

# PSY 300: SWS Research Methods – Winter 2020 Prof. Mario Fifić

**PSY 300 13 TR 2:30 PM 3:45 PM MAK A2165**  
**PSY 300 11 TR 4:00 PM 5:15 PM MAK A2165**

## **Instructor**

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**Office hours:**  
T/R 1:30-2:15pm

## **Textbook**

**Stangor, C. (2015, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.).** *Research methods for the behavioral sciences*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. ISBN: 9781285077024

## **Required software (available for free):**

“Microsoft Word” (find the installation [link](#) through GVSU IT)

## **Recommended but not required:**

**SPSS:** SPSS Statistics is a software package used for statistical analysis  
[Link](#) to Instructions for Downloading:

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)**

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.

### **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.
- (4) Understand and identify major ethical concerns in psychological research.

### **General Information**

**Class attendance.** You are expected to attend class. Students who regularly attend do well in the class. By attending class, you benefit by hearing content presented exclusively in lecture. It is expected that you inform the instructor about your absence in class.

**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](http://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.

## **Class grade determination**

Your class grade will be determined based on your achievement on (1) Assignments, (2) Final research paper and (3) Exams.

### **(0) Quizzes**

There will be several quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will cover material learned in the class. Each quiz is comprised either of multiple-choice questions. Access to quizzes will be through BB. The quizzes serve for practice and learning and can be retaken an infinite number of times, before the final exam. No points will be awarded. Some of these questions will show up in the exams.

### (1) Assignments and Research Paper

The assignments will be related to the final writing research project and to materials covered in class and the book chapters. You will be required to fulfill several assignments toward writing an APA style review paper, during the course of the semester. You will be asked to complete some of the assignments “ahead” of a related chapter to prepare for the topic. The assignments’ deadline policy is detailed below.

### (2) Research Paper

During the semester you will be writing a comprehensive report on some selected research topic. You will be given a feedback that you can use to improve the quality of the final paper. The final paper must be written in MS Word (see the software requirement above) using your computer or using your GVSU lab account. You will get feedback about your research paper and will be asked to revise this draft along these comments.

The final assignment requirement: To get a passing grade a student must (a) Submit the assignment Final Research Paper, (b) Get more than 59% (F grade) on it. If one of the conditions 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.

### (3) Exams

There will be two exams. Each exam is comprised of multiple-choice and open-ended questions. The exams are not cumulative. Some exam’s open-ended questions will be related to class discussions and lectures, which are not available in the book. The examples of these questions will be posted in each chapter unit paper, that we will use during class. In the case of open-ended questions, a winning strategy will be combination of class attendance, class activity, and note taking.

**The midterm exam will be on:** 2/18, regular class time

**The final exam will be on:**

PSY 300 – 13 Class 2:30 pm Thursday, April 23, 2:00 pm - 3:50 pm

PSY 300 – 11 Class 4:00 pm Tuesday, April 21, 4:00 pm - 5:50 pm

## Evaluation and Grading

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

<b>Assignments (estimated around 33)</b>	<b>99 points</b>
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Final Paper</b>	<b>100 points</b>
	<b>Total 399 points</b>

On each of the course's 33 assignments, you can earn the following points:

**3 points:** If you completed the assignment before its due date and your assignment initially fulfilled ALL the requirements.

**2 points:** If you completed the assignment before its due date AND you corrected your initial assignment to fulfill ALL the assignment's requirements within one week after its due date.

**1 point:** If you didn't complete the assignment before its due date but you did complete the assignment within one week after its due date OR if you completed the assignment before its due date but your assignment didn't fulfill ALL the requirements and you didn't correct your assignment to fulfill ALL the requirements within one week after the assignment's due date.

**0 points:** If you still haven't completed the assignment one week after its due date.

The final research papers are turned in by the assignment manager through Blackboard. Each day your assignment is late, 10% of points will be deducted.

Your final course grade will be the percentage of points you earn from the **399** total points available to earn, using the grading scale below:

### **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

### **Late submissions**

Late submissions are operationally defined as submitting work 1 second or longer after the deadline. A submission later than 1 second or more after the deadline will be noted as late. Students are advised to be responsible about the submission planning, timing and the equipment.

### **Being exam excused or making late assignment submission**

If you need to be excused from exam or class attendance you would need to provide some evidence for absence. In a case of illness, you have to bring a written confirmation by the head of the department or by a physician. In a case of the exam, and 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.

*This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>.*

## Tentative Semester Schedule

Week	Date	Class Topic	Challenge	Quiz	LAB	Assignments will be announced through BB
1	1/7	Course Orientation	Syllabus			
	1/9	Introduction to Research/ Developing Research Hypotheses/	Ch. 1/ Ch. 2	Quiz 1		
2	1/14	Developing Research Hypotheses/tips/APA	Ch. 2	Quiz 2		
	1/16	PsychInfo search	Ch. 1/ Ch. 2	Quiz 1		
3	1/21	Developing Research Hypotheses/tips/APA				
	1/23	Ethics in Research/APA	Ch. 3	Quiz 3		
4	1/28	Measures – Operational definition	Ch. 4			
	1/30	Measures – Operational definition	Ch. 4	Quiz 4		
5	2/4	Survey construction - Reliability and Validity	Ch. 5	Quiz 5		
	2/6	Survey construction - Reliability and Validity				
6	2/11	Surveys and Sampling	Ch. 6			
	2/13	Surveys and Sampling	Ch. 6	Quiz 6		
7	2/18	<b>Midterm Exam</b>				
	2/20	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Recess</b>				
8	2/25	APA writing, drafting a paragraph/ Naturalistic Methods	Ch. 7	Quiz 7		
	2/27	Naturalistic Methods	Ch. 7			
9	3/3	<b>Spring Break</b>				
	3/5	<b>Spring Break</b>				

10	3/10	Hypothesis testing and inferential Statistics				
	3/12	Hypothesis testing and inferential Statistics	Ch. 8	Quiz 8		
11	3/17	Correlational Research Designs	Ch. 9			
	3/19	Correlational Research Designs	Ch. 9	Quiz 9	<b>LAB</b>	
12	3/24	Experimental Research Design - One Way	Ch. 10			
	3/26	Experimental Research Design - One Way	Ch. 10	Quiz 10	<b>LAB</b>	
13	3/31	Factorial Research Designs	Ch. 11			
	4/2	Factorial Research Designs	Ch. 11	Quiz 11		
14	4/7	Internal Validity	Ch. 12	Quiz 12		
	4/9	Internal Validity	Ch. 12	Quiz 12		
15	4/14	External Validity	Ch. 12	Quiz 12		
	4/16	Preparation for the exam				
	TBA					As. Final paper

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