

PSY 300: Research Methods – Fall 2016

Wolfgang Friedlmeier

ASH 2120(8)

9:00-9:50

ASH 2120 (5)

10:00-10:50

Instructor

Wolfgang Friedlmeier

1317 Au Sable Hall

331-2415

Email: friedlmw@gvsu.edu

Office hours:

Wednesday: 12:30 to 2:30 pm

Monday, Friday: 12:30 to 1:30 pm

Textbook

Stangor, C. (2015, 5th ed.). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. ISBN: 9780840031976

Further Readings

American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (Sixth Edition). Washington, D.C.: APA.

Readings of specific research articles will be announced in class (see electronic course reserve).

Course Overview

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 (1) be able to understand and to summarize the essence of research articles, (2) you should be able to write clearly and cogently in a scientific way, and (3) you should have an understanding of how to design an empirical study. A good understanding of basic statistics is a must as some statistical procedures will be presented that afford such basic knowledge.

The course is organized in a way that you get a broad overview about the whole research process in the beginning. Discussing a specific research article may make the different issues of the research process more concrete. Across the semester we will then go through the different steps of the research process in a more detailed way in order to deepen the understanding of each relevant topic.

Beside the textbook you are asked to read and work with several research articles in an intensive way.

SWS Course

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.

Prerequisites

WRT150, PSY 101 and STA 215

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General Information

Class Attendance is obligatory. It is expected that you inform the instructor about your absence in class in time by email. After more than three absences you need to bring written prove for your reasons of being not in class. If this is not the case, one point of class contribution will be subtracted for each absence.

Withdrawal. The deadline for withdrawing from the class is **October 28, 5 p.m.**, through one of the Student Assistance Centers.

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 and Disability Support Services (DSS) 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, please make me aware so that the university and I can develop a plan to assist you. It is the *student's responsibility* to request assistance from DSS.

Academic Integrity. Students will do original work and will not take or receive the efforts of another person on any test or assignment, use unauthorized resources on quizzes or tests, plagiarize, or give/sell other students papers or assignments *not authorized by the instructor*. **You are responsible** for making yourself aware of and for understanding the policies and procedures that pertain to academic integrity. To that end, be sure to familiarize yourself with the GVSU Student Code [Section 223.01] related to academic integrity. **Furthermore, be sure to reference sources at all times.** If you are uncertain about such an issue prior to submission

of an assignment, project, or test, please contact the instructor so we can eliminate that uncertainty. **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 locations: Also, through your Gmail account, you have access to online consultations through GoogleDocs. 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/> (co-written by Pat Johnson, Director of the Fred Meijer Center for Writing, and Lindsay Ellis, Director of Writing Across the Curriculum)

ALLENDALE:

- Lake Ontario Hall 120; Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. & Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. & Sunday 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- Knowledge Market: Mary Idema Pew Library (1st floor) - Sunday - Thursday 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
- Online via Google Docs - Monday - Wednesday 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

PEW CAMPUS DOWNTOWN

- Eberhard Center 101 - Monday - Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Knowledge Market: Steelcase Library - Monday - Thursday 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- CHS Building 100 - Monday & Thursday 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Access updates schedules and resources at: <https://www.gvsu.edu/wc/>

Tell the Writing Consultant you work with that you would like notification of your visit to be sent to your professor.

Research Assistance. Gayle Schaub is the psychology librarian and she can provide you with individualized research assistance for all of your classes. Her office is in the Mary Idema Pew Library on the Allendale campus and she can be reached at schaubg@gvsu.edu or 331-2629. Her psychology library subject guide (<http://libguides.gvsu.edu/psych>) contains links to all of the psychology databases and other specific resources for psychology students.

Assignments

You will be required to fulfill five assignments (see below) including several parts of an APA style research paper during the course of the semester. Some APA papers will be graded

twice: you get points based on the first draft and additional points for the revised version. All assignments (except AS2 and parts of AS5) are turned in by assignment manager through Blackboard. We will devote four hours of class at least to APA style writing instruction. More than half of the final grade in the course is based on writing assignments.

Quizzes

There will be short online multiple choice quizzes for each chapter with five questions. The quiz will test the content of the related chapter in the textbook. You will have about two days after the announcement to answer and submit the questions. The answer time will be limited to 20 minutes.

If you do not participate, you have to bring a written confirmation by the head of the department or by a physician. If you do not bring any document, 0 points will be in your record for the respective quiz.

Exams

There will be two exams during the course of the semester. Each exam is comprised of multiple choice questions.

The first exam will be on **Monday, October 10.**

The final exam will be on

Tuesday, December 13, from 12 to 1:50 pm (PSY300-05);

Tuesday, December 13, from 8 to 9:50 am (PSY300-8);

If you do not participate, 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.

Grade Distribution

A	94 - 100%	A-	90 – 94%		
B+	87 - 90%	B	83 - 87%	B-	80 - 83%
C+	77 - 80%	C	73 - 77%	C-	70 - 73%
D+	64 – 70%	D	60 - 64%		
F	60% and lower				

Evaluation and Grading

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

Assignment 1: Theory and hypotheses	30 points
Summary of the hypotheses of a research article	
Assignment 2: PsycInfo Search	20 points
Literature search for a selected topic	

Assignment 3: Reliability test	50 points
Construction of a self-report measure, to test the internal consistency of the scale, and to document the results	
Assignment 4: Methods and Results	50 points
SPSS analysis and result documentation	
Assignment 5: Critical Analysis of Research Articles	30 points
Evaluation of research articles	
Quizzes	50 points
Class contribution	20 points
Midterm Exam	50 points
Final Exam	50 points
Total	350 points

Note: This is a preliminary list of tasks and assignments that may still be subjected to change.