class announcements will also be communicated via Blackboard; it is your responsibility to monitor the site and ensure that you are aware of all announcements and material. Use the discussion board for content and clarification questions. It is your responsibility to monitor this board to see answers to your and other classmates’ questions.

Email Policy: Please remain professional; include the class and section # in all emails, use full sentences with punctuation, and sign your full name. I will try my best to answer emails in a timely manner- typically within one business day. I may address inquiries in class rather than responding to individual emails. If the answer to your inquiry can be founding the syllabus, schedule, or BB announcements, it is unlikely that you will receive an email response. Content and clarification questions should be posted to the BB discussion board rather than emailed.
Office Hours: I would love to see as many of you as possible as often as possible. Please utilize office hours for questions about grades or grading that cannot be found on the syllabus. If you are unavailable during office hours, email to schedule an appointment. Please do not wait until the end of the semester to meet!!!!

Students with Disabilities: If you have special needs because of learning, physical or other disability, please contact Disability Support Resources (DSR) 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 situation, please make me aware so I can develop a plan to assist you.

Canceled Classes: Unless the instructor emails you otherwise, if classes are canceled at the university, any exam will take place at the next class meeting. Attendance points for cancelled classes will be added to a different day(s).

Support for Writing: Tell the Writing Consultant you work with that you would like notification of your visit be sent to your professor.
1. I encourage you to take for 1 credit the new writing course for psychology WRT 280.
2. 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:
   • Allendale, LOH 120, 331-2922
   • Pew/Grand Rapids, 101B DeVos, 331-6407
   • Holland, see www.gvsu.edu/wc, 331-2922

Library support: Gayle Schaub is the psychology librarian and she can provide you with individualized research assistance. Her office is in the Mary Idema Pew Library on the Allendale campus and she can be reached at schaubg@gvsu.edu or 331-2629. Her psychology library subject guide (http://libguides.gvsu.edu/psych) contains links to all of the psychology databases and other specific resources for psychology students.

Stats support: The Statistics Tutoring Center is a place for students in many levels of stats classes to get help. Our central location is in Mackinac Hall on the Allendale campus, but we will also have tutors available in the Eberhard Center on the PEW campus. Tutoring is primarily done by GVSU undergraduates and is FREE to any GVSU student. You can bring questions about your calculator, on methods and concepts, on specific problems, or on whatever you like. Don’t have a question just yet? You can work on your stats homework and, if you have a question, help is at hand! Feel free to call us at 616-331-8969 if you have any questions. All tutoring in the Stats Center is FREE with no appointment needed. The student sign-in is for their own accounting.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTRE:
Students who require additional help in developing strategies for better time management, writing, study or examination skills should contact the Advising Resource Centre (200 STU).