

<p style="text-align: center;">PSY 300: Research Methods - Spring 2020 Wolfgang Friedlmeier Online (1)</p>

Instructor

Wolfgang Friedlmeier

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Office hours:

M 1 to 2 pm

W 1 to 2 pm

Textbook

Stangor, C. (2015, 5th ed.). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. (available as e-book)

Further Readings

American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (Sixth Edition). Washington, D.C.: APA.

Readings of specific research articles will be announced in class and are available for free under eReserve on Bb.

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. Discussing a specific research article may make the different issues of the research process more concrete. 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.

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

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 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.*

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. I will teach you to summarize the main theoretical ideas and hypotheses of a research article as well as APA style. I will teach you how to write up statistical outcomes into a meaningful result and discussion section. Most of 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.

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 be able to:

- (1) analyze the writing of a journal article: identifying the author's target audience, purpose, tone, context, and the ways the textual form and style achieves its function.
- (2) describe the details of and summarize the essence of such articles.
- (3) demonstrate an effective writing process, i.e., writing clearly and cogently in a scientific way.
- (4) identify the strengths and weaknesses of your own writing processes,
- (5) design an empirical study consistent with the standards of psychological science.

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

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

ONLINE SETTING

This course will be taught online. There are some requirements regarding the course organization:

Class Time. We will set up some regular meeting time through Blackboard Collaborate (synchronous meetings). The virtual class time serves partly for lectures, partly for guiding you through some applications, e.g., SPSS tasks, and partly for discussions and exercises.

SPSS Download

You should download SPSS. You will work on two assignments related to SPSS and we will run some analyses in class. You can find information under <https://www.gvsu.edu/it/how-to-download-and-install-spss-224.htm>. You can choose either SPSS version 22 or 24.

Class Attendance is obligatory.

You should open your camera during class time so that we also have some visual contact. The social distancing already reduces contacts and it is helpful for all course participants when we can see each other. 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 not joining the virtual classroom. Absences will affect your contribution grade.

Withdrawal. The deadline for withdrawing from the class is **June 7, 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. The Fred Meijer Center for Writing is fully online and available to virtually assist you with writing from any of your spring/summer classes. Writing consultants, who are fellow GVSU students, are trained to assist you with all stages of your writing process, from brainstorming to organizing to editing your papers. Students can share their writing via Google Docs with virtualwc@mail.gvsu.edu and work with the next available consultant or schedule an appointment.

Daytime: Monday - Thursday, 10 am - 6 pm ([appointments available](#) between 2 - 4 pm if made 24 hours in advance)

Evening: Monday - Wednesday, 8 pm - 10 pm

Also, Knowledge Market services (Speech Lab/Research Center) are available virtually during daytime service hours and you can speak with a Knowledge Market receptionist via Google Meet: <https://gvsu.edu/library/km/dropin>.

Students can also submit their papers for writing feedback via our email service by filling out a [web form](#). Within 72 hours of submission, a consultant will respond to the draft with embedded comments and general feedback. For up-to-date information about services as well as a variety of resources and links that may be useful, please visit the Writing Center website: <http://www.gvsu.edu/wc/>

Research Assistance. Samantha Minnis 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 minniss@gvsu.edu or 331-2751. 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 five written assignments (see below) including several parts of an APA style research paper during the course of the semester. Some APA papers will be graded twice: you get points based on the first draft and additional points for the revised version. All assignments are turned in by assignment manager through Blackboard. We will devote four hours of class at least to APA style writing instruction. More than half of the final grade in the course is based on writing assignments.

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 **Tuesday, May 25.**

The final exam will be on **Wednesday, June 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+	87 - 90%	B	83 - 87%	B-	80 - 83%
C+	77 - 80%	C	73 - 77%	C-	70 - 73%
D+	64 - 70%	D	60 - 64%		
F	60% and lower				

Evaluation and Grading

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

Assignment 1: Science and Media	10 points	2.5%
<i>Word count: 400-500</i>		
Assignment 2: Criteria of Predatory Journals	20 points	5.0%
<i>Word count: 400-500</i>		
Assignment 3: Hypotheses	20 points	5.0%
<i>Word count: 700 to 800</i>		
Assignment 4: PsycInfo Search	20 points	5.0%
Literature search for a selected topic		
Assignment 5: Operational Definition	20 points	5.0%
List the variables and present detailed operational definitions		

Assignment 6: Reliability test	30 points	7.5%
Test the internal consistency of the scale, and to document the results		
<i>Word count: 800-1000</i>		
Assignment 7: Validity	10 points	2.5%
<i>Word count: 300-400</i>		
Assignment 8: Hypotheses Testing	20 points	5%
<i>Word count: 400-500</i>		
Assignment 9: Results	40 points	10.0%
ANOVA analysis and result documentation		
<i>Word count: 1000-1500</i>		
Assignment 10: Critical Analysis of Research Articles	40 points	10.0%
Evaluation of two research articles		
<i>Word count: 600-800 per paper</i>		
Quizzes	50 points	12.5%
Class contribution	20 points	5.0%
Midterm Exam	50 points	12.5%
Final Exam	50 points	12.5%
Total	400 points	

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