

PSY 300: SWS Research Methods – Fall 2016 Mario Fifić

**SWS Research Methods in Psych –
PSY 300 – 10 Class 11:30 am – 12:45pm TR ASH 2121
PSY 300 – 07 Class 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm TR HON 219**

Instructor

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Office hours:

T/R 10:30am-11:15am
2:30pm-3:45pm

Textbook

Stangor, C. (2011, 5th ed.). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. ISBN: 9780840031976

Required software (available for free):

SPSS: SPSS Statistics is a software package used for statistical analysis
Instructions for Downloading:
<http://www.gvsu.edu/stat/spss-instructions-for-downloading-21.htm>

Recommended (but not required):

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (Sixth Edition). Washington, D.C.: APA.

Readings of specific research articles will be announced in class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (from the GVSU Catalog):

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 Course (Supplemental Writing Skills)

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

PSY 101 and STA 215

This course is designated SWS. Completion of WRT 150 and/or WRT 305, as appropriate with a grade of C or better (not C-) is the prerequisite.

Course 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 completion of this course you should be able to

- (1) understand and to summarize the essence of research articles,
- (2) write clearly and cogently in a scientific way,
- (3) understand how to design an empirical study, and
- (4) understand and identify major ethical concerns in psychological research

General Information

Class attendance. It is expected that you inform the instructor about your absence in class in time by email.

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 or the Disability Support Services (DSR) at 331-2490.

Plagiarism. "Any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodical, speeches, or the writing of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in form of projects or collections without

acknowledgement also is considered plagiarism. Any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for the ideas or materials that have been taken from another is guilty of plagiarism.” (GVSU, Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog 2004-2005, p. 91). **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 three locations. For details see www.gvsu.edu/wc for hours & location, or call 331-2922. Tell the Writing Consultant you work with that you would like notification of your visit to be sent to your professor.

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 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. It is strongly suggested that you keep a record or file of all emails sent by the instructor because you are responsible for all information sent in such emails.

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.

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 may need to devote substantially more time to this.

Assignments and Research Paper

You will be required to fulfill several assignments (see below) including an APA style review paper during the course of the semester. Most of the assignments are turned in by the assignment manager through Blackboard. Late assignments will not be processed.

You will get feedback to the paper and will be asked to revise this draft along these comments. The deadline for the final draft is **listed below**. Each day your final paper is late, 20 points will be deducted from the final grade.

We will devote four hours of class at least to writing instruction. Half of the final grade in the course is based on the writing assignments, that includes most of the assignments described below.

Exams

There will be two exams during the course of the semester. Each exam is comprised of multiple choice questions. The exams are not cumulative.

The first exam will be on TBA

The final exam will be on: TBA

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.

Quizzes

There will be several quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will cover material learned in the class, and will be announced in the class. Each quiz is comprised either of open questions or multiple choice questions. Answers to the quiz questions should be posted on BB. The quizzes serve for practice and learning and can be retaken an infinite number of times, before the final exam. If retaken, the last quiz score is recorded.

Extra Credit Opportunity:

Use all the assignments to assemble a complete APA research manuscript, then write and add the discussion section. If you decide to complete this assignment you could receive one grade upgrade.

The final assignment requirement: To get a passing grade a student must (a) Submit the assignment **Research paper Introduction Final**, (b) Get more than 59% (F grade) on it. If one of the condition was not met a student will not be able to get a passing grade regardless of the total number of points on other assignments and tests.

Grade Distribution

A 94 - 100%

A- 90 - 93

B+	88 - 89%
B	84 - 87%
B-	80 - 83%
C+	78 - 79%
C	74 - 77%
C-	70 - 73%
D+	67 - 69%
D	60 - 66%
F	59% and lower

Evaluation and Grading

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

Assignment 1: PsycInfo Search

20 points

You get an introduction to PsycInfo database and you will be asked to carry out a specific search for a given topic

Assignment 2: Formulate idea and the research hypothesis

20 points

Write one paragraph about your idea and propose the research hypothesis

Assignment 3: Research paper Skeleton

(only feedback)

You prepare the skeleton for the introduction of your research paper

Assignment 4: Operational definitions.

20 points

Operationally define your variables

Assignment 5: Research paper Introduction Full

(only feedback)

You use the skeleton from Assignment 3 to prepare the complete introduction section of your research paper

Assignment 6: Instrument

20 points

Create or describe the measuring device

Assignment 7: Procedure

20 points

Describe the procedures to conduct your proposed study

Assignment 8: Research paper Introduction Final

150 points

Use the feedback from Assignments 3 and 5 to prepare the final form of the introduction section of your research paper

Assignment 9: Peer-review

20 points

You are asked to review an Assignment 1b paper that belongs

to your colleague.

Assignment 10: Results section

20 points

Analyze the data and report the results of statistical hypothesis testing using the APA format.

Assignment 11: Abstract

20 points

Write an abstract of your research project using the APA format.

Assignment 12: Research Design

20 points

Define your research design

Assignment 13: ANOVA

20 points

Analyze the data and report the results of statistical hypothesis testing using the APA format.

BONUS Assignment X: Make a research publication

10% of total class points

Put together all the assignments into one APA research paper and write the discussion section using APA format (have to arrange with the lecturer 2 weeks before the final exam).

Midterm Exam

100 points

Final Exam

100 points

Quizzes

115 points

Total

665 points

Tentative Semester Schedule

Week	Date	Class Topic	Research Project	Reading	Assignments Due (check on BB)
1	8/30	Course Orientation/		Syllabus/	
	9/1	Introduction to Research/		Ch. 1	
2	9/6	Labor Day Recess September 4-6			
	9/8	Introduction to Research/ Developing Research Hypotheses	Intro to the topic	Ch. 1/Ch. 2	
3	9/13	PsychInfo search		Lab session	
	9/15	Ethics in Research/APA	Writing research papers/Tools	Ch. 3/App A	As1
4	9/20	Ethics in Research/APA	Writing research papers/Tools	Ch. 3/App A	As. 2
	9/22	Measures – Operational definition	O.P. definitions	Ch. 4	As. 3
5	9/27	Measures – Operational definition	O.P. definitions	Ch. 4	
	9/29	Survey construction - Reliability and Validity		Ch. 5	As. 4
6	10/4	Survey construction - Reliability and Validity		Ch. 5	As. 5
	10/6	Surveys and Sampling		Ch. 6	
7	10/11	Surveys and Sampling		Ch. 6	As. 6
	10/13	Midterm Exam			
8	10/18	APA	Writing research papers/Tools		
	10/20	Naturalistic Methods		Ch. 7	As. 7

9	10/25	Hypothesis testing and inferential Statistics	Further APA	Ch. 8	
	10/27	Hypothesis testing and inferential Statistics	Further APA	Ch. 8	
10	11/1	One-Way Design		Ch. 10 & 11	As. 8 BIG ONE
	11/3	One-Way Design		Ch. 10 & 11	As. 9
11	11/8	Correlational Research Designs		Ch. 9	
	11/10	Correlational Research Designs		Ch. 9	
12	11/15	Factorial Research Designs		Ch. 11	As. 10
	11/17	Mario is absent Nov. 17-21			
		Mario is absent Nov. 17-21			
13	11/22	Factorial Research Designs		Ch. 11	
	11/24	Thanksgiving Day Recess Nov. 23-27			
		Thanksgiving Day Recess Nov. 23-27			
14	11/29	Factorial Research Designs		Ch. 11	As. 11/As12
	12/1	Factorial Research Designs			
15	12/6	APA			As. 13
	12/8	Preparation of Final Exam			As. X

Disclaimer: This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.