***Research Methods in Psychology: PSY300, Winter 2023***

***Section 20 (38323) & Sections 12 (28331)***

***Instructor: Robert Deaner, Ph.D., Professor***

**Instructor’s Office:** 1315 Au Sable Hall

**Instructor’s Office Hours:** Monday & Wednesday 11:15 – 11:45; Monday and Friday 2:00 – 2:45; and by appointment. “Walk-ins” are welcome, but students with appointments have priority. It is strongly recommended that you email the instructor for an appointment.

Meetings may occur in the instructor’s office or via Zoom. Please check with the instructor to find a mutually agreeable format.

If meeting by Zoom, use this link:

https://gvsu-edu.zoom.us/j/97015565461?pwd=L1I0UE1GOXdSc0ZEdGdkUk9tM0FwUT09

Meeting ID (that you probably won’t need): 970 1556 5461

Passcode (that you probably won’t need): Beagle

**Instructor’s Email:** robert.deaner@gmail.com (recommended and preferred to deanerr@gvsu.edu); always type “PSY300-20” or “PSY300-12” in the subject line and include your full name in the message.

**Instructor’s Phone:** 331-2423 (definitely not recommended; I don’t check phone messages.)

**Course time: M**, **W**, & **F**; **sect 20:** 10:00 – 10:50PM; **sect 12:** 1:00 – 1:50PM

**Course Location: sect 20:** 261 Padnos; **sect 12:** 1204 AuSable

**Prerequisites** (passed already)**:** PSY101 or HNR234, STA215 or STA312, & WRT150 (C or better)

**Required text:** Morling, B. Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of Information (Fourth Edition, 2020) ISBN-13: 978-0393536263. Electronic versions of the book are fine. Either the 3rd or 4th edition is acceptable, but getting the 4th edition is preferable. The most affordable and convenient way to get access is probably through the GVSU Save program, which will allow digital access to the 4th edition through Blackboard.

**Required computer access:** Several assignments will require access to the internet and Excel. Having access to a good internet connection is important for many parts of this course, including watching narrated videos and participating in online synchronous meetings.

**Course Format:**

**We will be using a “flipped classroom” model.** This means:

* The instructor will post videos for all of the lectures, assignments, and labs.
* Students will watch these videos, and do required readings, prior to our synchronous, in-class sessions.
* The synchronous sessions will be highly interactive. The instructor will review the key concepts and materials, ask students to apply the concepts to new examples, answer questions, and facilitate interactions among students.
* We will frequently work in groups during synchronous sessions. Working with your classmates will be an enjoyable and valuable aspect of this course. However, there are no assignments that will require working in groups.
* After some synchronous meetings, students will have an opportunity to take a low-stakes extra credit quiz. Although these quizzes are not worth many points, they are a crucial way for students to gauge their understanding of the lectures and readings. The quizzes are also important part of preparing for the exams.
* Attendance is not required for our synchronous, in-class sessions. However, the instructor will not record these in-class sessions and does not give permission for students to record them. Few students will be able to perform well without regularly attending our synchronous, in-class sessions. If you do not think you can regularly attend these sessions, you should probably drop this course.

**Course Description:**

Examination of basic research methods in psychology. Emphasis on the logic of psychological research, the formulation and testing of hypotheses, research design, sampling procedures, and the 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. Students must complete the course with a grade of "C" or better in order to receive SWS credit for taking the course.

In this course, there will be at least four sessions focused on writing instruction and two periods of peer review. Most writing in this course will involve writing lab reports and sections of the Research Paper. Students will have the opportunity to revise each section of their Research Paper after receiving feedback. On their Research Paper, students will receive feedback on all sections from their instructor and most sections from their peers.

**Syllabus of Record Objectives**

Every course at Grand Valley State University has certain core learning objectives, described in the “Syllabus of Record.” Every topic covered in this course will include elements directly relevant to meeting these 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 successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1) Comprehension/Describe: Describe the details of and summarize the essence of research articles.

2) Application/Write: Write clearly and cogently in a scientific way.

3) Evaluation/Evaluate: Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of empirical studies consistent with the

standards of psychological science.

**Basis for Grading:** Grading Scale

**95 & above** A

Potential Points 90 - 94.99 A-

Course Connection 5 87 - 89.99 B+

Computer Labs 60 (3 Labs, 20 each) 83 - 86.99 B

Research Project 135 (all parts; 85 final draft) 80 - 82.99 B-

Exams 300 (3 Exams, 100 each) 77 - 79.99 C+

73 - 76.99 C

Total Points Possible = 500 70 - 72.99 C-

(See below for details on extra credit) 67 - 69.99 D+

60 - 66.99 D

Number Grade = Earned points/500 x 100 (no rounding up!) 59.99 & below F

**Course Connection (5 pts)**

* *Description* – Your first assignment is to consider your personal connection to this course. To earn all 5 points, you must complete this assignment by Friday January 13 at midnight. In 80 – 150 words, please tell me:
  + Your year and major(s)
* Two or three things of personal interest, such as a job, hobby, pet, unusual talent, disability, living situation or family situation.
* Something about this course that concerns you or that you are curious about.
* Discuss how what you anticipate learning in this course might be relevant to your other courses or your life outside of GVSU (e.g., job, family, hobbies).
* A large photo that clearly shows your face.

**Computer Labs (3 labs, 20 pts each = 60 pts):**

* *Description:* There will be three computer labs that will require to students to complete a series of tasks involving data analysis and written presentation. These labs are designed to help students analyze their data and present their findings for the Research Paper (see below). For each lab, there will be one or more written documents and a narrated video presentation showing how to complete the tasks. Most tasks will involve working in Excel. The word count for each lab will be roughly 150 – 300 words.

**Research Paper (135 pts):**

* *Description*: Each student will complete a Research Paper during the semester. The Paper will have a traditional scientific organization (e.g., Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion) and be written in APA style. The instructor will provide several research topics, although there will be some scope for student creativity. Students will analyze and interpret data for this project. Students will be required to help in acquiring the data.
* Students may perform some of their analyses in groups, but each student will write their papers individually.
* An annotated bibliography and rough drafts of the Research Paper’s major components will be required (see syllabus for approximate dates). Rough drafts will be peer-reviewed, and the instructor will also provide feedback. Part of your grade will involve peer-reviewing the work of others. The word count for this project will be roughly 2,500 – 3,000 words.

**Exams (3 exams, 100 pts each = 300 pts)**

* *Exam format*: There will be three exams, one exam after roughly 5 weeks, one exam after roughly 10 weeks, and one exam after 14 weeks (given during Final Exam period). The third exam will be partly cumulative. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. Questions will be drawn from the textbook, lectures, and other readings we have discussed.
* *Exam location and timing*: Students will take their exams in our classroom (or a DSR space) during regular class time. **Exams cannot be taken online**.
* *Make-up exams*: If you miss an exam due to illness or a death in your immediate family, you must provide written documentation within 24 hours following the scheduled exam time. If you must miss an exam for any other reason, you MUST email the instructor with a valid excuse *24 hours in advance* to schedule a make-up exam. Failure to notify me in advance will result in a zero on the exam. Because make-up exams are difficult to create, schedule, and administer, at the instructor’s discretion, the student’s score for the exam may be reduced by up to 20%.

**Quizzes (0 pts; up to 24 pts extra credit):**

* *Description*: There will be 12 brief multiple-choice quizzes. These are for extra credit. Quizzes will be the only opportunity for earning extra credit. The quizzes will mainly address assigned textbook readings and narrated lectures, but they may cover information from labs, in-class activities, and writing workshops. Quizzes will be given through Blackboard. Quizzes will be open book, open internet, and open notes, but students may not consult with any person, including peers.
* *Availability*: Quizzes will be available for a limited time on the day (M, W, or F) when we have had a discussion that focuses on a particular textbook chapter. The quiz will be available on Blackboard from noon until midnight that evening, a 12-hour window. Once a student begins the quiz, however, they will only have a few minutes to complete it.
* **Quizzes cannot be made up. If you have a great excuse for missing a quiz (even if excused by the University or a physician), you still cannot make up a quiz**! You don’t need to bother asking the instructor for an exception; the answer will definitely be “no, you cannot make up a quiz.”
* Most quizzes will have 5 questions, each worth 0.4 points (2 points max per quiz). There will be a total of 24 quiz points available during the semester. This is enough to boost your overall course grade. For example, a student who answers an average of 3 out of 5 questions correctly on 9 quizzes would earn an extra 10.8 points, which would raise their overall course average by about 2 points; this could be enough to push a B average to a B+. In previous semesters, several students have earned more than 20 points of extra credit on these quizzes.

**Blackboard:**

Almost all aspects of this course will require that students have access to Blackboard. If you have questions about your access, contact information technology staff: <https://www.gvsu.edu/it/>

**Communication**

The instructor will communicate all class announcements in class and via Blackboard email. You are expected to check your email regularly. Announcements will generally remain on Bb throughout the semester. They should be considered as official amendments to the syllabus. Please read the relevant announcement before emailing a question to the instructor.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of learning, physical or other disability, please contact the instructor and Disability Support Resources (DSR) at 616.331.2490.

**Policies, The Student Code, Academic Dishonesty, and Plagiarism:**

This course is subject to all GVSU policies: www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies.

Students are responsible for upholding ALL aspects of the Student Code: https://www.gvsu.edu/studentcode/

For example, **lying to a professor is a violation of the Code**. Here are some more details:

As described by the GVSU Student Code, “Academic dishonesty is defined as actions or behaviors that misrepresent one’s contributions to or the results of any scholarly product submitted for credit, evaluation, or dissemination.”

As described by the GVSU Student Code, “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.” “Depending on the instructor's judgment of the particular case, he/she may…give a failing grade for the … entire course.”

Simply rearranging the words or substituting synonyms in the original source is still plagiarism.

**Writing Center and Library Knowledge Market:**

The Fred Meijer Center for Writing, with locations at the Allendale and Pew/Downtown Grand Rapids campuses, is a peer service available to assist you with writing for any of your classes. Writing consultants, who are fellow GVSU students, are trained to help you with all stages of your writing process, from brainstorming to organizing to editing your papers. Simply bring an idea, prompt, or draft of your paper along with the assignment sheet to any of the Center's locations. Also, through your Gmail account, you have access to online consultations through Google Docs. The Center's services are free and you can drop in and work with a consultant or make an appointment, either through our website or by calling the Center (331-2922). Peer support is available for research and speech/presentation through the Knowledge Market, where the Writing Center partners with the Speech Lab and the Peer Research Center. Additional information about the Knowledge Market and Writing Center services and locations can be found on our website.

**Library Liason:**

“Each department has a designated librarian to support your research needs. Christy Malmsen is our liaison librarian for Psychology. Her email is malmstec@gvsu.edu and she is available for online consultations via Zoom or email. You can also check out the Psychology Subject Guide, which is a great place to start your library research.”

**Course Schedule:**

Below is a **provisional schedule**, meaning dates will change based on time constraints, unanticipated events, and the instructor’s discretion. However, every effort will be made to make sure there will be no changes to the exam dates, assignment due dates, the grading scheme, or the topics covered. When the instructor makes changes, he will communicate them in class and via announcements on Bb.

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| DATE | READING DUE AND ACTIVITY | OTHER ASSIGNMENTS DUE |
| Jan 9 - M | Course overview; Discussion of a reading |  |
| Jan 11 - W | Discussion of a reading |  |
| Jan 13 - F | Chpt 1; last day to register; **100% Refund deadline** | Course Connection |
| Jan 16 - M | **MLK Day - No Class** |  |
| Jan 18 - W | Chpt 2 |  |
| Jan 20 - F | Chpt 3 | Survey Recruitment |
| Jan 23 - M | Research Project (RP) **–** Begin researching topic |  |
| Jan 25 – W | Chpt 3 |  |
| Jan 27 - F | Chpt 4 |  |
| Jan 30 – M | Chpt 4 |  |
| Feb 1 – W | RP - Workshop Intro I |  |
| Feb 3 - F | Chpt 5; **75% Refund deadline** |  |
| Feb 6 – M | Chpt 5 | Annotated Bibliography |
| Feb 8 – W | Exam Review |  |
| Feb 10 – F | **Exam 1 (Chpts 1 – 5)** |  |
| Feb 13 – M | RP - Workshop Intros II |  |
| Feb 15 – W | Chpt 6 | Draft Intro |
| Feb 17 – F | RP - Peer Review Intros |  |
| Feb 20 – M | Chpt 6 |  |
| Feb 22 – W | Chpt 7 | Lab 1 |
| Feb 24 - F | Chpt 7 |  |
| Feb 27 – M | RP - Workshop Methods |  |
| Mar 1 – W | Chpt 8 |  |
| Mar 3 – F | Chpt 8 | Draft Methods |
| Mar 6 – M | **Spring Break** |  |
| Mar 8 – W | **Spring Break** |  |
| Mar 10 – F | **Spring Break; Drop with "W" deadline** |  |
| Mar 13 - M | Chpt 9 |  |
| Mar 15 – W | Chpt 9; |  |
| Mar 17 - F | Workshop Results & Discussion I |  |
| Mar 20 - M | Exam Review |  |
| Mar 22 – W | **Exam 2 (Chpts 6 – 9)** |  |
| Mar 24 - F | Chpt 10 | Lab 2 |
| Mar 27 – M | Chpt 10 |  |
| Mar 29 – W | Workshop Results & Discussion II | Lab 3 |
| Mar 31 - F | Chpt 11 |  |
| Apr 3 – M | Chpt 11 |  |
| Apr 5 – W | Workshop Results & Discussion III |  |
| Apr 7 – F | Chpt 11 | (last day for I & M feedback) |
| Apr 10 – M | Chpt 12 | Draft Results and Discussion |
| Apr 12 – W | Peer Review Results & Discussion |  |
| Apr 14 - F | Chpt 14 |  |
| Apr 17- M | Chpt 14 |  |
| Apr 19 – W | Chpt 14 | (last day for R & D feedback) |
| Apr 21 – F | Exam Review |  |
| **Final Exam** | **Sect 20** (usually starts at 10:00): Monday **Apr 24**, 10:00 to 11:50  **Sect 12** (usually starts at 1:00): Monday **Apr 24**, 12:00 to 1:50  **All Sections**: Final Draft of Research Paper is due at midnight on Thursday April 27 | |