

Research Methods in Psychology: PSY300, Winter 2021, Sections 5 (23329) & 12 (28331)
Instructor: Robert Deaner, Ph.D., Professor

Instructor's Office: 1315 Au Sable Hall

Instructor's Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 12:15 – 12:45, 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.

All meetings with the instructor will take place online. Use this link:

<https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/f600dfc3a8bf45819c0d988163cfab97>

Instructor's Email: robert.deaner@gmail.com (recommended and preferred to deanerr@gvsu.edu); always type “PSY300-5” or “PSY300-12” 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: Mon & Wed; **sect 5:** 11:00 – 11:50AM; **sect 12:** 10:00 – 10:50AM

Course Location: Online only

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. Electronic versions of the book are fine. Earlier or later editions are acceptable but, on some occasions, may put students at a disadvantage.

Required computer access: Many assignments will require access to the internet and Excel. Having access to a good internet connection is important for many parts of this course, including watching narrated videos and participating in online synchronous meetings.

Course Format:

We will be using a “flipped classroom” model. This means:

- The instructor will make and post videos for all of the lectures, assignments, and labs.
- Students will watch these videos, and do required readings, prior to our synchronous sessions.
- The synchronous sessions will be highly interactive. I will review the key concepts and materials, ask you to apply the concepts to new examples, answer questions, and facilitate interactions among students.
- After most online synchronous meetings, students will have an opportunity to take a low-stakes extra credit quiz. Although these quizzes are not worth many points, they are a crucial way for students to gauge their understanding of the lectures and readings. The quizzes are also important part of preparing for the mid-term and final exams.

This is a partially synchronous online course.

There will be no face-to-face meetings.

There will be online synchronous meetings via Blackboard Collaborate. We will use this link (same one as office hours above): <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/f600dfc3a8bf45819c0d988163cfab97>

The online synchronous meetings will occur on most Mondays and some Wednesdays. In particular, it's a 14- week semester, and we probably will meet on 12 Mondays and 6 Wednesdays. See the schedule at the end of this syllabus for the likely (not definite) dates. Attending the online synchronous meetings is highly recommended, but it is not required. This is because the instructor will always record the online synchronous sessions so that students can review them later, at their leisure.

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 least three sessions focused on writing instruction and two periods of peer review. Most writing in this course will involve writing lab reports and sections of the Research Paper. Students will have the opportunity to revise each section of their Research Paper. They will receive feedback on most sections from their peers and the instructor.

Syllabus of Record Objectives

Every 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:

<u>Potential Points</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>	
Course Connection	5	95 & above	A
Computer Labs	60 (3 Labs, 20 pts each)	90 - 94.99	A-
Research Paper	115 (all parts)	87 - 89.99	B+
Mid-term Exam	100	83 - 86.99	B
Final Exam	100	80 - 82.99	B-
Total Points Possible =	380	77 - 79.99	C+
(See below for details on extra credit)		73 - 76.99	C
		70 - 72.99	C-
		67 - 69.99	D+
		60 - 66.99	D
Number Grade = Earned points/380 x 100 (no rounding up!)		59.99 & below	F

Course Connection (5 pts)

- *Description* – Your first assignment is to explore your personal connection to this course. To earn all 5 points, you must complete this assignment by Sunday January 24 at midnight. In 100 – 150 words, please tell me:
 - Your year and major(s)
 - Three things of personal interest, such as your job, hobby, pet, unusual talent, disability, living situation, family situation, or COVID-19 situation.
 - Something about this course that concerns you or that you are curious about.
 - Something specific that you hope to learn from this course.
 - Discuss how what you anticipate learning in this course might be relevant to your other courses or your life outside of GVSU (e.g., job, family).

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

- *Description:* There will be three computer labs that will require to students to complete a series of tasks involving data analysis and written presentation. These labs are designed to help students analyze their data and present their findings for the Research Paper (see below). For each lab, there will be one or more written documents and a narrated video presentation showing how to complete the tasks. Most tasks will involve working in Excel. The word count for each lab will be roughly 150 – 300 words.

Research Paper (115 pts):

- *Description:* Each student will complete a Research Paper during the semester. The Paper will have a traditional scientific organization (e.g., Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion) and be written in APA style. The instructor will provide several research topics, although there will be some scope for student creativity. Students will analyze and interpret data for this project. Students will be required to help in acquiring the data.
- Students may perform their analyses in groups, but each student will write their papers individually.
- An annotated bibliography and rough drafts of the Research 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. The word count for this project will be roughly 2500 – 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, lectures, online discussions, 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.
- *Exam location and timing:* Students will take their exams via Blackboard. Exams will be open book, open internet, and open notes, but students may not consult with anyone, including classmates. Students will be given a roughly 15-hour window to begin an exam (8AM until 11PM) but will have limited time to complete the exam once they begin. For example, if the midterm exam has 70 questions, students may only be permitted 80 minutes to complete the exam once they have started it.
- *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. 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%.

Quizzes (0 pts; up to 24 pts extra credit):

- *Description:* There will be 12-13 brief multiple choice quizzes. These are for extra credit. Quizzes will be the only opportunity for earning extra credit. The quizzes will mainly address assigned textbook readings and narrated lectures, but they may cover information from labs, in-class activities, and writing workshops. Quizzes will be given through Blackboard. Like the exams, quizzes will be open book, open internet, and open notes, but students may not consult with any person, including peers.
- *Availability:* Quizzes will be available for a limited time on the day when we have an online synchronous session. Most commonly we will have an online meeting on Monday morning, and the quiz will be available on Blackboard from 10:00AM until midnight that evening, a 14 hour window. Once a student begins the quiz, however, they will only have a few minutes to complete it.
- **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 24-26 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 10.8 points, which would raise their overall course average by about 3 points; this would be enough to push a B average to a B+.

Blackboard:

Almost all aspects of this course will require that students have access to Blackboard. If you have questions about your access, contact information technology staff: <https://www.gvsu.edu/it/>

Communication

The instructor will communicate all class announcements in class and via Blackboard email. You are expected to check your email regularly. 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.

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.

Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors:

Web: gvsu.edu/wc

Contact: virtualwc@mail.gvsu.edu (616-331-2922)

Location: Lake Ontario Hall, Room 120 (Allendale)

Online: Virtual writing support is available during all hours of operation for both drop-ins or scheduled appointments. Email support is also available (provided within 72 hours of submission).

The Fred Meijer Center for Writing provides writing assistance to all GVSU students, on any type of project and at any stage of the process. The Writing Center employs both undergraduate and graduate writing consultants from across majors and disciplines. Consultants are trained to help writers brainstorm, organize, or develop their ideas; and they can help writers edit their own work and document sources correctly. The Center’s services are free and students can work with an idea, assignment prompt, or draft of their paper. Students can virtually drop in or schedule an appointment; both appointments and drop-ins are available during all service hours: (Mon-Thurs 9am-11pm, Friday 9am-3pm, Sunday 2pm-11pm).

Due to COVID-19, all writing center services are available online. Limited in-person consulting may be available; please check the Writing Center’s website for up-to-date information. All service options (drop-ins, appointments, email support) can be accessed via the Writing Center’s online scheduling system - Book It. We look forward to working with you!

Knowledge Market:

“Our highly trained student consultants work one-on-one or in small groups to help with your library research, digital skills, writing, or oral presentations. We now offer online support in two ways: online peer consultations during open hours and a database of browsable resources that are available 24/7. For information about the Knowledge Market or to make a virtual appointment, visit www.gvsu.edu/library/km.”

Library Liason:

“Each department has a designated librarian to support your research needs. Samantha Minnis is our liaison librarian for Psychology. Her email is minniss@gvsu.edu and she is available for online consultations: BB Collaborate, Google Meet, Zoom, or email. You can also check out the Psychology Subject Guide, which is a great place to start your library research.”

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.

Week#	Meetings	Topic / Activity	Main Assignment Due
1	Mon – Jan 18 Wed – Jan 20	No Meeting – Still on Break Discussion of a reading	Course Connection (Sun Jan 24)
2	Mon – Jan 25	Chpt 1; Chpt 2	
3	Mon – Feb 1	Chpt 3; Literature Search	Surveys (Mon Feb 1)
4	Mon – Feb 8; Wed – Feb 10	Workshop Intro Chpt 4	Annotated Bibliography
5	Mon – Feb 15	Chpt 5; Lab 1	Draft Intro
6	Mon – Feb 22 Wed – Feb 24	Chpt 6 Chpt 7	Lab 1
7	Mon – Mar 1 Wed – Mar 3 Fri – Mar 5	Chpt 8 Midterm Exam Review Exam (available all day)	
8	Mon – Mar 8 Wed – Mar 10	Chpt 9 No Meeting – Break Day	
9	Mon – Mar 15 Wed – Mar 17	Workshop Methods Chpt 10; Lab 2	
10	Mon – Mar 22 Wed – Mar 24	Chpt 11; Lab 3 Workshop Results	Draft Methods Lab 2
11	Mon – Mar 29 Thurs – Apr 1	Workshop Discussion No Meeting – Break Day	Lab 3
12	Mon – Apr 5	Chpt 12	
13	Mon – Apr 12	Chpt 14	Draft Results & Discussion
14	Mon – Apr 19	No Meeting (tentative)	
15	Wed – Apr 28 Thurs – Apr 29	Final Exam (available all day) Final Draft due (Th midnight)	