

PSY 300: SWS Research Methods – Spring 2018 Mario Fifić

PSY 300 – 01 Class 12:00 pm - 15:20 pm MW AuSable Hall 1117

Instructor

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

Office hours:

M/W 11:00am-11:30pm
M/W 3:20pm-3:40pm

Textbook

Stangor, C. (2011, 5th ed.). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. ISBN: 9780840031976

Recommended 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):

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (Sixth Edition). Washington, D.C.: APA.

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)

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.

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. You are expected to attend class. Students who regularly attend do well in the class. By attending class, you benefit by hearing content presented exclusively in lecture. 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 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.

Class grade determination

Your class grade will be determined based on your achievement on (1) Quizzes, (2) Challenges, (3) Assignments and (4) Exams. The Quizzes and Challenges will adhere to the chapter topics. The

assignments will share some chapters' contents but will also focus on writing research paper project.

(1) Quizzes:

There will be several quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will cover material learned in the class. Each quiz is comprised either of multiple choice questions. Access to quizzes will be through BB. The quizzes serve for practice and learning and can be retaken an infinite number of times, before the final exam. If retaken, the last quiz score is recorded.

(2) Challenges:

Will introduce some problem from real life (or professional practice) to which the chapter topic will be directly related. Their purpose is to force you to think "out of the box" and potentially to understand how learned the practical side of learned material. The challenges are turned in by the assignment manager through Blackboard. Each day your challenge is late, 10% of points will be deducted.

(3) Assignments and Research Paper

The assignments will be directly related to the writing research project and will also be connected to working chapters (when applicable). You will be required to fulfill several assignments including an APA style review paper during the course of the semester. The assignments are turned in by the assignment manager through Blackboard. Each day your assignment is late, 10% of points will be deducted. You will get feedback about your research 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% of points will be deducted from the final grade.

The final assignment requirement: To get a passing grade a student must (a) Submit the assignment **Final 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.

(4) 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. A significant number of the exam questions will be concerned about some class activities.

Some exam's open ended questions will be related to class discussions and lectures, which are not available in the book. In such cases a winning strategy will be combination of class attendance, class activity, and note taking.

The first exam will be on: 6/4

The final exam will be on: TBA

Late submissions

Making late submission is operationally defined as submitting work 1 second or longer after the deadline. A submission later than 1 second or more after the deadline will be noted as one day late. A submission later than one second plus 24 hours will be noted as two day late (etc).

Being exam excused or making late assignment submission

If you need to be excused from exam or class attendance you would need to provide some evidence for missing the class. In the case of illness 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.

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

Grade Distribution

A	94 - 100%
A-	90 - 93
B+	88 - 89%
B	84 - 87%
B-	80 - 83%
C+	78 - 79%
C	74 - 77%
C-	70 - 73%
D+	67 - 69%
D	60 - 66%
F	59% and lower

Evaluation and Grading

Your final grade in this class will be based upon the following achievements:

Assignments	220 points
Challenges	220 points
Midterm Exam	150 points
Final Exam	150 points
Quizzes	115 points
Final Paper	200 points
Total	1055 points

Tentative Semester Schedule

Week	Date	Class Topic	Challenge	Quiz	Challenge	Assignments Due (at 11:59pm)
1	5/7	Course Orientation/ Introduction to Research/	Syllabus/ Ch. 1			
	5/9	Introduction to Research/ Developing Research Hypotheses/ PsychInfo search	Ch. 1/ Ch. 2	Quiz 1		
					Chlg. 1	As. 1 (psych info)
2	5/14	Developing Research Hypotheses/tips/APA	Ch. 2	Quiz 2		
	5/16	Ethics in Research/APA	Ch. 3	Quiz 3	Chlg. 2	As. 2
					Chlg. 3	As. 3 (Skeleton)
3	5/21	Measures – Operational definition	Ch. 4	Quiz 4		
	5/23	Survey construction - Reliability and Validity	Ch. 5	Quiz 5	Chlg. 4	As. 4
					Chlg. 5	As. 5
4	5/28	Memorial Day Recess				
	5/30	Surveys and Sampling	Ch. 6	Quiz 6		
					Chlg. 6	As. 6
5	6/4	Midterm Exam & Naturalistic Methods	Ch. 7	Quiz 7		
	6/6	Hypothesis testing and inferential Statistics	Ch. 8	Quiz 8	Chlg. 7	As. 7 (updated Skeleton)
					Chlg. 8	As. 8 (Feedback)
6	6/11	Correlational Research Designs	Ch. 9	Quiz 9		
	6/13	Experimental Research Design - One Way	Ch. 10	Quiz 10	Chlg. 9	As. 9
	6/15				Chlg. 10	As. 10/ As. Final paper
7	6/18	Factorial Research Designs	Ch. 11	Quiz 11	Chlg. 11	As. 11
	6/20	Final Exam				

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