

*Research Methods in Psychology: PSY300, Fall 2021, sections 2, 5 & 7*  
*Instructor: Robert Deaner, Ph.D., Professor*

**Instructor's Office:** 1315 Au Sable Hall

**Instructor's Office Hours:** Mondays & Wednesdays 1:30 – 2:15, 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.

Depending on scheduling and health guidelines, some meetings will occur in face-to-face, in Dr. Deaner's office (1315 AuSable) and some meetings will occur online. For online meetings, please use this link: <https://gvsu-edu.zoom.us/j/93168893347?pwd=SmZsejRXRFVZYXRNajRxbWxaK0gvZz09>

**Instructor's Email:** robert.deaner@gmail.com (recommended and preferred to deanerr@gvsu.edu); always type “PSY300-2” or “PSY300-5” or “PSY300-7” 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 2:** 12:00 – 12:50PM; **sect 5:** 11:00 – 11:50AM; **sect 7:** 10:00 – 10:50AM

**Course Location:** **sect 2:** 227 Lake Superior Hall; **sect 5:** 227 Lake Superior Hall; **sect 7:** 223 Lake Superior Hall;

**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 (Fourth Edition, 2020) ISBN-13: 978-0393536263. Electronic versions of the book are fine. Either the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> edition is fine, but getting the 4<sup>th</sup> edition is preferable. The most affordable and convenient way to get access is supposedly through the GVSU Save program, which will allow digital access to the 4<sup>th</sup> edition through Blackboard.

**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 (possibly) participating in online synchronous meetings.

**Course Format:**

**We will be using a “flipped classroom” and primarily face-to-face (F2F) model.** This means:

- I will post videos for all of the lectures, assignments, and labs.
- Students will watch these videos, and do required readings, prior to our F2F sessions.
- The F2F sessions will be highly interactive. I will review the key concepts and materials, ask students to apply the concepts to new examples, answer questions, and facilitate interactions among students.
- After some F2F 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.
- F2F meetings will occur in-person, on the Allendale campus, in Lake Superior Hall (see above for your section's room #). F2F meetings will not be recorded. Attendance is not required, but it is highly recommended.
- If GVSU policies and external circumstances prevent us from meeting in person, we will meet synchronously (same times as for our F2F meetings) via Bb Collaborate or Zoom. If we need to hold these electronic meetings, they will not be recorded.

**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 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>Grading Scale</u>
		<b>95 &amp; above</b> A
		90 - 94.99 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!)		

**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 Friday Sept 3 at midnight. In 100 – 150 words, please tell me:

- Your year and major(s)
- Two or three things of personal interest, such as a 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).
- A photo that clearly shows your face.

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

- *Description:* There will be three computer labs that will require 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 approximate 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. This means that most of the material, perhaps three-fourths of it, will come from the second half of the course. The instructor will make a study guide available prior to each exam.
- *Exam location and timing:* Exams will probably occur in the classroom during a regularly scheduled meeting time (see Schedule).
- *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. 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 one of our meeting days (i.e., M, W, or F). For example, if a quiz is announced and given on a Wednesday, it will be on Blackboard from 10:00AM until midnight that same 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:**

Most 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 and/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](http://gvsu.edu/wc)

Contact: [virtualwc@mail.gvsu.edu](mailto: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 both in-person and online peer consultations during open hours. We also created a [Resource Market](#), an online database of browsable resources, which is available 24/7. For information about the **Knowledge Market** or to make a virtual appointment, visit [www.gvsu.edu/library/km](http://www.gvsu.edu/library/km).”

**Library:**

“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](mailto: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 [Psychology Subject Guide](#), which is a great place to start your library research. You can find out more about our library spaces, how to check out books and access articles, and other library services this semester by checking out [this page about visiting the library](#) and [this page about our online services](#).”

**Course Schedule:**

On the next page 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 sessions and via announcements on Bb.

## Provisional Schedule

DATE	READING DUE AND ACTIVITY	OTHER ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Aug 30 - M	Course overview; Discussion of a reading	
Sept 1 - W	Discussion of a reading	
Sept 3 - F	Chpt 1; last day to register; 100% Refund deadline	Course Connection
Sept 6 - M	<b>Labor Day - no class</b>	
Sept 8 - W	Chpt 2	
Sept 10 - F	<b>CC – data coding</b>	
Sept 13 - M	Chpt 3	
Sept 15 – W	Chpt 3	Data Recruitment
Sept 17 - F	<b>CC – choose topic &amp; begin research</b>	
Sept 20 – M	Chpt 4	
Sept 22 – W	Chpt 5	
Sept 24 - F	Chpt 5; 75% Refund deadline	
Sept 27 – M	Workshop Intros I	Annotated Bibliography
Sept 29 – W	Chpt 5	
Oct 1 – F	<b>CC – Lab 1: Reliability</b>	
Oct 4 – M	Workshop Intros II	
Oct 6 – W	Chpt 6	Draft Intro
Oct 8 – F	Peer Review Intros	
Oct 11 – M	Chpt 7	Lab 1
Oct 13 – W	Exam Review	
Oct 15 - F	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	
Oct 18 – M	Chpt 8	
Oct 20 – W	Workshop Methods	
Oct 22 – F	Chpt 8	
Oct 25 – M	<b>Fall Break</b>	
Oct 27 – W	Chpt 8	
Oct 29 – F	<b>CC – Lab 2: Chi-square; Drop with "W" deadline</b>	
Nov 1 - M	Chpt 9	
Nov 3 – W	Chpt 9	
Nov 5 - F	Peer Review Methods	Draft Methods
Nov 8 - M	Workshop Results & Discussion	
Nov 10 – W	Chpt 10	Lab 2
Nov 12 - F	<b>CC – Lab 3: T-test</b>	
Nov 15 – M	Chpt 10	
Nov 17 – W	Chpt 11	Lab 3
Nov 19 - F	<b>CC – No Lab: time to work on Results</b>	
Nov 22 – M	Chpt 11	(last day for I & M feedback)
Nov 24 – W	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	
Nov 26 – F	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	Draft Results and Discussion
Nov 29 – M	Chpt 12	
Dec 1 – W	Peer Review Results & Discussion	
Dec 3 - F	Chpt 14	
Dec 6- M	Chpt 14	
Dec 8 – W	TBA	(last day for R & D feedback)
Dec 10 – F	Exam Review	
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Sect 2</b> (usually starts at 12:00): <b>Wed Dec 15</b> , 12:00 to 1:50 <b>Sect 5</b> (usually starts at 11:00): <b>Wed Dec 15</b> , 10:00 to 11:50 <b>Sect 7</b> (usually starts at 10:00): <b>Mon Dec 13</b> , 10:00 to 11:50 <b>All Sections:</b> Final Draft of Research Paper due at midnight on Thursday Dec 16	