

PSY 300: Research Methods in Psychology

Fall 2021

Instructor: Dr. Greta Chan

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Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
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| Course Number | Meeting Time | Location |
|---------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| PSY 300 - 11 | MWF 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. | ASH 2119 |

Attributes

Supplemental Writing Skills (SWS)

Pre-Reqs/Co-Reqs

Prerequisites: PSY 101 and (STA 215 or STA 312)

Refund/Withdrawal Deadlines

| Deadline | Date |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 100% Tuition Refund Deadline | September 3, 2021 |
| 75% Tuition Refund Deadline | September 24, 2021 |
| Drop with a "W" Grade Deadline | October 29, 2021 |

Required Text:

Bordens, K., & Abbott, B. B. (2022). Research Design and Methods: A Process Approach (11th edition)

GVSU SAVE FIRST DAY DIGITAL ACCESS

Once students register for a class that uses GVSU Save digital course materials, they will receive information via e-mail about how to access their content. This information will also be available to the student via Blackboard. Students will have access to the content in Blackboard before the first day of class. Students will be billed for the course materials via their student account. Students who opt-out will not be charged. The opt-out date is **Friday September 10th**.

Course Descriptions

This course is designated Supplemental Writing Skills (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. Students may receive SWS credit for taking the course as Credit/No Credit provided the student passes the course with a "Credit" grade.

Lecture (Mondays & Wednesdays)

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 the ethics of conducting research.

SWS (Fridays)

Each class on Friday is designated for SWS. To fulfill the SWS requirements, you need to write a 3000-word research paper in APA style. You will read six original research articles before starting to write your own. These six articles are widely cited classic papers. They are short and easy to read with profound findings. They will serve as great exemplars for you to follow. At the beginning of the semester, we will discuss these papers in six Friday meetings. After these, we will discuss the structure of an APA-style research paper in four classes. You will complete the paper in five stages: 1) Literature review; 2) Revision of the literature review; 3) Methodology, results, discussion, and references; 4) Revision of the sections submitted in stage 3; 5) Abstract.

Tentative Schedule

| Date | Topic/Assigned Reading | Exam/Assignment Due |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| August 30 | Course Overview Revision of statistics: Factorial design Main effect & interaction | |
| September 1 | Main effect & interaction | |
| September 3 | SWS: Godden & Baddeley, 1975 | |
| September 6 | Labor Day, No Class | |
| September 8 | Introduction | Assignment 1 @12:00 p.m. |
| September 10 | SWS: Bower & Clark, 1969 | |
| September 13 | Construct & variable | Assignment 2 @12:00 p.m. |
| September 15 | Scales of measurement | |
| September 17 | SWS: Loftus & Palmer, 1974 | |
| September 20 | Presenting data | Assignment 3 @12:00 p.m. |
| September 22 | Review for exam 1 | |

| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| September 24 | SWS: Writing the <i>Literature Review</i> section | |
| September 27 | N/A | Exam 1 |
| September 29 | Population & sample | |
| October 1 | SWS: Diener & Seligman, 2002 | |
| October 4 | Population & sample | Assignment 4 @12:00 p.m. |
| October 6 | Sampling techniques | |
| October 8 | SWS: Brickman, Coates, & Janoff-Bulman, 1978 | |
| October 11 | Sample techniques | Assignment 5 @12:00 p.m. |
| October 13 | Causal vs. correlational studies | Due: Literature Review @11:59 p.m. |
| October 15 | SWS: Hehman et al., 2012 | |
| October 18 | Causal vs. correlational studies | Assignment 6 @12:00 p.m. |
| October 20 | Unobtrusive studies | |
| October 22 | SWS: Writing the <i>Methodology</i> section | |
| October 25 | Unobtrusive studies | |
| October 27 | Review for exam 2 | |
| October 29 | N/A | Exam 2 |
| November 1 | Survey research | |
| November 3 | Survey research | |
| November 5 | SWS: Writing the <i>Results</i> section | |
| November 8 | Reliability & validity | Due: Revision of Literature Review @11:59 p.m. |
| November 10 | Reliability & validity | |
| November 12 | SWS: Writing the <i>Discussion</i> section | |
| November 15 | Experimental research design | |
| November 17 | Experimental research design | |
| November 19 | Experimental research design | Due: Methodology, Results, Discussion, & References @11:59 p.m. |
| November 22 | N/A | Exam 3 |
| November 24 | Thanksgiving Recess | |
| November 26 | Thanksgiving Recess | |
| November 29 | Research ethics | |
| December 1 | Research ethics | |
| December 3 | SWS: Feedback on students' paper | |
| December 6 | Review for final exam | |
| December 8 | Review for final exam | |
| December 10 | | Due: Final revision of the whole research paper with an abstract @11:59 p.m. |

Evaluation

Exams (50%)

- There will be four MC exams.
- Exams 1 to 3 weight 10% (total: 3 x 10% = 30%)
- Exam 4 weights 20%.

Evaluation of Research Articles (10%)

- You will complete six short assignments based on six research articles (see the table above for due dates)
- The total scores of these assignments will weight 10% of your course total.

Research Paper (40%)

- Abstract (5%)
- Literature review (15%)
- Methodology (5%)
- Results (5%)
- Discussion (5%)
- References (5%)
- I will grade only the revised version of your paper.

All course works will be submitted electronically on Blackboard. Late papers/assignments will get a 10% penalty.

Grading Scale

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---------|----|--------|----|--------|----|-------------|
| | | B+ | 87-89% | C+ | 77-79% | D+ | 67-69% |
| A | 93-100% | B | 83-86% | C | 73-76% | D | 60-66% |
| A- | 90-92% | B- | 80-82% | C- | 70-72% | F | 59 or lower |

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.45% will be rounded up to 90% = A-; but 89.44% will be rounded down to 89% = B+).

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's original work. Plagiarism may result in a failing grade.

Absence From a Test/Exam

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the

instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam.