

Grand Valley State University

Psychology 300 04: Introductory Research Methods in Psychology



TODD J. WILLIAMS, PhD

1307 Au Sable Hall | Department of Psychology
Grand Valley State University | Allendale | MI | 49401
Co-Director: [Social Cognition Research Laboratory](#)

todd_williams@gvsu.edu / willitod@gvsu.edu

*These addresses are the same GVSU account, you may use either. During busier parts of the semester there *may* be delay between your email and my response. This delay should not be more than 5 days for any email with a regular title and not more than 48 hours for any email with “Important” in the title. If you find yourself waiting longer than the aforementioned times, please send me a quick reminder email to make sure it was received.

Course Location: Mackinac Hall (MAK-A2165)

Course Time: T/R 6:00 - 7:15pm

Proper mask use is required.

Masks are freely available at any department office on campus (in case you forget yours). Medical exceptions must be authorized through disability support services.

Office Hours (via Zoom)

Tuesdays: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday/Friday: Schedule in advance by sending an email with your availability.

<https://gvsu-edu.zoom.us/j/4490093421?pwd=dIA3dHVGtG0yVTloK1gwTmNyVHZnUT09>

Course Description: A general introduction to research methods in psychology. Topics covered include theory development and hypothesis testing; measurement; reliability and validity of methods; experimental, quasi-experimental, and survey research designs; biases in experimentation; inferential and descriptive statistics; and research ethics.

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) analyze the writing of a [lab report/case study/peer reviewed article]: identifying the author's target audience, purpose, tone, context, and the ways the textual form and style achieves its function. (2) demonstrate an effective scientific writing process. (3) identify the strengths and weaknesses of their own writing processes. (4) design an empirical study consistent with the standards of psychological science.

SWS: 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.

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 (616-331-2922). 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 Prerequisites:

PSY 101, STA 215, and WRT 150. You may not take any of these prerequisite courses concurrently with PSY 300.

Required Text: Freberg et al. (2021) Research Methods in Psychological Science: A Top Hat Multi-media text. Available from TopHat. Join Code: 514900

The cost of this electronic textbook is \$50 and requires that you register for a TopHat account which is \$25 (free if you already have an account from other courses). If you have not already received a course invite, please email me for the link or contact TopHat directly for assistance. support@tophat.com.

Links to videos, popular media articles, research articles, supplemental readings, and lecture slides will be posted in TopHat.

Optional Text: American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. (7th ed). Washington, DC: Author.

Technology Requirements: Access to high-speed internet is required in order to access the text and complete homework and laboratory assignments.

Tentative Grade Evaluation:

Component	Objectives	Weight
Assessment 1 Assessment 2 Assessment 3	Assessment of concepts covered in lecture and in assigned readings. Multiple choice, short answer format	10% Each
Top Hat Embedded Questions	Repetitive testing solidifies understanding and highlights potential gaps in knowledge	5%
Effective Learning	To conceptually understand and apply evidence based learning practices. To identify and avoid common pitfalls in study practices.	5%
Information Literacy	To become efficient and effective in fact checking in an online context To understand the general tenants of the SIFT method, but also the critical thinking and strategies that might generalize to other information seeking contexts	5%
Homework 1	To become familiar with how psychological topics are discussed in popular media. To develop an interest in a psychological topic that may serve as the basis for your research project proposal	2.5%

Homework 2	To establish a basic understanding of the research on a psychological topic To learn how to efficiently access and evaluate different sources of information. To learn basic search strategies using PsycInfo To apply concepts discussed in the readings and lectures on measurement	2.5%
Homework 3	To apply concepts from readings and videos on experimental design. To strengthen your understanding of the key components of experimental design. To familiarize you with a variety of methods, measures and procedures used in psychological research	5%
Laboratory 1	Introduction to JAMOVI	3.75%
Laboratory 2	Descriptive Statistics	3.75%
Laboratory 3	Inferential Statistics	3.75%
Laboratory 4	Visualizing Data	3.75%
Research Proposal Draft	This will be an APA style draft of the <i>abstract, introduction and methods</i> of an experiment or quasi-experiment.	10%
Final Research Proposal	The final draft of an APA style research proposal which will include a results and discussion section	20%

Grades will be determined by adjusting the class average to 76% (B) and assigning letter grades based on the below distribution. Thus, your grade in this class is based on your performance relative to the rest of the class. Notice that the grading distribution below is much more lenient than what most of you are used to. (this is to avoid ceiling effects in the grading distribution)

This is a tentative grade distribution

Rating	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Percentage Grades
Excellent	A	4.0	90-100%

Excellent	A-	3.7	85-89%
Good	B+	3.3	80-84%
Good	B	3.0	75-79%
Good	B-	2.7	70-74%
Satisfactory	C+	2.3	65-69%
Satisfactory	C	2.0	60-65%
Satisfactory	C-	1.7	55-59%
Poor	D+	1.3	50-54%
Minimal Pass	D	1.0	45-49%
Failure	F	0	0-44%

Missed Exam/Assignment:

Unfortunately, many of you do not have adequate health insurance. Because if this, I typically will not require a note from a health professional to document your absence. However, documentation will be necessary if you are absent for the final exam or miss more than one major component of the course. A registered health professional must provide the medical certificate, acknowledge the date of the missed exam/assignment, and provide their contact information. *If you miss any class component, you must report your illness to me within 48 hours of the exam/assignment due date.* For missed exams or assignments, students will be given an extension or have the weight of the missed examination/assignment added to the final examination.

Missed Class: While I both appreciate and encourage attendance, I consider this to be a choice that you should feel free to make relative to your life circumstances. Sometimes emergencies happen....I don't feel as though you should be punished for this. That said, you will likely find that in order to do well on my exams, attendance and a fair amount of studying will be necessary. For those who miss class for a legitimate reason I recommend that you ask a peer for their notes, do the readings and then come and see me during office hours if you still have questions.

Email/Important Communication:

Please type your name, course number, and section number into the titles of your emails. In the case that you are notifying me about a medical condition, absence, or other important aspect of the course, please do so via email. I will always provide a confirmation note within 24 hours.

Student Responsibilities:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Grand Valley State University is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of GVSU in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the *Code of Student Behavior* (online at <http://www.gvsu.edu/studentcode/index.cfm>) and avoid any behavior which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation

of facts and/or participation in an offense. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense and can result in suspension or expulsion from GVSU. No student shall represent another's substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as their own. Furthermore, no student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has been obtained by the student or which has previously been or is being submitted by the student in another course or program of study at GVSU or elsewhere. All forms of dishonesty are unacceptable at GVSU. Cheating, plagiarism and misrepresentation of facts are serious offenses. Anyone who engages in these practices will receive a grade of zero for the exam or paper in question and no opportunity will be given to replace the grade or redistribute the weights. Any offense will be reported to the Dean of the CLAS who will determine the disciplinary action to be taken.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of a learning, physical, or other disability, please contact me and Disability Support Services (Room 200 STU; 616 331 2490). Furthermore, if you have a physical disability and think you will need assistance evacuating this classroom and/or building in an emergency, please make me aware so that I can develop a plan to assist you.

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Student Academic Success Center: Students who require additional help in developing strategies for better time management, writing, study or examination skills should contact the Advising Resource Centre (200 STU; <https://www.gvsu.edu/sasc/>) for free tutoring sessions.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

August 31/ September 2		
	Topic	Reading(s)
Tuesday:	Introduction and Syllabus	Syllabus
Thursday:	What is Science?	TopHat: Module 1
September 7/9		
Tuesday:	Information Literacy	Information Literacy Assignment (Due Sept 16)
Thursday:	The Scientific Enterprise	TopHat: Module 2
September 14/16		

Tuesday: The Scientific Enterprise	Top Hat: Module 2
Thursday: Effective Learning	Learning Assignment (Due Sept 23) Bjork et al., 2013
September 21/23	
Tuesday: Reading Science	Top Hat: Module 3
Thursday: Communicating Science	Adams et al. (2017) Jordan & Zanna (1999) Homework 1 (Due Sept 30)
September 28/30	
Tuesday: Assessment 1	
Thursday: Quantitative Descriptive Research	Top Hat: Module 5
October 5/7	
Tuesday: Quantitative Descriptive Research	Top Hat: Module 5
Thursday: Observation	Homework 2 (Due Oct 14) Top Hat: Module 6
October 12/14	
Tuesday: Observation	Top Hat: Module 6
Thursday: Measurement	Top Hat: Module 7
October 19/21	
Tuesday: Measurement	Top Hat: Module 7
Thursday: Independent Groups	Homework 3 (Due Oct 28) Top Hat: Module 9
October 24-26 (Fall Break)	
October 28	
Thursday: Repeated Measures	Top Hat: Module 9
November 2/4	

Tuesday: Complex Experiments Thursday: Assessment 2	Top Hat: Module 11
November 9/11	
Tuesday: Complex Experiments Thursday: Survey Methods	Top Hat: Module 11 Top Hat: Module 13
Research Draft Due November 15	
November 16/18	
Tuesday: Statistics Descriptive Thursday: Statistics Inferential	Top Hat: Module 14 Top Hat: Module 15
November 23 November 24-26 (Fall Break)	
Tuesday: Conducting Ethical Research	Top Hat: Module 4
November 30 / December 2	
Tuesday: Lab 1 Introduction to JAMOV Thursday: Lab 2 Descriptive Statistics	Top Hat: Lab 1 Top Hat: Lab 2
December 7/9	
Tuesday: Lab 3 Inferential Statistics Thursday: Lab 4 Data Visualization	Top Hat: Lab 3 Top Hat: Lab 4
December 16 - Assessment 3 @ 6:00 - 7:50 p.m.* Assessment is non-cumulative	