

Syllabus
Research Methods in Psychology-PSY 300
Winter 2023
Course Credits: 3.0

Section 07

Time: Monday, Wednesday 3:00 p.m.-4:15 p.m.
Location: MAK A2165
Final Exam: Monday, April 24th 2022, 2:00 p.m.-3:50 p.m.

Section 05

Time: Monday, Wednesday 4:30 p.m.-5:45 p.m.
Location: MAK A2165
Final Exam: Wednesday, April 26th, 4:00 p.m.-5:50 p.m.

Section 02

Time: Monday and Wednesday 6:00 p.m.-7:15 p.m.
Location: MAK A2165
Final Exam: Monday, April 24th 6:00 p.m.-7:50 p.m.

Instructor: Sylvia Malcore, Ph.D.
Office Phone: (616) 331-2378 (preferred method of contact is by email).
E-Mail: malcores@gvsu.edu
Office Hours: Monday 1:00 p.m.-2:50 p.m., Tuesday 10:00-12:10 p.m. or by appointment. I am also able to meet virtually by request.
Office: Au Sable Hall (ASH) 2137

Required Text

Morling, B. (2021). *Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of Information*. 4th edition. W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 9780393536294

Recommended Supplements

(2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed). American Psychological Association. ISBN: 978-1433832161 (This is available at GVSU library).

Course Description

This is an undergraduate level class. Per GVSU course 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 the ethics of conducting research. Offered every academic year. Prerequisites: [PSY 101](#), [WRT 150](#), and ([STA 215](#) or [STA 312](#)).”

Course Overview

Course Overview The world is awash in data and claims, but how can you tell which data and claims to believe? This course will teach you to look at the world like a research psychologist. You will learn how to identify the claim in a research study, as well as how to tell if the claim is likely to be true or valid. We will work to understand different types of research designs, the types of claims made based on those designs, and the strengths and weaknesses of those designs. In addition to learning to be a critical consumer of research, this course will strengthen your ability to communicate about the results of research with training in writing like a psychologist.

Course Objectives:

Every course at Grand Valley State University has certain core learning objectives, described in the “Syllabus of Record” for the course. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Comprehension/Describe: Describe the details of and summarize the essence of research articles.
- 2) Application/Write: Write clearly and cogently in a scientific way.
- 3) Evaluation/Evaluate: Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of empirical studies consistent with the standards of psychological science.

Students are expected to complete the assigned readings in the text before class, attend class, and participate in class discussions. Grades will be based on:

- 1) Three noncumulative examinations (100 points each). These exams will include multiple choice and potential short essay items that can be drawn from the text, lecture, and class discussion.
- 2) Article critiques (20 points each). There will be 3 article critiques. Details will follow in class.
- 3) Mini Research Proposal. Students will complete several assignments and drafts to work towards their completed mini research proposal. Details will follow in class.
 - a. Part 1: Pick a topic assignment: 10 points
 - b. Part 2: Research Proposal Sources: 10 points
 - c. Part 3: Research Outline: 15 points
 - d. Part 4: Draft 1 of Proposal 15 points
 - e. Part 5: Draft 2 of Proposal 15 points
 - f. Part 6: Final Proposal 45 points
- 4) There will be some additional brief written assignments. Details will follow in class.
 - a. IRB paper: 10 points
 - b. Paraphrasing assignment: 10 points
 - c. PsychInfo Search/library speaker assignment: 10 points
- 5) Extra Credit: “Find the source.” Extra credit can be completed from the start of the term through 4/16/23. This extra credit opportunity asks students to identify the primary source material from a journalism source (e.g., online magazine article). Students are then

asked to read the original source and write a brief commentary (1 page) on if they believe the primary source was accurately represented or not. Students are able to complete this assignment up to two times for points. There can be up to two submissions (up to 10 points each) for a total of up to 20 points.

Safe Assign

This class uses SafeAssign. For more information, please review [SafeAssign Help for Students](#) | [Blackboard Help](#). I recommend removing any personally identifying information before submitting work to SafeAssign.

Late Policy

All assignments and exams are expected to be completed by the due date. Many of the assignments “build” onto each other and deadlines support successful progress. Late papers can be subject to receiving a zero or 5 point per day reduction in points. I recognize there may be special circumstances and students should reach out to me as soon as possible if this is the case. That said it should not be expected that extensions or late assignments will be accepted and final determination will be made by instructor.

Course Grades

Your final grade for the course will be based upon exams and the assignments above. Exams are not cumulative.

1. Exam 1 (20%) 100 points
2. Exam 2 (20%) 100 points
3. Exam 3 (20%) 100 points
4. Mini Research Proposal
 - a. Part 1: Pick a topic assignment: (2%) 10 points, Due 2/4
 - b. Part 2: Research Proposal Sources: (2%) 10 points, Due 2/11
 - c. Part 3: Research Outline: (3%) 15 points, Due 3/25
 - d. Part 4: Draft 1 of Proposal (3%) 15 points, Due 4/1
 - e. Part 5: Draft 2 of Proposal (3%) 15 points, Due 4/8
 - i. Draft 2 is optional. IF you elect not to complete draft, your “score” points for “Draft 2” will be the same as your points for Draft 1.
 - f. Part 6: Final Proposal (9%) 45 points, Due 4/15
5. Brief Assignments
 - a. IRB/Ethics paper: (2%) 10 points, Due 4/22
 - b. Paraphrasing assignment: (2%) 10 points, Due 1/28
 - c. PsychInfo Search/library speaker assignment: (2%) 10 points, Due 1/21
6. Article critiques (4% each; 12% total) 20 points each; 60 points total
 - a. Article Critique 1, Due 2/25
 - b. Article Critique 2, Due 3/4
 - c. Article Critique 3, Due 3/25
7. Extra Credit 20 points possible, Due 4/16

Grading Policy

93 – 100	A
90 – 92	A-
87 – 89	B+
83 – 86	B
80 – 82	B-
77 – 79	C+
73 – 76	C
70 – 72	C-
65 – 69	D+
60 – 64	D
0 – 59	F

Final grades at the .5 mark (e.g., 85.5) will be rounded up.

Absences/Attendance:

It is strongly recommend that you attend all classes, take notes, and participate in class. While I will not formally take attendance for grades, the classroom experience will cover important topics and provide for additional learning opportunities. You are responsible for all material covered in class. If you miss a lecture, I recommend you to obtain notes from at least two different classmates. In case of illness and/or special circumstances (e.g. COVID), please talk to me. I want everyone to be successful in the class and will support you to help that happen, but I do expect regular attendance in class and participation with course material throughout the semester.

Participation

Please come to all classes ready to engage as an active learner in class discussions and activities. Please treat everyone in the classroom with respect. Please limit electronic devices to classroom needs unless absolutely necessary.

Course Communication

1. Communication regarding the course will occur through Blackboard and GVSU email or in class. You are expected to **regularly (i.e., every day)** check your GVSU email and Blackboard account for important course materials, information, and updates.
2. My policy is to try to respond to your email within **2 business days**, which means within 48 hours on weekdays and by 5pm on Tuesday if you send me an email on Friday or over the weekend. I may not check or respond to emails after 5pm or on weekends.
3. For questions best answered face to face, I will ask you to attend my office hours or set up an alternate time to meet with me.
4. Please draft emails to me carefully and considerately, keeping in mind that you are speaking with an instructor and not a friend and therefore should be

professional in your communication. I will also respond professionally, as I believe these exchanges are important for professional development.

5. In the spaces below, please take down two students' contact information in your class. Please contact the other students FIRST if you have a question about the course (e.g., finding a particular assignment, not understanding a specific direction, venting about class, etc.). If they can't answer your question, then reach out to me.

Name: _____ Email/Phone:

Name: _____ Email/Phone:

6. If conflicts for the class occur, please communicate with this me as soon as possible.

Exams

1. Please plan to take exams as scheduled in the syllabus. In the event of extreme circumstances that you prevent you from attending you should contact the instructor as soon as possible. Make-up exams final determination will be made by your instructor.
2. The exams are generally not cumulative and may be based on information from the text and any information covered in the classroom.
3. Efforts will be made to have time in class before the exam to review. I also welcome any questions from students to assist in preparing for the exam.

Registrar - Last Day to Drop

Last day to drop with a "W" is March 10th, 2023 by 5:00 p.m. through myBanner. With additional approval by April 21st before 5 p.m. Students can find additional information in academic policies of GVSU.

Changes to the Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to change the contents of this syllabus. Students will be given notice of relevant changes in class, through a Blackboard announcement, or through GVSU e-mail.

PSY 300 Course Schedule

Date	Week	Lecture Topic/Activity/Assignments	Chapter
1/9-1/14	1	Introduction Review of syllabus Chapter 1: Psychology is a way of thinking Guest Speaker: Library Resources Basics of APA style	1
1/15-1/21	2	No class Monday 1/16 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day Chapter 2: Sources of Information: Why research is best and how to find it PsychInfo Search Assignment Due 1/21 In Class Paraphrasing Exercise	2
1/22-1/28	3	Chapter 3: Three Claims, Four Validities: Interrogation tools for consumers of research Writing Paragraphs-video Integrating Research-video Paraphrasing assignment due 1/28	3
1/29-2/4	4	Chapter 5: Identifying Good Measurement Part 1 Research Proposal: Pick a topic due 2/4	5
2/5-2/11	5	Chapter 10: Introduction to simple experiments In-class discussion time for research proposals Part 2 Research Proposal: Sources due 2/11 Exam 1 (chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 10)-2/8	10
2/12-2/18	6	Chapter 11: More on experiments: Confounding and obscuring variables Critique Assignments Discussion	11
2/19-2/25	7	Chapter 12: Experiments with more than one independent variable Critique 1 due 2/25	12
2/26-3/4	8	Chapter 13: Quasi-experiments and small-N designs Critique 2 Due 3/4	13
3/5-3/11	9	Spring Break	
3/12-3/18	10	Chapter 8: Bivariate correlational	8

		research	
3/19-3/25	11	Chapter 9: Multivariate correlational research Critique 3 due 3/25 Chapters 8, 9, 12, 13 wrap-up Exam 2 review Exam 2 (chapters 8, 9, 11, 12, 13)- scheduled 3/22 Part 3: Research Proposal Outline Due 3/25 In class discussion time for research proposals	9
3/26-4/1	12	Chapter 6: Surveys and observations: Describing what people do Part 4: Proposal Draft 1 Due: 4/1 In class discussion time for research proposals	6
4/2-4/8	13	Chapter 7: Sampling: Estimating the frequency of behaviors and beliefs Part 5: Proposal Draft 2 Due: 4/8	7
4/9-4/15	14	Chapter 14: Replication, transparency, and real-world importance Part 6: Final Proposal due: 4/15	14
4/16-4/22	15	Chapter 4: Ethical guidelines for psychology research IRB/Ethics paper 4/22	4
4/23-4/29	Exam Week	Final Exam scheduled Section 07 Final Exam: Monday, April 24 th 2022, 2:00 p.m.-3:50 p.m. Section 05 Final Exam: Wednesday, April 26 th , 4:00 p.m.-5:50 p.m. Section 02 Final Exam: Monday, April 24 th 6:00 p.m.-7:50 p.m. (Chapters 6, 7, 14, 4)	

Please consider time frames for chapter coverage within each “test section.”

Copyright Information

Please follow all rules regarding any copyrighted material used in the class.

SWS Requirements

“The University requires that all students take two Supplemental Writing Skills (SWS) courses. These courses, which require Writing 150 with a grade of C (not C-) or better as a prerequisite, are designated SWS in each semester's course schedule. Please read the schedule carefully, because not all sections of a multi-section course are necessarily SWS sections. Those that are not designated SWS do not result in SWS credit. It is recommended—though not required—to take one SWS course to fulfill a requirement in one's major and one SWS course to fulfill a requirement outside of one's major. Transfer students with a MACRAO associate's degree must take one SWS course (normally in the student's major).

Courses that have received the SWS designation are not merely courses that require written assignments; they adhere to certain guidelines. At least four (4) hours of class time are devoted to writing instruction. Students turn in a total of at least 3,000 words of writing during the term. Part of that total may be essay exams, but a substantial amount of it is made up of finished essays, reports, or research papers. The instructor works with the students on revising drafts of their papers, rather than simply grading the finished piece of writing. For a three-credit course, at least one-third of the final grade is based upon the writing assignments.

Students must pass the writing skills courses (Writing 150 and the two SWS courses) with a grade of C or better in each course. Students may receive SWS credit for courses taken as Credit/No-Credit if the student passes the class with a "Credit" grade. Students with a grade of C- or lower in an SWS course may repeat another SWS section of the course or pass another SWS course with a grade of C or better before graduation. Transfer students with the MACRAO associate's degree must pass one SWS course with a grade of C or better.”

Student Resources

GVSU has a number of student resources available. Including, but not limited to academic support and wellness. <https://www.gvsu.edu/studentaffairs/student-resources-29.htm>

University Policies

"This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <https://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>." (See *University Policies* SG 3.04.C for more details.). Some of the syllabus information has been taken from GVSU resources.

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.

Standards of conduct (gvsu.edu/studentcode) are established in order to generate an atmosphere in which the goals and objectives of the institution can flourish. Please review.

Academic Integrity

Integrity of Scholarship and Grades

Truth and honesty: 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:

1. No student shall knowingly, without authorization, procure, provide, or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment.
2. No student shall, without authorization, complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
3. No student shall, without authorization, allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person.
4. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own.
5. 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.

Such activity may result in failure of a specific assignment, an entire course, or, if flagrant, dismissal from Grand Valley. For further information see the Student Code.

Campus Emergencies

In case of fire, immediately proceed to the nearest exit during a fire alarm. Use a staircase, not an elevator. To sign up for campus emergency alerts and to access more information, please visit the [GVSU Emergency website](https://www.gvsu.edu/emergency) (gvsu.edu/emergency).

Financial Hardships

GVSU remains committed to supporting you because of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and is here to help you in times of financial need, including technology requirements. Financial hardship funds are available to help student's meet their basic needs, and help cover educational costs (such as housing, food, and textbooks) that a student could not otherwise pay out of pocket. Please visit the GVSU [Special Circumstance & Financial Hardship Requests](#) webpage for more information.

Library

Each department has a designated librarian to support your research needs. Christine Malmsten is our liaison librarian for Psychology. Her email is malmstec@gvsu.edu and she is available for online consultations via Google Meet, Zoom, or email. You can also check out the [Psychology Subject Guide](#), which is a great place to start your library research.

A university link to COVID relevant information

<https://www.gvsu.edu/lakerstogether/>

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 Questions? Email psychfriends@gvsu.edu

Acknowledgements:

A special thanks to Dr. Katie Corker for her generosity of some of the course materials and guidance for the course development.