PSY 300: Research Methods in Psychology

Winter 2023

Instructor: Dr. Greta Chan

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| Office: ASH 2112  Email: [changre@gvsu.edu](mailto:changre@gvsu.edu) | Office Hours:  MWF 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. |
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| --- | --- | --- |
| Course Number | Meeting Time | Location |
| PSY 300 - 11 | MWF 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. | Mackinac Hall A2165 |
| PSY 300 - 19 | MWF 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 a.m. | Mackinac Hall A2165 |

**Attributes**

Supplemental Writing Skills (SWS)

**Pre-Reqs/Co-Reqs**

Prerequisites: PSY 101 and (STA 215 or STA 312)

**Refund/Withdrawal Deadlines**

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| --- | --- |
| Deadline | Date |
| 100% Tuition Refund Deadline | January 13 by 5:00 pm |
| 75% Tuition Refund Deadline | February 3 by 5:00 pm |
| Drop with a "W" Grade Deadline | March 10 by 5:00 pm |

**Required Text:**

Bordens, K., & Abbott, B. B. (2022). Research Design and Methods: A Process Approach (11th edition)

GVSU SAVE FIRST DAY DIGITAL ACCESS

Once students register for a class that uses GVSU Save digital course materials, they will receive information via e-mail about how to access their content. This information will also be available to the student via Blackboard. Students will have access to the content in Blackboard before the first day of class. Students will be billed for the course materials via their student account. Students who opt-out will not be charged. The opt-out date is **Friday January 20, 2023**.

**Course Descriptions**

This course is designated Supplemental Writing Skills (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. Students must complete the course with a grade of "C" or better in order to receive SWS credit. Students may receive SWS credit for taking the course as Credit/No Credit provided the student passes the course with a "Credit" grade.

*Lecture*

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 the ethics of conducting research.

*SWS*

To fulfill the SWS requirements, you will need to write two 1500-word summaries. One summary is based on Godden & Baddeley (1975); another summary is based on Thompson, Schellenberg, & Husain, (2001). For both summaries, your first draft will be marked but not graded. You will have a chance to revise your works and submit the final versions near the end of the semester. The due dates of these assignments are listed in the following table.

**Tentative Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Chapter and Topic | Due Date |
| January 9 | Course Overview |  |
| January 11 | The Scientific Approach to Behavior |  |
| January 13 | Summarizing Godden & Baddeley (1975) |  |
| January 16 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day Recess |  |
| January 18 | Summarizing Godden & Baddeley (1975) |  |
| January 20 | Summarizing Godden & Baddeley (1975) |  |
| January 23 | Worksheet 1: Research Design |  |
| January 25 | Construct and Variable |  |
| January 27 | Scale of Measurement |  |
| January 30 | Worksheet 2: Scale of Measurement | Summary (first draft) of Godden & Baddeley (1975) due at 11:59 p.m. |
| February 1 | Quiz 1 |  |
| February 3 | Worksheet 3: Categorical vs. Continuous DVs |  |
| February 6 | Worksheet 4: Choosing a Statistical Test |  |
| February 8 | Mediating Effect | Quiz 1 due @ 11:59 p.m. |
| February 10 | Summarizing Thompson, Schellenberg, & Husain, (2001) |  |
| February 13 | Mock Exam 1 (in-class) |  |
| February 15 | Causal vs. Correlational Relations |  |
| February 17 | Causal vs. Correlational Relations |  |
| February 20 | Quiz 2 |  |
| February 22 | Non-experimental vs. Experimental Design |  |
| February 24 | Worksheet 5: Interaction |  |
| February 27 | Worksheet 6: Interpreting Main Effects from a Bar Graph | Quiz 2 due @ 11:59 p.m. |
| March 1 | Worksheet 7: Interpreting Main Effects from a Line Graph  Worksheet 8: Main Effect or Interaction? |  |
| March 3 | Reliability & Validity |  |
| March 6 | Spring Break |  |
| March 8 | Spring Break |  |
| March 10 | Spring Break |  |
| March 13 | Reliability & Validity | Summary (first draft) of Thompson et al., (2001) due at 11:59 p.m. |
| March 15 | Quiz 3 |  |
| March 17 | Unobtrusive Studies |  |
| March 20 | Unobtrusive Studies | Quiz 3 due @ 11:59 p.m. |
| March 22 | Worksheet 9: Computing Kappa |  |
| March 24 | Sampling Techniques |  |
| March 27 | Error Variance |  |
| March 29 | Worksheet 10: Error Variance |  |
| March 31 | Quiz 4 |  |
| April 3 | Estimating Population Means | Revised summary of Godden & Baddeley (1975) due at 11:59 p.m. |
| April 5 | Estimating Population Means |  |
| April 7 | Miscellaneous Topics |  |
| April 10 | Quiz 5 | Quiz 4 due @ 11:59 p.m. |
| April 12 | Exam Review |  |
| April 14 | Mock Exam 2 (in-class) | **Online Exam 1** (available on Bb from 1:00 p.m. April 14 to 11:59 p.m. April 16) |
| April 17 | Exam Review | Quiz 5 due @ 11:59 p.m. |
| April 19 | Exam Review |  |
| April 21 | Mock Exam 3 (in class) | Revised summary of Thompson et al., (2002) due at 11:59 p.m.  **Online Exam 2** (available on Bb from 1:00 p.m. April 21 to 11:59 p.m. April 26) |

**Evaluation**

*Mock Exams (0%)*

* There will be three in-class mock exams.
* These exams are for the purpose of practice and self-reflection. They do not carry any weights.

*Exams (40%)*

* There will be two MC exams.
* Each exam (online & open book) weights 20%

*Quizzes (20%)*

* You will complete five open book quizzes on McGraw Hill Connect

*SWS Paper (40%)*

* You will summarize two research articles in 1500 words each.
* Each summary weights 20%.

All course works will be submitted electronically on Blackboard.

**Learning Outcomes**

* Be able to identify the scale of measurement (nominal, ordinal, interval, or ratio) of a variable.
* Be able to identify the design of a study (e.g., within-subjects, between-subjects, correlational, experimental, one-way, factorial, etc.).
* Be able to tell (not to run) which statistical test to use based on the design of a study.
* Be able to evaluate the results of a factorial design in terms of main effects and interactions.
* Be familiar with the structure of a research article.

**Grading Scale**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | B+ | 87-89% | C+ | 77-79% | D+ | 67-69% |
|  | A | 93-100% | B | 83-86% | C | 73-76% | D | 60-66% |
|  | A- | 90-92% | B- | 80-82% | C- | 70-72% | F | 59 or lower |

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.45% will be rounded up to 90% = A-; but 89.44% will be rounded down to 89% = B+).

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's original work. Plagiarism may result in a failing grade.

**Absence From a Test/Exam**

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor’s discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam.