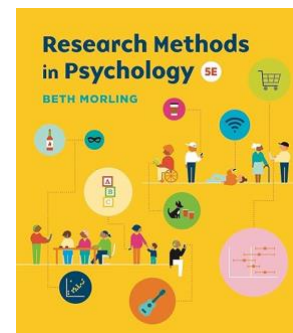


Instructor: Dr. Jacob S. Sawyer
Assistant Professor of Psychology
sawyejac@gvsu.edu
Office location: 2138 Au Sable Hall

Student Hours: Monday/Wednesday: 1-2PM (in-person)
Tuesday/Thursday: 1-2PM (remote, by appointment)
Or by appointment

Course Location:	Section 5: MWF 9:00-9:50AM	ASH 2310
	Section 6: MWF 12:00-12:50PM	ASH 2310
	Section 10: MWF 11:00-11:50AM	MAK D1123

Research Methods in Psychology, 5th edition



This course is designed to examine how social scientists develop hypotheses about human behavior, and how these hypotheses are tested using correlational and experimental methods. Students will gain experience in the core domains of psychological research, including: an overview of ethical guidelines and Institutional Review Board policies, identifying reputable academic sources, study design and data analysis, academic writing using APA style, dissemination of information in small group and class discussions, and peer review.

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 for taking the course.

Objectives of the Course:

- To increase your knowledge of correlational and experimental methods in psychology
- To gain competency in the use of APA style
- To gain basic competencies in academic writing and dissemination of knowledge in the form of individual papers and small group presentations
- To better understand how research can be used to make probabilistic claims about human behavior, and how to identify confounds that might limit the generalizability of research findings.

Email Policy

Students are expected to read their GVSU email and Blackboard site on a daily basis. Important (and time-sensitive) messages about this class and other campus updates could be sent at any time, and email is one of the most common channels for sharing that information.

I will almost always reply to emails or within 24 hours M-F (not including holidays). Please feel free to contact me again if I have not responded to your email during this timeframe, but please note that I will typically respond to emails sent late Friday or over the weekend the following Monday.

Grading Policy

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>
Research Presentation	25
In-Class Activities (3 x 10pts each)	30
Weekly Quizzes	50
Exams (3 x 50pts each)	150
Research Paper	
Introduction Draft	20
Methods Draft	20
Full Proposal	60
Total Points Possible	355

Grading Scale

A 94-100%	A- 91-93%
B+ 88-90%	B 84-87%
B- 81-83%	C+ 78-80%
C 74-77%	C- 71-73%
D+ 68-70%	D 60-67%
F 0-59%	

I will round up all final grades. For instance, a 93.50 would round up to a 94% (A), while a 93.49 would remain an A-. Final grades are based solely on the number of points you earn divided by the number of possible points.

Assignment Descriptions

Research Presentation

Groups will be created the first week of class to complete the presentation, in-class activities, and research paper successfully. Each small group will prepare a presentation on the topic of their choice during the last week of the semester. A grading rubric for the presentation will be provided on Blackboard. Research presentations are in group format, while written work is completed individually.

In-Class Activities

We will complete three graded in-class activities throughout the semester related to primary course topics. You must be in class to earn points for these activities. Points cannot be made up except in cases of pre-approved absences.

Weekly Quizzes

Starting in week 2, we will start the first day of class each week with a brief quiz based off material from the previous week (5 questions worth 1 point each). Each quiz will be available for the first 5 minutes of class and must be completed in class. Your top 10 quiz grades of the semester will count for your final grade. Quizzes can only be excused in advance with approval from me.

Exams

There will be three exams for this class. Each exam may contain anything from the lecture slides, class discussions, class videos, and in-class activities. Exams will include a combination of multiple choice, T/F, and short answer questions. Exams are not quite cumulative, but you will need a solid understanding of all class material to complete each subsequent exam.

Research Paper

This course will teach you to write an extended research paper. We will break the process into parts. I will teach you to locate peer reviewed scholarship on a topic, summarize articles, narrow a topic to a debatable question, paraphrase scholars' viewpoints, introduce and analyze direct quotations, and support your own standpoint. At least 4 hours of class time will be devoted to studying the form and function of research papers, moving from topics to questions, distinguishing between a summary, paraphrase, and quote, organizing support for your own viewpoint, editing for conventional comma placement, conferencing with me, and peer review. Initial drafts of selected sections of the research paper will be due preceding the whole draft deadline (deadlines will be announced). Final papers will be assessed using the [Written Communication Skills](#) rubric and holistic criteria for effective research papers in English.

Other Important Information

Late Assignments

Assignments can be handed in late, however, late assignments will lose 25% of the total points earned for that assignment every day they are late (i.e., 4 days late = 100% point loss). Weekend days are included in the count. Assignments are to be submitted (uploaded to Blackboard) by the end of the day (11:59pm) as stated on the syllabus/assignment. Any assignment turned in after that time – even if it is turned in only one minute later than 11:59pm – 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/prINTER malfunction) do not occur. Last minute technical errors 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.

Make-up Exams

Make-up exams may be allowed in exceptional circumstances (e.g., significant illness, death in the family, etc.) if pre-approved by me. If approved, we will work together to find a date and time to complete the exam.

Extra Credit

There may be opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester. Please note that I will not create additional opportunities for extra credit at the very end of the semester, so you will need to engage with opportunities that are presented throughout the semester. There is a cap of 5 extra credit points. This cap does not include potential bonus points from the exams.

Lecture Slides

Slides presented in class will be available on Blackboard at the end of each class session. These slides will sometimes contain more material than what was covered in class.

Cell phone & Other Electronics

Cell phones should only be used for in-class activities. The use of electronic devices for other activities is distracting to me and to other students. If you are expecting an emergency call, please set your phone on vibrate and leave the room when you are contacted. You may use a laptop to take notes and to complete in-class activities. Instances of distracting electronic use will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Severe Weather/Fire Policy

In the event that GVSU classes are canceled because of severe weather, activities for the canceled class will be converted to an online format, or cancelled, at the direction of the professor. In the case of fire, please proceed to the nearest exit. Do not use elevators. For more information please consult www.gvsu.edu/emergency

Accommodations for Disabilities

Any student who requires accommodation because of a physical or learning disability must contact Disability Support Resources at 616-331-2490 as soon as possible. After you have documented your disability, please make an appointment or see me to discuss your specific needs.

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

Counseling Center

Being a college student can be hard. The [University Counseling Center](#) can be a helpful resource if you find that you are experiencing challenges that interfere with day-to-day functioning. Please note that while I am trained as a counseling psychologist, I am not able to engage in any kind of assistance that resembles therapy or counseling.

Changes to the Syllabus

I reserve 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 email.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty includes the following:

- Plagiarism
- Exchange of information on examinations
- Assistance in the completion of an exam or quiz, writing of essays, or reports

AI Usage

Use of any form of AI is permissible only up to AI Planning (level 2) of [this table](#). AI Planning includes, but is limited to, the following:

AI may be used for pre-task activities such as brainstorming, outlining and initial research. This level focuses on the effective use of AI for planning, synthesis, and ideation, but assessments should emphasize the ability to develop and refine these ideas independently. You may use AI for planning, idea development, and research. Your final submission should show how you have developed and refined these ideas.

AI should not be used in any form to write any portion of an assignment in this class. Unapproved use of AI will be considered an academic integrity violation, which would result in a minimum of a zero on the assignment. Severe infractions may result in failure of the course. All academic integrity violations will be reported to the appropriate sources on campus.

Please keep track of how you are using AI for any tasks in this course. Each writing assignment submission will have a section where you must describe if and how you have used AI to complete the assignment to receive a grade. Failure to complete this section may result in a grade of zero on the assignment. Please note that I might ask you to elaborate verbally on the topics in your writing assignments to assess your knowledge.

Week #	Topics Covered	Required Reading
1	Introduction and research methods overview	Chapter 1
2	Identifying sources of information	Chapter 2
3	Variables and validity	Chapter 3
4	Ethics	Chapter 4
5	Measurement	Chapter 5
6	Writing in Psychology	Assigned on Bb
7	Surveys and Observation	Chapter 6
8	Bivariate Correlational Research	Chapter 8
9	Multivariate Correlational Research	Chapter 9
10	Simple Experiments	Chapter 10
11	Confounds	Chapter 11
12	Multiple Independent Variables	Chapter 12
13	Quasi-Experiments and Small <i>N</i>	Chapter 13
14	Quiz and Project Workday	
15	Presentations	
Exam Week	Final Exam	

- This is a general outline of course topics each week for the semester.
- Some topics will likely take a little longer to cover, while other topics might not take a full week.
- All due dates will be posted on Blackboard.
- <https://www.gvsu.edu/registrar/current-future-academic-calendars-80.htm>