

PSY 300: Research Methods - Winter 2023

Wolfgang Friedlmeier

Section 18: MAK A2165
MWF 9 to 10

Section 17: MAK A2165
MWF 10 to 11

Instructor

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Office hours:
MWF 2 to 3 pm
and by appointment
Meeting ID: 406 828 8089
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Textbook

Stangor, C. (2015, 5th ed.). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. ISBN: 9781285077024
Available as Digital Course Materials (GVSU Save)

Articles

Readings of all research articles will be announced and the articles are available under eReserve in Bb.

Cheng, C.Y., Lee, F., & Benet-Martinez, V. (2006). Assimilation and contrast effects in cultural frame switching. Bicultural identity and valence of cultural cues. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 37, 742–760.

APA Style

American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (Seventh Edition). Washington, D.C.: APA.

Course Overview

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 (1) be able to understand and to summarize the essence of research articles, (2) you should be able to write clearly and cogently in a scientific way, and (3) you should have an understanding of how to design an empirical study. A good understanding of basic statistics is a must as some statistical procedures will be presented that afford such basic knowledge.

The course is organized in a way that you get a broad overview about the whole research process in the beginning. Across the semester we will then go through the different steps of the research process in a more detailed way in order to deepen the understanding of each relevant topic. I will guide you through these topics and make sure to facilitate the learning process as I really aim for students' success in this class

Beside the textbook you are asked to read and work with several research articles in an intensive way.

Learning Outcomes

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 successful completion of this course students will become more critical consumers of scientific information. writing clearly and cogently in a scientific way. identify the strengths and weaknesses of your own writing processes,

More specifically, the course has specific learning outcomes:

- (1) Knowing about biases how scientific information is presented through media
- (2) Recognizing criteria to identify predatory journals and articles
- (3) Being able to carry out systematic literature search for scientific information
- (4) Summarize the essence of an introduction of a research article (hypotheses, definitions of concepts, arguments)
- (5) Understanding the concept of operational definition as central to empirical research
- (6) Being able to evaluate the quality of scientific measures (reliability and validity)
- (7) Being able to recognize research designs and the results that refer to hypothesis testing
- (8) Critically evaluate articles along internal and external validity

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

SWS Course

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 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.*

The writing instruction will focus on APA style (running head, titles and subtitles, citation and quotation, references, tables, figures, appendix). Writing instructions will be taught for at least four hours. You will be taught to locate peer-reviewed scholarship in a systematic way.

The written assignments serve the purpose to train and test your writing skills. You will get feedback to all written assignments and you will be able to submit revisions for one of the assignments. The word count for each assignment is mentioned below.

Prerequisites

WRT150, PSY 101 and STA 215

This course is designated SWS. Completion of WRT 150 with a grade of C or better (not C-) is the prerequisite. SWS credit will not be given to the student who completes this course before completing the prerequisite.

General Information

Class Attendance is obligatory. It is expected that you inform the instructor about your absence in class in time by email. After more than three absences you need to bring written prove for your reasons of being not in class. If this is not the case, one point of class contribution will be subtracted for each absence.

Withdrawal. The deadline for withdrawing from the class is **March 10, 5 p.m.**, through one of the Student Assistance Centers.

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 and Disability Support Services (DSS) 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, please make me aware so that the university and I can develop a plan to assist you. It is the *student's responsibility* to request assistance from DSS.

Academic Integrity. Students will do original work and will not take or receive the efforts of another person on any test or assignment, use unauthorized resources on quizzes or tests, plagiarize, or give/sell other students papers or assignments *not authorized by the instructor*. **You are responsible** for making yourself aware of and for understanding the policies and procedures that pertain to academic integrity. To that end, be sure to familiarize yourself with the GVSU Student Code [Section 223.01] related to academic integrity. **Furthermore, be sure to reference sources at all times.** If you are uncertain about such an issue prior to submission of an assignment, project, or test, please contact the instructor so we can eliminate that uncertainty. **Plagiarism or cheating will result in an F for the course.**

Support for Writing. Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors

Web: <https://www.gvsu.edu/wc/>

Contact: virtualwc@mail.gvsu.edu (616-331-2922)

Location: Lake Ontario Hall, Room 120 (Allendale)

Online: Virtual writing support is available during all hours of operation for both drop-ins or scheduled appointments. Email support is also available (provided within 72 hours of submission).

The Fred Meijer Center for Writing provides writing assistance to all GVSU students, on any type of project and at any stage of the process. The Writing Center employs both undergraduate and graduate writing consultants from across majors and disciplines. Consultants are trained to help writers brainstorm, organize, or develop their ideas; and they can help writers edit their own work and document sources correctly. The Center's services are free and students can work with an idea, assignment prompt, or draft of their paper. Students can virtually drop in or schedule an appointment; both appointments and drop-ins are available during all service hours: (Mon-Thurs 9am-11pm, Friday 9am-3pm, Sunday 2pm-11pm). Due to COVID-19, all writing center services are available online. Limited in-person consulting may be available; please check the Writing Center's website for up-to-date information. All service options (drop-ins, appointments, email support) can be accessed via the Writing Center's online scheduling system - Book It. We look forward to working with you!

Research Assistance. Hazel McClure is the psychology librarian and she can provide you with individualized research assistance for all of your classes. Her office is in the Mary Idema Pew Library on the Allendale campus and she can be reached at mcclureh@gvsu.edu or 331-7730. 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.

Assignments

You will be required to fulfill eight written assignments (see below). Some of the written assignments have to follow APA styles. Detailed information about each assignment and related files will be provided on Bb with deadlines. Feel free to ask questions when you are not sure how to proceed on a task. All assignments are turned in by assignment manager through Blackboard. More than half of the final grade in the course is based on writing assignments.

Assignment 1: Science and Media (20 points)

Task: Write some reasons why and how scientific knowledge may be distorted by the media based on the video by John Oliver.

Assignment 2: Criteria of Predatory Journals (20 points)

Task: Look for three predatory open access journals <https://beallslist.net/> <https://beallslist.weebly.com/> and report how you can identify that they are predatory (give at least three criteria for each journal).

Assignment 3: Hypotheses (20 points)

Task: Read the introduction (up to Method section) of the article by Cheng, Lee and Benet-Martinez (2006). Write down the hypotheses and elaborate the arguments and evidence that allow the researchers deriving these hypotheses. Include definitions of the main concepts that form the hypotheses. You find the article under electronic Course Reserve (see eReserve in Bb).

Assignment 4: Literature search (20 points)

Task: Search for 10 relevant journal articles that focus on a research topic of your choice in a systematic way in PsycInfo (a training will be provided).

Assignment 5: Operational Definition (20 points)

Task: Identify the independent and dependent variables; describe the exact operational definitions of all variables that were assessed (see attached file).

Assignment 6: Reliability and Validity (20 points)

Task: Report the reliability and validity of the variables and measures in the article by Cheng et al. (2006). Draw some conclusions regarding the strength how much we can be sure that the measures are reliable and assess the concepts of interest.

Assignment 7: Hypotheses Testing (20 points)

Task: Report for the Cheng et al. (2006) article, how the researchers tested the hypotheses and whether the hypotheses were confirmed.

Assignment 8: Critical Analysis of Research Articles (20 points)

Task: Read each article intensively. Identify and discuss critical points.

Quizzes

There will be short online multiple choice quizzes for each chapter with five questions. The quiz will test the content of the related chapter in the textbook. You will have about two days after the announcement to answer and submit the questions. The answer time will be limited to 10 minutes.

If you do not participate, you have to bring a written confirmation by the head of the department or by a physician. If you do not bring any document, 0 points will be in your record for the respective quiz.

Exams

There will be two exams during the course of the semester. Each exam is comprised of multiple choice questions.

The midterm exam will be on **Wednesday, February 22**

The final exams will be on

Wednesday, April 26, from 8 to 9:50 am (Section 18)

Monday, April 24, from 10 to 11:50 am (Section 17).

If you do not participate, you have to bring a written confirmation by the head of the department or by a physician. 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.

Grade Distribution

A	94 - 100%	A-	90 - 94%	B-	80 - 83%
B+	87 - 90%	B	83 - 87%	C-	70 - 73%
C+	77 - 80%	C	73 - 77%		
D+	64 - 70%	D	60 - 64%		
F	60% and lower				

Current (Preliminary) Deadlines for Assignments and Quizzes

Assignments are due on Thursdays

AS1 – January 19

AS2 – January 26

AS3 – February 2

AS4 – February 9

AS5 – February 16

AS6 – March 2

AS7 – April 6

AS8 – starts at April 14

Quizzes start Wednesdays and are due on Wednesdays

Quiz 1 – January 25

Quiz 2 – February 1

Quiz 3 – February 8

Quiz 4 – February 15

Quiz 5 – February 22

Quiz 6 – March 3

Quiz 7 – March 15

Quiz 8 – March 22

Quiz 9 – March 29

Quiz 10 – March 29

Quiz 11 – April 5

Quiz 12 – April 12

Quiz 13 – April 19

IMPORTANT: Due dates can change. Please refer primarily to the due dates given with the assignments and quizzes during the semester.

Evaluation and Grading

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

Assignment 1: Science and Media <i>Word count: 400-500</i>	20 points	6.25%
Assignment 2: Criteria of Predatory Journals <i>Word count: 500-700</i>	20 points	6.25%
Assignment 3: Hypotheses <i>Word count: 600 to 800</i>	20 points	6.25%
Assignment 4: PsycInfo Search <i>Word count: 700 to 900</i>	20 points	6.25%
Assignment 5: Operational Definition <i>Word count: 400 to 600</i>	20 points	6.25%

Assignment 6: Reliability and Validity of measures	20 points	6.25%
<i>Word count: 400-600</i>		
Assignment 7: Hypotheses Testing	20 points	6.25%
<i>Word count: 500-700</i>		
Assignment 8: Critical Analysis of Research Articles	30 points	9.38%
<i>Word count: 400 to 500 per paper</i>		
Quizzes	50 points	15.6%
Midterm Exam	50 points	15.6%
Final Exam	50 points	15.6%

Total **320 points**

Note: This is a preliminary list of tasks and assignments that may still be subjected to change.