Research Methods: PSY300 Section 11, CRN23341
Winter 2015

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616-331-2527
Elizabeth_Flandreau@gvsu.edu ← The best way to contact me!

Office Hours: T/Th 9:30-11am, 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.

Class Days/ Hours: Lake Huron Hall (LHH) 205 T/Th 4pm-5:15pm
    • Due to scheduling, I will be unavailable for questions immediately before or after class. Please email me to schedule a meeting or drop by during office hours.

Final Exam: Thursday, April 23 4-5:50pm (Turn in APA paper in person at 4pm)

Prerequisites (passed already): PSY101 or HNR234, STA215 or STA312, & WRT150 (C or better)

Required text:

Recommended (but not required):

Required computer access: Many assignments will require access to the internet and Microsoft office programs. Please make sure you will have access to these applications for at least four hours per week outside of class. If you have little experience/skill with Excel, you will need to devote some extra time in developing this skill. A laptop is a plus for working in class.

Course Objectives (Dr. Flandreau’s):
    ➢ Transform ideas into hypotheses and identify the appropriate method(s) to test them
    ➢ Locate, evaluate, and effectively use primary sources
    ➢ Analyze data using statistics and represent key results visually
    ➢ Practice effective communication through articulate writing and speaking
    ➢ Organize a scientific paper using APA style formatting
    ➢ Constructively critique writing of peers
    ➢ Identify and articulate ethical concerns about research
    ➢ Think critically and creatively about scientific claims

Course Description (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 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.

**Reminder--- Academic Integrity:** 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.”

A note on plagiarism: Simply rearranging the words or substituting synonyms in the original source is still plagiarism. Details about the APA method for citing research will be provided during the course. Please note that because some aspects of the Archival Research Paper may be designed and conducted in groups, students in the same groups may have very similar Methods and Results sections. However, other sections of the paper should not be highly similar. More details will be provided later in the course.

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.99%</td>
<td>92.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.99%</td>
<td>86.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.99%</td>
<td>72.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66.99%</td>
<td>66.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.99%</td>
<td>69.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59.99%</td>
<td>59.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.99%</td>
<td>89.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.99%</td>
<td>79.99%</td>
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**Please consider this general description of what each grade means:**

C: You did all the necessary work, you learned all the basic material – you know the correct answers.

B: The above, plus you really get the material – you could teach it to a friend. You understand the correct answers.

A: The above, plus you can use it flexibly and adaptively. You understand WHY the answers are what they are, and how this relates to material from other classes.

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Pts</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>1-2% each (lowest scored quiz(ez) will be dropped)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>Attendance and meaningful contribution to in-class and / or online discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>4-20 points per assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA Syle Paper Draft</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>A portion of this grade will be from your peer(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA Style Paper Final</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td><em>to be turned in at the day/time of the final exam</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>See grading ruberic on blackboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Midterms</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>14% each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
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Extra Credit--- *sell* me a copy of your notes at the end of the semester. Up to 10 points maximum for the best notes.

A tentative schedule will be available as a separate document.
IMPORTANT NOTES:

Email Communication: College is a great time to practice becoming a professional; please remain professional in email communications. Always include the class # and section in the message. Use full sentences with punctuation, and sign your full name. For additional tips, check out the Smith College guide to email [www.smith.edu/cwl/toolbox_email.php](http://www.smith.edu/cwl/toolbox_email.php)

Blackboard: The syllabus, outside readings, and assignments will be posted on Blackboard. Lecture materials will not be available prior to class but will typically be posted by the end of the week. The instructor will communicate class announcements via Blackboard. Please check your messages regularly. If you haven’t received a message, it is your responsibility to figure out why and make sure that you receive future announcements.

Quizzes on BB: Online quizzes are open note; the goal is to assess your comprehension of the reading material. Some questions may come from material in the text that was not covered in class. Quizzes typically come from a “pool” of questions; 10 questions are randomly selected each time you take the quiz. You will typically have 3 attempts and your grade will be an average of each attempt. Only the highest grades will factor in to your final grade.

Attendance and Participation: Peer instruction and in-class work will be an important part of this course and it can only be successful if everyone contributes! Please arrive on time and come prepared to pay attention and participate. If you are texting, emailing, snoozing, or enjoying other media outlets in class, I will ask you to leave. You will receive a “0” for participation that day. For a planned absence, you must let me know 24hrs in advance; for an illness, provide a Dr’s note within 24hrs.

Written Assignments: All assignments must be uploaded to blackboard AND handed in as a hard copy by the start of class. Assignments must be handed in during office hours or in class, or brought to the psychology administrative area and time-stamped; emailed assignments will not be accepted for credit. Assignments must be typed and have at the top, your name and the course number. Assignments that are more than one page must be stapled together. You will lose points for not doing these things.

Late Assignments: Assignments are due by the start of class on the due date. There is a 5 minute grace period. Beginning at 4:05pm on the due date, a late assignment will be docked points for each day it is late, including holidays and weekends. Exact number of points lost will be determined for each assignment.

Exams: ***During exams, you will be required to turn off all digital devices, such as cell phones, pagers, and hand-held computers. Any student identified with such a device powered on during an exam will receive an F on the test at the instructor’s discretion. *** Students are responsible for bringing their own #2 pencils to the exams. Exams begin and end on time.

Missed 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 rationale 24 hours in advance. Failure to notify me in advance will result in a zero on the exam. Rescheduled exams will be different from the in class exam and may be an oral exam.

Students with Disabilities: If you have special needs because of learning, physical or other disability, please contact me or Disability Support Resources (DSR) at 616.331.2490. Furthermore, if you have a disability
and think you will need assistance evacuating this classroom and/or building in an emergency situation, please make me aware so I can develop a plan to assist you.

Canceled Classes: Unless the instructor emails you otherwise, if classes are canceled at the university, any exam will take place at the next class meeting.

Support for Writing

1. I encourage you to take for 1 credit the new writing course for psychology WRT 280.
2. 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:
   - Allendale, LOH 120, 331-2922
   - Pew/Grand Rapids, 101B DeVos, 331-6407
   - Holland, see www.gvsu.edu/wc, 331-2922
Tell the Writing Consultant you work with that you would like notification of your visit to be sent to your professor.

Library support:
Gayle Schaub is the psychology librarian and she can provide you with individualized research assistance. Her office is in the Mary Idema Pew Library on the Allendale campus and she can be reached at schaubg@gvsu.edu or 331-2629. Her psychology library subject guide (http://libguides.gvsu.edu/psych) contains links to all of the psychology databases and other specific resources for psychology students.

Stats support:
The Statistics Tutoring Center is a place for students in many levels of stats classes to get help. Our central location is in Mackinac Hall on the Allendale campus, but we will also have tutors available in the Eberhard Center on the PEW campus. Tutoring is primarily done by GVSU undergraduates and is FREE to any GVSU student. You can bring questions about your calculator, on methods and concepts, on specific problems, or on whatever you like. Don’t have a question just yet? You can work on your stats homework and, if you have a question, help is at hand! Feel free to call us at 616-331-8969 if you have any questions. All tutoring in the Stats Center is FREE with no appointment needed. The student sign-in is for their own accounting.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTRE:
Students who require additional help in developing strategies for better time management, writing, study or examination skills should contact the Advising Resource Centre (200 STU).

Free online tutorial assistance:
www.youtube.com
www.khanacademy.org