

PSY 400 – Advanced Research Methods in Psychology
Spring 2021

Section 02: M 12:00pm-3:20pm Online, W “offline/asynchronous”

Instructor: Dr. Christopher A. Kurby
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Office Hours: MW 11:00am to 12:00pm or by appointment

Required text: Cozby, P. C. (2008). *Methods in Behavioral Research*. (10th ed.). McGraw Hill ISBN-13: 9780073531816

***Follow this link for useful supplemental information for this book:
<http://methods.fullerton.edu/>***

Recommended texts (but not required):

American Psychological Association (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th Ed.). Washington, D. C.: APA.

Stanovich, K.E. (2010). *How to think straight about Psychology*. (9th ed.). Allyn & Bacon, Inc. ISBN-13: 9780205685905.

Course Description and Objectives: Experimental and survey methods in psychology. Topics covered include philosophy of science; theory development; measurement; reliability and validity of methods; experimental, quasi-experimental, survey, and qualitative research designs; biases in experimentation; univariate and multivariate data analysis; and research ethics.

Students who complete the course should be able to:

- Critically evaluate research studies
- Conduct efficient literature searches
- Understand the different types of research design and to appropriately employ them
- Design an experimental study
- Interpret data
- Communicate research results effectively
- Know how to conduct ethical research
- Do good science

Course format: This course will be an online course. We will meet in a “synchronous” fashion on Mondays, and the rest of the class will be done in an “asynchronous” fashion. On “synchronous” days, we will meet as a class together during regular class time (noon-3:20pm), using Blackboard Collaborate Ultra, a video conferencing tool. You can find the link by going to our class’ Blackboard site, and finding the content area called

“Classroom link.” For the “asynchronous” sections, you will be asked to complete your readings, meet with your groups, and do various worksheets. Overall, the class will be partly lecture-based, and largely dependent on in/out-class exercises and assignments. There is a large group-based component where you will work with a set of fellow students to produce a psychological research project. We will also spend time on writing, critical evaluation of research, data management and analysis. The course will be heavy on writing and reading from outside of the textbook, and we will also have some lab-based classes about statistics and the use of SPSS. Some of the extra reading will be listed on the syllabus and some will be announced in class.

Grading and requirements: The list of activities for this class is below. There are a number of individual assignments. Each week we will have low-stakes quizzes designed to help you remember key information from that week. You will receive one point for having completed each quiz. However, each quiz will be self-graded in class so that you can see how you are doing. You will also complete some in-class activities, including experimental design and statistics exercises. There will be a group-based research project. Your group will complete this project in a series of stages across the semester. We will move through the various sections of the project together as a class. Grades for the project will be determined by group performance. However, I reserve the right to grade individually if I see that there are individuals who engage in social loafing. You will rate the performance of your group members after you turn in each assignment. As part of this project, you will each write research paper summaries. Details of these summaries will be discussed during class. The points will break down as follows:

271 pts – Research project: ~51% of total grade

- Topic/Idea list (20 pts)
- Proposal sheet (20 pts)
- Research project abstract and proposal (40 pts)
- Ethics protocol (35 pts)
- Methods and Results (40 pts)
- Group presentation (40 pts)
- Final research project paper (70 pts)
- Weekly group meeting (6 pts)

256 pts – Individual assignments ~ 49% of total grade

- 2 summary sheets (50 pts: 25 pts each)
- “In class” worksheets (110 pts: e.g., Interactions and Analysis)
- ethics training certificate (20 pts)
- Data collection (40 pts)
- 6 low-stakes quizzes (6 pts: 1 pt each)
- Group participation (30 pts)

Grading scale: I will announce the official grading scale during class further in the semester.

Academic Honesty: Violations of the standards of Academic Honesty will be met with severe penalties. Anyone known to be plagiarizing material or copying from another

person's exam will receive a grade of zero on that assignment or exam, and possibly an F in the course. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behavior (online at <http://www.gvsu.edu/studentcode/index.cfm>) and avoid any behavior that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Any offense will be reported to the Chair of the Psychology Department, Dr. Robert Hendersen, who will determine if further action is necessary.

Disability Accommodations: Any student who requires accommodation because of a physical or learning disability must contact Disability Support Services (<http://www.gvsu.edu/dss>) at 616-331-2490 as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to request assistance from DSS. After you have documented your disability, please make an appointment or see me during office hours to discuss your specific needs. Accommodations are always designed to maintain the academic integrity of the course; student with disabilities are held to the same academic standards as all other students. Accordingly, if no additional costs (including staff time) are involved, the instructor will extend such accommodation to anyone who requests them, whether or not the student has a declared disability. If a requested accommodation requires special equipment, space, personnel, staff time, or other resources beyond those normally available to the class, the accommodation will be offered only if the student has gone through the process that begins by declaring the disability with Disability Support Services.

If you have a disability and think you might need assistance evacuating the classroom and/or building in an emergency situation, please make Dr. Kurby aware, so he can develop a plan to assist you.

Late assignments: Some assignments can be handed in late, however, late assignments will lose 25% of the total points earned for that assignment every calendar day they are late (i.e., 4 days late = 100% point loss. Weekend days are *included* in the count.). Assignments are to be "turned in" as described by that particular assignment. Any assignment turned in after that time – even if it is turned in later that day – will be counted as late. Please make sure you that have your assignment completed early enough so that last minute technical errors (e.g., computer malfunction, etc.) do not occur. **Last minute technical errors or equipment failures will not be accepted as an excuse for why an assignment was turned in late.** If a special extenuating circumstance has come up that will cause your assignment to be late, you must speak with me about it as soon as possible after it presents itself.

Good citizenship in group work: After each component of your research project is handed in, I will solicit peer-reviews of your group partners to obtain your peer's evaluations of how well you contributed to your group. The scores from those reviews will be tabulated, and if your score is an outlier (either below or above the threshold) your score on that assignment will be adjusted accordingly. **I also reserve the ability to make changes to group membership at any point if I have evidence of dysfunction that I deem unacceptable or irreconcilable, and/or turn group projects into**

individual ones at my discretion. I reserve the right to grade individually if I see that there are individuals who engage in social loafing.

Emergency closings: If for any reason the university cancels, or if I cancel, class on an exam day (e.g., severe weather), the exam will be moved to the next class meeting.

Electronic devices: Please turn off all cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices with audible signals or alarms during class time.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE & READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Topics	Readings
05/10-05/12	Coarse overview, discuss/describe research project, research summaries, Theory and Prediction (Stanfield & Zwaan review sheet due 05/12)	Cozby Chapters 1, and 2 Stanovich Chapters 1 and 2 Stanfield & Zwaan (2001) Begin reading in area of interest
05/17-05/19	Design and interactions, meet with groups (Idea/Topic list due 05/17, Summary Sheets due 05/19)	Cozby Chapters 9 and 10
05/24-05/26	(Proposal sheet due 05/24, Interaction sheets due 5/26) Research Ethics, Statistical inference and analysis	Cozby Chapters 13 Stanovich Chapters 5, 11
05/31-06/02	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Abstract & Proposal due 05/31 2) Ethics training certificate due 06/02 3) Ethics protocol due 06/04 Statistical inference and analysis Writing methods and results	
06/07-06/09	(Data collection assignment due 06/07/TBD, Analysis exercise/sheets due 06/09) Using SPSS and data management, Data analysis	Are you working on your introductions?
06/14-06/16	Methods and Results due (06/14) Writing, Being a skeptical thinker, Critiques of Psychological Science, Design challenge Group Presentations (06/16)	Stanovich Chapter 7 Cialdini (2009) TBA: Replication Project (I will post this and explain)
Week of 06/21	Final research paper due 06/23	Zwaan, Madden, Yaxley, & Aveyard (2004)