Research Methods in Psychology (PSY 300)
Grand Valley State University
Department of Psychology
Fall 2023

Instructor: Gwenden L. Dueker, Ph.D.
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Office: 2208 ASH
Office Hours: M & F 2-3pm and by appointment

Required Texts:

O'Niel, C. (2016). Weapons of math destruction: How big data increases inequality and threatens our democracy. Crown. New York, New York. USA.

Morling, B. (2020). *Research methods in psychology: evaluating a world of information*. 4th edition. W. W. Norton & Company.

GVSU Catalog Course Description

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. Prerequisites: PSY 101 or HNR 234, and STA 215 or STA 312.

GVSU Course objectives:
By the end of the semester each student will be able to:

1. describe the details of and summarize the essence of research articles
2. write clearly and cogently in a scientific way
3. evaluate strengths and weaknesses of empirical studies consistent with the standards of psychological science.

Dueker Course objectives:
By the end of the semester each student will be able to:

1. understand the scientific method
2. understand the basic concepts of validity in measurement
3. be practiced at determining what research method would be most appropriately used for answering any specific research question
4. understand the ethical principles and obligations associated with research with living organisms
5. **be a critical consumer of Psychological/Scientific information and research presented in the general media and the research literature.**
6. **demonstrate an understanding of how scientific information and public policy can positively impact human outcomes.**

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Respect

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Academic Honesty. Academic honesty and integrity are expected from the instructor and students at all times. Academic dishonesty is defined as an attempt to obtain or to help another student obtain a grade higher than what is honestly earned – this includes getting information about exams or assignments from students in an earlier or previous section of the course. Do not assume that any assignment for this course is a group assignment unless I specifically tell you that it is. Anything you turn in to me, whether a written assignment or

an exam, needs to be your own, individual work. It is your responsibility to properly cite all sources in your written work and to avoid plagiarism. An occurrence of academic dishonesty will result, minimally, in failure of the course and a recommendation for University judicial action. It is every student's responsibility to avoid even the appearance of cheating. For more information about academic honesty please see the GVSU student code. Everything submitted for PSY must be in your own words and your own voice. Please see the AI policy listed at the end of this document.

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

Communication. We will maintain a respectful atmosphere in the classroom for all students (and professors) regardless of age, gender, favorite type of music, ethnicity, sexual orientation, learning ability, or driving skills. By that I mean (a) respectfully attending to the contributions that others make in the class, and, (b) consciously examining your own contributions to ensure that they are respectful to others around you. If you experience a lack of respect at any point during this class, please contact me, and I will work with you to address the problem. Any student who is consistently disrespectful towards the classroom community will be dropped from the course.

E-mail: Please include your name and section number in the subject line so your message is likely to get through my spam filters. If you have emailed me and have not received a reply within 2 days, please try again or talk to me after class! I do not knowingly ignore emails from students.

Electronic devices & Food. All electronic devices should be deactivated during class time so that you and your fellow students can focus on the material with a minimum of distractions. Quiet food and drink are fine except on exam days.

Attendance. Be at class. Be on time. Coming in late is rude to the classroom community. Failure to attend class regularly will negatively affect your grade as missed in-class and group assignments cannot be made up under any circumstances.

Due-Dates. You are responsible for turning in all work by the **start** of class time on the announced due date either via BB or to me (whichever I have specified). If you are submitting an assignment other than to me, you must turn it in to the Psychology Office (room 2224 AuSable Hall) – ask them to mark it with the time and date. Do not put assignments under my office door. *I do not accept assignments via email. Late written assignments will be penalized.*

Grace Day Policy. Because life gets crazy, computers freak out and we all forget thing sometimes, during the semester each student has one Grace Day pass that can be used for a no-questions-asked extension until the next class meeting of the due-date for one written assignment. To use your grace day you must submit a written notification (on paper in class or via email) saying that you are using your grace day. Then, you may submit your assignment in hard copy at the next class meeting with no penalty. This policy holds only for written assignments. If a written assignment is needed for an in-class assignment (e.g. peer editing) the draft can still be turned in late without penalty, but the points for peer editing cannot be earned if your lack of materials makes it so that you cannot participate in the activity. *The grace day may NOT be used for the final written version of the project.* Use your grace day wisely!!!!

Evaluation Procedures/Course Credit

Credit for this course will be based on student performance in these areas:

Course component	%
In-class activities and short writing Assignments	15

Exam 1	15
Exam 2	15
Research Summits	15
Cumulative final exam	15
Project pieces	15
Final project paper & poster	10

Exams: All tests will be challenging in-class examinations covering the readings, lectures, videos, student contributions and any guest presentations. Electronic devices are prohibited on exam days.

In-class/short assignments: In class assignments might range from unannounced quizzes over readings to participation in group discussions or activities and written summaries of classroom activities. Credit for in-class portions of these assignments cannot be made up under any circumstances. If you are not present for the activity you will not be able to earn credit for the in-class portion of the activity. *Grace: I will drop your lowest in-class/short assignment grade from final grade calculations so that if you must unavoidably miss a class your grade is not penalized.*

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+ 67-69	D 63-66	F 62 or lower

* I reserve the right to adjust this scale (downward) if I see the need

Useful things to know

Exam Dates: You are responsible for attending and completing an exam at the time and day for which it is scheduled. Only in cases of extreme illness or family emergency will an exam be given at a time other than that scheduled. Rescheduled exams will be given (or not) at the professor's discretion and will probably be in a format other than the original exam (e.g. oral or essay). If you realize that you will need to request a make-up exam please contact me before the exam. I will *always* require documentation.

Copies: You are required to keep a copy of all individual work that you submit to me.

Readings & Videos: *You are responsible for reading and/or watching the materials assigned for each class period.* Not all of the material will be explicitly discussed during class time, however, these materials have been chosen to prepare you for class and to give you the background information necessary to understand some of the activities planned for the class. You are responsible for the material contained in the readings and videos regardless of whether or not it is specifically covered during class time. Only the chapters from the texts are listed on the syllabus. Supplementary articles and videos etc. will be announced in class.

Blackboard Website: I will post grades, announcements, assignments, and other course information on the course info web site for this class. Make sure that you have access. Contact the help desk if you need assistance. Please check your grades on the Blackboard website often as it is both of our responsibilities to ensure the accuracy of the information. Be sure to keep all papers that are returned to you until the end of the semester and contact me ASAP if you think an error has been made.

<u>Talk to me!!!!!</u> If you need accommodations for either testing or note-taking please let me know and I will work with you and the learning center to set up the necessary services.

Tentative Schedule (Note: This is an approximate schedule – it can and no doubt will change during the course). I will announce any schedule changes in class and you are responsible for tracking such changes.

Week	Topics & Readings	Important Dates
8/28-9/1	Science & Math intro; Morling (M) C1; WMD Intro	
9/4-9/8	WMD C1-2; 3-5	**No class 9/4 Labor Day**
9/11-9/15	WMD 6-7;	
9/18-9/22	WMD8-9 & wrap up;	
9/25-9/29	M C2	**Exam 1**
10/2-10/8	Project Focus week	**Research Summit 1**
10/9-10/13	MC3	
10/16-10/20	M4 & 5	
10/23-10/27	M5 cont.	**No class 10/23 Fall Break**
10/30-11/3	M6-7	
11/6-11/10	M 8-9	**Exam 2**
11/13-11/17	Project Focus week	**Research Summit 2**
11/20-11/24	M 10-12	**No class 11/22 or 24 Thanksgiving break**
11/27-12/01	M 13-14	
12/04-12/08	Project Focus week	
12/11-12/17		**Final Exam period** **11 AM section: Weds. Dec 13 10 – 11:50 am** **1 PM section: Mon. Dec 11, 12-1:50 pm**

GVSU Catalog SWS Description (abridged)

Because the ability to write clearly is a means for critical thinking, exploration of values, and self-discovery—goals of the general education program—the university requires that all students take two Supplemental Writing Skills courses. These courses, which have Writing 150 with a grade of C (not C-) or better as a prerequisite, are designated SWS in each semester's course schedule.

The two SWS courses may not be taken from the same department or school. One must be from outside the student's major unit. The first SWS course, normally part of the general education requirement, must be taken before completing the junior level writing requirement. The second course, normally taken in the student's major and normally at the 300 or 400 level, is taken after completing the junior level writing requirement. 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. 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 or 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. At least four hours of class time are devoted to writing instruction. 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.

Specific SWS course information

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.

How writing will be incorporated into PSY 300.

Writing instruction in this course will focus on:

1. Communicating properly cited and evidence-based inferences about concepts.
2. Communicating clear and meaningful operational definitions of constructs.
3. Communicating clear and testable hypotheses.
4. Communicating understandable interpretations of the results of statistical analyses and scientific studies.

These skills will be practiced through a variety of writing assignments including writing about the results of scientific studies and critiquing other people's writing about science across the semester. The research project will require writing, feedback and revision at every step, with students drafting and revising sections of an (eventual) APA style research report about their own scientific investigation.

University supports for writing:

The Fred Meijer Center for Writing, with locations at the Allendale and Pew/Downtown Grand Rapids campuses, is a peer service 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 an idea, prompt, or draft of your paper along with the assignment sheet 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). Peer support is available for research and speech/presentation through the Knowledge Market, where the Writing Center partners with the Speech Lab and the Peer Research Center. Additional information about the [Knowledge Market](#) and Writing Center services and locations can be found on our (SWS) [website](#).

AI Policy Statement by

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We treat AI-based assistance, such as ChatGPT and Copilot, the same way we treat collaboration with other people: you are welcome to talk about your ideas and work with other people, both inside and outside the class, as well as with AI-based assistants.

However, all work you submit must be your own. You should never include in your assignment anything that was not written directly by you without proper citation (including quotation marks and in-line citation for direct quotes).

Including anything you did not write in your assignment without proper citation will be treated as an academic misconduct case. If you are unsure where the line is between collaborating with AI and copying from AI, we recommend the following:

1. Never hit "Copy" within your conversation with an AI assistant. You can copy your own work into your conversation, but do not copy anything from the conversation back into your assignment. Instead, use your interaction with the AI assistant as a learning experience, then let your assignment reflect your improved understanding.
2. Do not have your assignment and the AI agent open at the same time. Similar to above, use your conversation with the AI as a learning experience, then close the interaction down, open your assignment, and let your assignment reflect your revised knowledge. This includes avoiding using AI directly integrated into your composition environment: just as you should not let a classmate write content directly into your submission, so also avoid using tools that directly add content to your submission.