

Research Methods in Psychology

PSY 300 | Winter 2020

SECTION 01: MW 1:30-2:45pm in ASH 2310

SECTION 06: MW 4:30-5:45pm in ASH 2310

SECTION 08: MW 3-4:15pm in ASH 2310

GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor: Professor Eric Jones

Office Location: ASH 2112 (Office Hours: MW 12-12:45pm, F 12-1:30pm, or by appointment)

E-mail: joneser1@mail.gvsu.edu

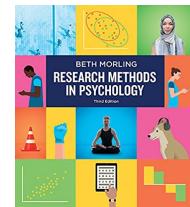
Office Phone: 331-2407

Course Website: <https://mybb.gvsu.edu/>

For this course you will need to be able to access Blackboard. Some assignments will need to be turned in on Blackboard as well as in a hardcopy format.

Required Texts: Morling, B. (2018). Research Methods in Psychology. Norton.

It is okay to use the 2nd edition. Just keep in mind that page numbers and some content may be different.



Required Accessories: iclicker1, iclicker2, or iclicker+: Purchase whatever is cheapest for you. iclicker+ at bookstore for \$45. You may be able to purchase a used iclicker online for significantly less. Please note that the iclicker is a specific brand of student response system (www.iclicker.com).

Course Description

This course is an introduction to using scientific methods in the study of behavior. Considerations of experimental, correlational, and descriptive research are integrated with the treatment of data analysis, interpretation of results, and writing of a research paper. The emphasis is on the logic of psychological research, the formulation and testing of hypotheses, research design, sampling procedures, data collection and analysis, ethics of conducting research, and critically evaluating published research.

The format for the class is mixed and will include lectures, discussion, videos, and interactive activities. Students are responsible for all announcements and information provided in class or on Blackboard.

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.

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:

Course Learning Objectives	Assessed By
1. Describe the details of and summarize the essence of research articles.	Exams, quizzes, research paper
2. Write clearly and cogently in a scientific way.	Research paper
3. Design an empirical study consistent with the standards of psychological science.	Exams, quizzes, research paper

Policies

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

Attendance: Regular attendance and participation in class are expected. You should arrive on time to class, because coming in late is distracting to both the instructor and other students.

Respect for others: Please be respectful of classmates' opinions and give them your attention when they are talking.

Academic honesty: Dishonesty in academic work violates the Student Code and may result in a failing grade for this course. Except for group projects, all papers, homework assignments, quizzes, exams, and other work should be completed independently from other students and should not be plagiarized.

Plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense and may result in failing an assignment or the entire course. Plagiarism occurs when you intentionally or unintentionally misrepresent another person's work as your own. This could occur in a number of ways: 1) by copying someone else's work word-for-word or just in part without quotation marks; 2) by paraphrasing a source without citing the original author; or 3) by submitting your own prior work (e.g., from this course or another course) without citing it.

The following are statements provided by the university and can be found in the Student Code, Section 4 (<https://www.gvsu.edu/policies/policy.htm?policyId=EFAB64E1-C25B-E1A3-CA2B08B0B821C774&search=>):

Academic dishonesty compromises the integrity of grades, meaning that all academic work should be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid. Students will comply with the following rules, when engaging in coursework: 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 their 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.

Class notes: Prior to the lectures, outlines will be posted on Blackboard. An advantage of the outlines is that they provide an additional level of organization than the PowerPoints by showing how topics are related. The outlines will have blanks with missing words. However, if you only fill in the blanks, your notes will still be incomplete. You should also write down supplementary explanations, notes about videos and demonstrations, and reminders about the meaning of different points in the outline. If you miss class, it is highly recommended that you get notes from another student.

Incomplete Policy: Per university policy - The grade of I, Incomplete, indicates that a student was doing satisfactory work, but due to nonacademic reasons beyond the student's control, the student was unable to complete the remaining requirements of the course. This is a temporary grade given for work that is lacking in quantity to meet course objectives. This grade may not be given as a substitute for a failing grade or withdrawal. A student is expected to complete course requirements according to the following schedule: fall semester incompletes, end of winter semester; winter and spring/summer incompletes, end of fall semester. Written documentation of illness or other circumstances may be required.

Electronic devices: Cell phones, iPads, and other electronic devices should be turned off (not just placed on vibrate/silent mode) during class. They should be packed away and not on desks, laps, etc. If you have a legitimate need for your phone, please talk to me and we will work something out. It is okay to use your phone as a calculator when applicable.

Laptops: Laptops, iPads, Kindles, etc. cannot be used in class. Research shows that even when these devices are used for notetaking, handwritten notes are superior. When taking notes by hand, students tend to use their own words, which facilitates information processing.

Campus Emergencies: In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. Changes will be announced in class and/or on Blackboard.

Counseling Services: As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating,

and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The University Counseling Center is a team of trained professionals committed to improving the mental health of the GVSU student body through counseling, education, and consultation. The center helps students cope with difficult times and offers a variety of counseling services to all currently registered GVSU students free of charge. To make an appointment, stop by the office at 206 STU or call (616) 331-3266. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.gvsu.edu/counsel/>.

Written Assignments: For written assignments/projects that are more than one page, all pages must be stapled together. Papers are due in class on (or before) the due date. Late papers will receive a 5% penalty for each day late. Late work will not be accepted if it is turned in more than one week from the assigned due date.

Uploading Assignments to Blackboard: Many assignments should be uploaded to Blackboard (along with turning in a hard copy). Papers should be uploaded to Blackboard by the start of class on the due date. Please upload a Microsoft Word or PDF document. When uploading your assignment to Blackboard, please label your file with your last name, first name, course number, semester, and description of the assignment (e.g., SmithJohn_PSY300_W20_Homework1). You must submit a hard copy and an electronic copy before the assignment deadline. Otherwise, your assignment is late.

Missing Class: It is expected that you will attend class each day, because attendance is vital for doing well in the course. There are no excused absences. If you miss an in-class assignment, there will be extra assignments offered during the semester, so you can make up a couple of them (see below). This policy allows you a couple of missed classes due to illness or an emergency. You should ask a fellow student for any notes that you missed. If you know that you will miss class, please turn in your assignment in advance. If you unexpectedly miss class due to illness, please have another student turn in the assignment for you.

Liaison Librarian

Samantha Minnis is the librarian for the psychology dept. You are welcome to stop by her office or make an appointment. Her office is located in the Mary Idema Pew Library (240 LIB). Her email is minniss@gvsu.edu.

COURSE EVALUATION

Assignment	Points Possible	Points Earned
Exam 1*	75	
Exam 2*	75	
Exam 3*	75	
Exam 4*	75	
In-Class Assignments or ICAs (attendance, participation, clicker questions, activities, quizzes)	100	
Research Paper Data Collection and Rough Drafts	100	
Research Paper Final Draft	100	
Total	600	

Points	Percent	Letter Grade
558+	93.00-100.00%	A
540-557.99	90.00-92.99%	A-
522-539.99	87.00%-89.99%	B+
498-521.99	83.00-86.99%	B
480-497.99	80.00-82.99%	B-
462-479.99	77.00-79.99%	C+
438-461.99	73.00-76.99%	C
420-437.99	70.00-72.99%	C-
402-419.99	67.00-69.99%	D+
360-401.99	60.00-66.99%	D
<360	59.99% and below	F

*Exam 4 is scheduled for the time of the final exam. It will cover all new material since Exam 3. There will also be an optional cumulative portion of the final. If you decide to take it, you can use that grade to replace a low grade on Exam 1, Exam 2, or Exam 3. You can also take the cumulative portion of the final exam as a replacement for 1 missed exam.

EXAMS

There will be four required exams and an optional cumulative final in this class. Both Exam 4 and the cumulative final will take place during the scheduled final exam time (each will take approximately 50 minutes). Exam 4 is required whereas the cumulative final is optional. Please bring a #2 pencil and your ID number to the exams. **GOOD NEWS:** If you take all four exams, you do not have to take the cumulative final. **MORE GOOD NEWS:** If you are unhappy with a grade on Exam 1, 2, or 3, you can take the cumulative final and replace your score on Exam 1, 2, or 3. **EVEN MORE GOOD NEWS:** If you unexpectedly perform even worse on the cumulative final, it will not count against you, because your grade will be calculated using your scores from Exam 1, 2, and 3 instead.

Exams will consist of approximately 50 multiple-choice items. However, some of the multiple-choice questions could be traded for other types of questions (short answer, fill-in-the-blank, true or false, essay). More details will be given prior to the exam. Prior arrangements (at least 48 hours in advance) should be made if you wish to take the exam at an alternative time or date due to an unavoidable conflict. Documentation will be required. The exams will assess your knowledge of the material covered in class and the textbook. Some topics may be covered in both lecture and the textbook. However, many other topics may only be covered in one or the other. Therefore, it is wise to come to class and to read the textbook. Although the second, third, and fourth exams are not cumulative, they will assume knowledge from topics already covered in class. Furthermore, it is possible that some questions may integrate knowledge from previous chapters. The optional cumulative portion of the final will cover material from Exams 1, 2, and 3, and it will consist of 50 multiple choice questions.

Study Guides. A study guide will be provided for each of the 4 exams. Keep these to study for the cumulative portion of the final exam. There will not be a separate study guide for the cumulative portion of the final.

Disability Services. GVSU will make reasonable accommodations for a student with a documented 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 (215 CON) by calling 331-2490 or emailing 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. Once you have done this, come and talk to me within the first two weeks of class so we can put your accommodations in place within the classroom.

Furthermore, if you have a physical 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.

Writing Center. The Fred Meijer Center for Writing, with locations at the Allendale and Pew/Downtown Grand Rapids campuses, is 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 a draft of your paper, the assignment sheet, and your questions/concerns 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). For more information about our services and locations, please visit our website: <http://www.gvsu.edu/wc/>

RESEARCH PAPER (RP)

For this class, you will be asked to conduct a research project and write a paper about your results. Over the course of the semester, you will submit drafts of different parts of this assignment (see next page for anticipated due dates). You will receive feedback and then you will be asked to submit a complete paper near the end of the semester. At least 4 hours of class time will be devoted to writing instruction (e.g., how to do a literature review and write an introduction, how to communicate the essential details of a research study so that it could be replicated by someone else, reporting statistics within a research paper). Your final paper should incorporate feedback that you received along the way. Excluding references, the final paper will be about 3000-3500 words. More details will be provided in separate guidelines for this project. **DUE DATE FOR FINAL PAPER: APR 13.**

IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS (ICAs)

In-Class Assignments are composed of two parts.

1. Assignments and quizzes will be worth 5-10 points each. If you miss an in-class assignment or quiz, a couple of extra assignments will be offered during the semester. Quizzes will either occur in class or on Blackboard. All quizzes should be completed independently, even those on Blackboard. See course schedule on next page for approximate due dates for each quiz.
2. Approximately 25-35 in-class assignment points will be awarded for iclicker use in class (1 point for each class the iclicker was used). To be eligible for the points, you must have answered all iclicker questions for that day. Points will be based on participation, not correctness. However, you must choose one of the answers provided. Clicker points will be updated on Blackboard after each exam. **NOTE: Clicking for an absent student is academic dishonesty.**

NOTE: There will be more than 100 ICA points offered, so that a couple of missed assignments can be made up. Because of the extra assignments, any points earned over 100 will count as extra credit (up to 105 points).

PSY 300 Course Schedule (Winter 2020)

This schedule is tentative; topics may take more or less time than expected. Unless otherwise specified, you may complete the readings before or after the material is covered in lecture, whichever works better for your learning.

Date	Topic(s)	Readings (3rd)
JAN 6	Introduction	
JAN 8	The Science of Behavior, Psychology is a Way of Thinking	CH 1, CH 3 pp. 57-68 only
JAN 13, 15	Sources of Information	CH 2 + Quiz (1/13)
JAN 22, 27	Identifying Good Measurement N ^o CLASS JAN 20 – MLK Jr. DAY	CH 5 + HW (1/27)
JAN 29	Spillover Day, Review	Quiz (1/29) + RP References (1/29)
FEB 3	EXAM 1 (covers all previous material)	
FEB 5	Three Claims, Four Validities	CH 3 pp. 61-82 only + Quiz (2/5)
FEB 10, FEB 12	Surveys and Observations: Describing What People Do	CH 6 + RP Data (2/13)
FEB 17, 19	Sampling: Estimating the Frequency of Behaviors and Beliefs	CH 7 + RP Method (2/17)
FEB 24	Spillover Day, Review	Quiz (2/24) + RP Writing Activity (2/24)
FEB 26	EXAM 2 (covers all new material since Exam 1)	
MAR 9, 11	Introduction to Simple Experiments N ^o CLASS MAR 2-4 – SPRING BREAK	CH 10
MAR 16, 18	ANOVA	RP Intro (3/18)
MAR 23	Ethical Guidelines for Psychology	CH 4 + NYT article
MAR 25	Spillover Day, Review	Quiz (3/25)
MAR 30	EXAM 3 (covers all new material since Exam 2)	
APR 1, 6	Experiments with More Than One IV	CH 12 + RP Results/Disc (4/1)
APR 8, 13	Bivariate Correlational Research	CH 8
APR 15	Spillover Day, Review	Quiz (4/15)
Final Exam Week (time varies - see below)	EXAM 4 (covers all new material since Exam 3) + OPTIONAL CUMULATIVE FINAL (covers material from Exams 1, 2, and 3)	

Mid-semester course evaluation due

Quiz dates could change – any changes will be announced in class

Final Exam Times

Section	Time of Exam
Section 01 (1:30pm class)	Monday, April 20 -> 12-1:50pm
Section 06 (4:30pm class)	Wednesday, April 22 -> 4-5:50pm
Section 08 (3pm class)	Monday, April 20 -> 2-3:50pm