

PSY 300: Research Methods in Psychology

Course Syllabus, sections 13 & 15

Grand Valley State University, Department of Psychology

Fall 2022

Instructor Information

Instructor: Paolo Campus, Ph.D.

Office: 2115 Au Sable Hall

Email:

Phone:

Office Hours: Wednesday 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

How to contact me: The best way to contact me is via e-mail. I will do my best to reply within 24 hours to e-mails received during business hours (Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.). I will be in limited contact during weekends, and I won't be able to reply until the following Monday. For urgent communication, make sure to write "URGENT" in the subject line of the e-mail, and I will do my best to reply as soon as possible.

Feedback. Over the course of the semester, you are welcomed to give me feedback about the course. If you have any doubt or concern, please feel free to contact me by either sending an e-mail or by scheduling an appointment.

Course Information

Credits. 3

Prerequisites. PSY 101, WRT 150, and (STA 215 or STA 312).

Course Format. Traditional (face-to-face)

Course Time & Location.

- PSY 300-13: MW, 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m., Mackinac Hall (MAK) A2165
- PSY 300-15: MW, 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m., Mackinac Hall (MAK) A2165

Required materials.

- **Textbook:** Beth Morling. Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of Information, 4th Edition (ISBN 978-0-393-89372-4). This course is participating in the GVSU SAVE program, which will allow access to a digital copy of the textbook through the course's Blackboard page.
- **Internet access:** All relevant content, such as lecture slides, articles, grades, and announcements can be accessed through the course website on Blackboard (lms.gvsu.edu).
- **Additional readings:** All other required readings will be posted on Blackboard

Description. This course is designed to introduce students to the basic methods used in psychological research. Over the course of the semester, we will cover a wide range of topics including: the use of the empirical method in Psychology, the formulation and testing of hypotheses, the logic behind different research designs, reliability & validity of psychological measurements, and how to assess the validity of a research claim. A special emphasis will be given to learning practical skills such as consulting abstract databases (e.g., PsycINFO), finding and recognizing legitimate sources of scientific information, and writing research reports in the style outlined in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA). The ultimate goal of the course is to promote the development of systematic strategies that students can use to: 1) evaluate the validity of research claims and communicate about them in a clear and effective way (research consumers) and, 2) plan and conduct their own research (research producers).

Learning Objectives. [From the Syllabus of Record] Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- (1) Understand the difference between research hypothesis and theory.
- (2) Understand the peer-reviewed publication process.
- (3) Use PsycINFO to find articles relevant to a research topic.
- (4) Understand the difference between different types of scientific writings.
- (5) Understand the standard ethical principles for Psychology research.
- (6) Recognize different research design and their relative claims.
- (7) Describe the details of and summarize the essence of research articles.
- (8) Write clearly and cogently in a scientific way.
- (9) Design an empirical study consistent with the standards of psychological science.

Supplemental Writing Skills (SWS). 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.

Methods of Evaluation.

Grades will be determined by your scores on 4 types of assessment:

- (1) **Worksheets.** You will have to submit 3 Worksheets (practical exercise). The first worksheet will test your ability to perform a search using PsycINFO. The second and third worksheets will test your understanding of the APA formatting style. Each worksheet is worth 10 points.
- (2) **Quizzes.** There will be a total of 6 quizzes (one quiz for each part of the textbook). Each quiz is worth 20 points and consists of 10 multiple choice questions (2 points/question).

- (3) **Article critiques.** Students will have to complete 2 article critiques. The purpose of these exercises is to promote the development of skills needed to locate, understand, evaluate, and synthesize psychological research articles. Articles and further details will be provided on the course Blackboard.
- (4) **Exams.** There will be 2 midterm exams and 1 cumulative final exam. Exams will be a mix of multiple choice and short-answers.
- (5) **Research Proposal.** Students will have to propose a hypothetical study aimed at testing a research hypothesis. The objective of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to apply some of the notions and concepts learned during this course and to familiarize with the logical steps that need to be taken to achieve a research goal. In doing so, this assignment will also help you stimulate your scientific inquisitiveness, improve your academic writing, develop your critical thinking skills, and encourage the use of independent problem-solving strategies. The proposal will be developed in 3 stages, with two drafts submitted before the completion of the final manuscript. Details about the mini research proposal will be provided on the course Blackboard.

You can find below a breakdown of the points assigned and a brief description of the assessments. Further details for each assignment will be provided in class and on the course Blackboard.

Assignment	Points	% of Total
Worksheet 1	10	1.666667
Worksheet 2	10	1.666667
Worksheet 3	10	1.666667
Quiz 1	20	3.333333
Quiz 2	20	3.333333
Quiz 3	20	3.333333
Quiz 4	20	3.333333
Quiz 5	20	3.333333

Quiz 6	20	3.333333
Article Critique 1	30	5
Article Critique 2	30	5
Midterm Exam 1	60	10
Midterm Exam 2	60	10
Research Proposal (Draft 1)	30	5
Research Proposal (Draft 2)	30	5
Research Proposal (Final Manuscript)	90	15
Final Exam	120	20
Total	600	100

Grading Scale: Final grades will be determined at the end of the semester by calculating the total points accumulated. Grading cutoff is as follows:

Grading Scale	
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	65-69%

D	60-64%
F	<=59%

Late/make-up policy. No late or make-up assignments or exams will be permitted. Students who do not complete requirements on schedule due to personal illness, accidents, family affliction, official university activities or religious holidays must provide documentation of the circumstances.

Academic Integrity. [From the Syllabus of Records] The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. The university expects that both faculty members and students will honor these principles and in so doing protect the validity of university grades. This means that all academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid of any kind. Instructors, for their part, will exercise care in the planning and supervision of academic work, so that honest effort will be positively encouraged. Compliance shall include compliance with the following specific rules:

- No student shall knowingly, without authorization, procure, provide, or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment.
- No student shall, without authorization, complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
- No student shall, without authorization, allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person.
- No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own.
- No student shall submit work that has been previously graded or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course without authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.

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, periodicals, speeches, or the writing of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment 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.

Disability Support Resources. If you are in need of accommodations due to a learning, physical, or other disability you must present a memo to me from Disability Support Resources (DSR), indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested reasonable accommodations. If you have not already done so, please contact the Disability Support Resources office (215 CON) by calling 331-2490 or email to dsrgvsu@gvsu.edu. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received a copy of the DSR issued memo. All discussions will remain confidential. Furthermore, if you have a physical 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.

Caring for Students. Your health and your family's health should be your priority. If you are dealing with illness, sick family members, travel difficulties, a bad internet connection, increased anxiety, childcare challenges, or any other issues, please reach out and we will figure out accommodations.

Mental Health. Mental health concerns, including overwhelming stress, excessive worry, difficulty participating in daily activities, and changes in mood, appetite, or sleep patterns can interfere with your academic performance. College student surveys report that roughly 1 out of 3 students screen positive for a current mental health concern (Healthy Minds Study). GVSU values your health and wellness and provides services to support your mental health. If you would like mental health support or are concerned for another member of our campus community, reach out to the University Counseling Center for free resources, self-help options, and services. Also, visit Campus Recreation & Wellness for additional health and wellness programming.

Psych Friends. If you feel you could use some extra help/guidance/support in any academic domain or for your well-being, please consider scheduling an appointment with a mentor through Psych Friends. Psych Friends mentors are upper-level undergraduate peer mentors who are trained to provide support in many areas including: effective study and time management techniques, exam preparation and reflection skills, comprehension of the psychology and behavioral neuroscience major requirements, tips for engaging in the field, strategies for education continuation, methods for maintaining physical and mental health. Schedule an appointment here: <https://www.gvsu.edu/navigate> and psychfriends@gvsu.edu

Writing Center. The Fred Meijer Center for Writing, with locations at the Allendale and Pew/Downtown Grand Rapids campuses, is available to assist you with writing for any of your classes. Writing consultants, who are fellow GVSU students, are trained to help you with all stages of your writing process, from brainstorming to organizing to editing your papers. Simply bring a draft of your paper, the assignment sheet, and your questions/concerns to any of the Center's locations. Also, through your Gmail account, you have access to online consultations through Google Docs. The Center's services are free, and you can drop in and work with a consultant or make an appointment, either through our website or by calling the Center (331-2922). For more information about our services and locations, please visit the Writing Center website.

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