

Research Methods: PSY300, Fall 2018, sections 4 (20967) & 6 (24561)
Instructor: Robert Deaner, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Instructor's Office: 1315 Au Sable Hall

Instructor's Office Hours: M & F 11:00 – 12:00, 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.

Instructor's Email: robert.deaner@gmail.com (recommended and preferred to deanerr@gvsu.edu); always type "PSY300-04" or "PSY300-06" 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 4:** 10:00 – 10:50am; **sect 6:** 9:00 – 9:50am

Course Location: **sect 4:** 233 Lake Superior; computer class (CC) 113HRY; **sect 6:** 233 Lake Superior, (CC) 113HRY

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 (**Third Edition**, 2017) ISBN-13: 978-0393617542.

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 will need to devote some extra time in developing this.

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, 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 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 three days focused on writing instruction and three days focused on peer review. Most writing in this course will involve writing research reports and papers. Students will have the opportunity to revise each section of their Research Paper. They will receive feedback on each section from their peers and the instructor. This will occur three times during the semester.

Syllabus of Record Objectives

Every Introductory Psychology 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) describe the details of and summarize the essence of research articles.
- (2) write clearly and cogently in a scientific way.
- (3) design an empirical study consistent with the standards of psychological science.

Basis for Grading:Potential Points

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Autobiographical Sketch | 5 |
| Computer Labs | 60 (3 Labs, 20 pts each) |
| Research Paper | 115 (all components) |
| Mid-term Exam | 100 |
| Final Exam | 100 |
| Total Points Possible = | 380 |

(See below for details on extra credit)

Grading Scale

| | |
|---------------|----|
| 94 above | A |
| 90 - 93.99 | A- |
| 87 - 89.99 | B+ |
| 83 - 86.99 | B |
| 80 - 82.99 | B- |
| 77 - 79.99 | C+ |
| 73 - 76.99 | C |
| 70 - 72.99 | C- |
| 67 - 69.99 | D+ |
| 60 - 66.99 | D |
| 59.99 & below | F |

Number Grade = Earned points/380 x 100 (no rounding up!)

Autobiographical Sketch (5 pts)

- Description – To make it easier for me to get to know you, your assignment is to create a one page (8½" x 11") mini-autobiography. This mini-autobiography, or sketch, should include your full name, what you like to be called, and your class year. The sketch should also include three other brief items of interest, such as your hometown, your favorite activity, your most unique talent or interest, why you're interested in psychology, or why your family status or background is unusual. It is also suggested that you include personal information directly relevant to this course, such as, "I work 60 hours per week and will never be able to meet the instructor before or after class." The sketch must include, as part of the 1 page, a headshot of yourself – photocopying your student ID is acceptable. **The entire written part should be 80 words or fewer.** The sketch doesn't have to be a work of art; in fact, I'd recommend spending about 5 minutes on it. Briefer is better. The sketch must be typed and handed to me before or after class or during office hours. No emailed sketches will be accepted. To receive credit, it must be turned in by Friday August 31rst, at the latest. Briefer sketches are better than longer ones!

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

- Description: There will be regular class meetings in computer classrooms. On three of these days, students will complete a series of tasks involving data analysis and presentation, mainly using Excel. These labs are designed to help students analyze their data and present their findings for the Research Paper. We will generally be able to complete most, but not all, of the lab tasks during class time. In the event they are not completed during class time, students will complete them on their own time, either in computer classrooms or on personal computers. The word count for each lab will be roughly 250 – 500 words.
- Make-ups: Computer labs can be made-up because the assignments will be posted on Bb and the necessary software is available outside of the lab. However, outside of the lab, the instructor generally will not provide detailed instructions to students who missed the initial lab; students should consult their peers if they have questions.
- Lateness (for all written assignments, not just labs): Assignments are due on the date specified on the syllabus. A late lab will be docked 2 points for each day it is late, including holidays and weekends. Lateness penalties for other assignments may be larger. The final draft of the Research Paper cannot be submitted late.

Research Paper (115 pts):

- Description: Each student will complete a Research Paper during the semester. The Paper will have a traditional scientific organization (Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion) and be written in APA style. The instructor will provide the general topic of research, and the students will collect data from online sources. Students may perform their analyses in groups, but they will all write their papers individually. An annotated bibliography and rough drafts of the Paper's major components will be required (see syllabus for 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. More details will be provided later in the semester. The word count for this project will be roughly 2000 – 4000 words.

Exams (2 exams, 100 pts each = 200 pts)

- **Exam format:** There will be 2 exams, a Mid-term and a Final. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions. Questions will be drawn from the textbook, additional readings, lectures, and other materials, e.g. videos. The second exam will be partly cumulative. The instructor will make a study guide available prior to each exam.
- **Make-up exams:** If you miss an exam due to illness, you must provide a doctor's excuse within 24 hours following the scheduled exam time. If you must miss an exam for any reason other than illness, you **MUST** email me 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. Please note that make-up exams must be completed outside of regular class time. 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%.
- **Other issues:** During exams, you will be required to turn off all digital devices, such as cell phones, pagers, and hand-held 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.

In-Class Quizzes (0 pts):

- **Description:** There will be 10-12 unannounced brief, in-class, multiple choice quizzes. These are for extra credit. **Quizzes will be your only opportunity for earning extra credit.** The quizzes will mainly address assigned textbook readings but may cover information from labs, in-class activities, and writing workshops. Quizzes will be given during the first few minutes of class and may only be taken then. **Quizzes cannot be made up. If you have a great excuse for missing a quiz (even if excused by the University), you still 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 20-24 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 13.5 points, which would raise their overall course average by 3.6 points; this would easily be enough to push a B average to a B+.

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 in class and 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. 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 me or 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.

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.

The Student Code, Academic Dishonesty, and Plagiarism:

This course is subject to the GVSU policies: <http://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.

Fire / Emergency

Fire: Immediately proceed to the nearest exit during a fire alarm. Do not use elevators.

Emergency: More information is available on the University's Emergency website located at <http://www.gvsu.edu/emergency>

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.

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."

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.

Provisional Schedule

| DATE | READING DUE AND ACTIVITY | OTHER ASSIGNMENTS DUE |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Aug 27 - M | Course overview; Discussion of a reading | |
| Aug 29 - W | Chpt 1 | Autobiographical sketch |
| Aug 31 - F | Chpt 2 | (Drop deadline – 100% refund) |
| Sep 3 - M | LABOR DAY RECESS | |
| Sep 5- W | Chpt 2 | |
| Sep 7 - F | CC (computer classroom) – data coding | |
| Sep 10 - M | Chpt 3 | |
| Sep 12 - W | Chpt 3 | |
| Sep 14 - F | CC – choose topic & begin research | Email data before class |
| Sep 17 - M | Chpt 4 | |
| Sep 19 - W | Chpt 4 | |
| Sep 21 - F | Chpt 5 | (75% refund deadline) |
| Sep 24 - M | Chpt 5 | |
| Sep 26 - W | Workshop Intros I | |
| Sep 28 - F | CC – Lab 1: Reliability | |
| Oct 1 - M | Chpt 6 | |
| Oct 3 - W | Workshop Intros II | |
| Oct 5 - F | Chpt 7 | |
| Oct 8 - M | Peer Review Intros | Draft Intro |
| Oct 10 - W | Chpt 7 | Lab 1 |
| Oct 12 - F | Workshop Methods | |
| Oct 15 - M | Exam Review | |
| Oct 17 - W | Exam 1 | |
| Oct 19 - F | TBA | |
| Oct 22 - M | Chpt 8 | |
| Oct 24 - W | Peer Review Methods | Draft Methods |
| Oct 26 - F | CC – Lab 2: Chi-square | (Last day to withdraw) |
| Oct 29 - M | Chpt 8 | |
| Oct 31 - W | Chpt 9 | |
| Nov 2 - F | Chpt 9 | |
| Nov 5 - M | Chpt 10 | |
| Nov 7 - W | Chpt 10 | |
| Nov 9 - F | CC – Lab 3: T-test | Lab 2 |
| Nov 12 - M | Chpt 11 | |
| Nov 14 - W | Workshop Results & Discussion | |
| Nov 16 - F | CC – No Lab: time to work on Results | Lab 3 |
| Nov 19 - M | Chpt 11 | (last day for Intro/Meth feedback) |
| Nov 21 - W | THANKSGIVING RECESS | Draft Results and Discussion |
| Nov 23 - F | THANKSGIVING RECESS | |
| Nov 26 - M | Chpt 12 | |
| Nov 28 - W | Peer Review Results & Discussion | |
| Nov 30 - F | Chpt 13 or CC | |
| Dec 3 - M | Chpt 14 | |
| Dec 5 - W | Chpt 14 | |
| Dec 7 - F | Exam Review | (last day for R & D feedback) |
| Final Exam & Research Papers Due | Sect 6 (9:00 am start usually): 8:00 – 9:50am Tues Dec 11 | |
| | Sect 4 (10:00 am start usually): 12:00 – 1:50pm Tues Dec 11 | |