

PSYC 200: RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Fall Semester 2022

PROFESSOR INFORMATION

Name: Mark A. Ferguson, Ph.D.
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Office: SCI D331 (or via Zoom)
Hours: MW 10-1130am or
by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Section: 2
Credits: 3
Meetings/Location: Asynchronous Online
Prerequisite: PSYC 110

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of empirical research methods in psychology. The course begins with an introduction to scientific thinking and the research process. It continues with a detailed examination of the five phases of research—idea, design, measurement, analysis, and communication. The course concludes by considering recent changes in ethical standards and some realities of professional science careers.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After taking this course, you will be able to...

- Explain what it means to think and work as a scientist
- Plan basic empirical studies in psychological science
- Assess the importance of research ideas and studies
- Implement professional standards for communication

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Leary, M. R. (2012). *Introduction to behavioral research methods* (6th ed.). Pearson.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

This course requires access to both a supported computer and a stable internet connection. A webcam would be useful for meeting with the professor. It is not advisable to complete the entire course solely on a mobile device. This would make it difficult to review documents (such as the presenter notes in slides). Thus, you must maintain consistent access to a supported computer in this course. For information about UWSP's computer labs, [please check out this website](#).

This course is administered fully online through [the Canvas website](#). In Canvas, you will review course materials, participate in discussions, and submit assignments. To access Canvas, you will need a web browser or the Canvas Student mobile app for [Apple iOS](#) or [Google Android](#) devices. All options require your UWSP login and password. For Canvas operating system and browser requirements, [please review this website](#). If you would like to learn more about how to use Canvas features (such as quizzes), [please see this website](#). If you need technical support, contact Canvas Support directly by clicking on the Help button in Canvas.

COURSE CALENDAR

Section	Module	Reading(s)	Assignments	Due
Thinking Scientifically	1: Introduction	Leary 1	- Discussion 1 - Homework 1	M 9/12
	2: Hypotheses	<u>Stangor</u> 2	- Discussion 2 - Homework 2	M 9/19
Designing Studies	3: Descriptive and Correlational	<u>Pelham</u> 8	- Discussion 3 - Homework 3	M 9/26
	Focus Week 1	None	- Quiz 1 (Modules 1-3) - Hypothesis & References	M 10/3
	4: Experimental	Leary 9-10	- Discussion 4 - Homework 4	M 10/10
Collecting Data	5: Sampling	Leary 5	- Discussion 5 - Homework 5	M 10/17
	6: Scales	Leary 4	- Discussion 6 - Homework 6	M 10/24
	Focus Week 2	None	- Quiz 2 (Modules 4-6) - Introduction Draft	T 11/1
	7: Reliability	Leary 3	- Discussion 7 - Homework 7	M 11/7
Analyzing Results	8: Variability	Leary 2	- Discussion 8 - Homework 8	M 11/14
	9: Significance	<u>Pelham</u> 12	- Discussion 9 - Homework 9	M 11/21
	Focus Week 3	None	- Quiz 3 (Modules 7-9) - Method Draft	T 11/29
Living Scientifically	10: Communication	Leary 16	- Discussion 10 - Homework 10	M 12/5
	11: Ethics	Leary 15	- Discussion 11 - Homework 11	M 12/12
	12: Conclusion	<u>Silvia</u> Selections	- Discussion 12 - Homework 12	M 12/19
	Finals Week	None	- Quiz 4 (Modules 10-12) - Final Draft	R 12/22

The Pelham, Silvia, and Stangor readings are posted on Canvas. This calendar is subject to revision and any changes will be announced on Canvas or via email.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

Discussions

There will be 12 graded discussion forums in this course. For each forum, you will post at least one question about the module's content (by Fridays at 11:59pm), as well as provide an answer to another student's question (by Mondays at 11:59pm). You are welcome to post more than twice, but there is no extra credit for doing so. You will receive an overall score for your first two posts in a week. Although you are only required to post in nine forums, you are encouraged to post in all 12 (any higher scores will replace lower scores in other forums). Discussions will be worth 20 points each for a total of 180 points (25% of your final grade).

Homeworks

There will be 12 graded homework assignments in this course. For each assignment, you will complete research tasks or solve research problems, as well as answer some related questions. Although you are only required to complete nine homeworks, you are encouraged to complete all 12 (any higher scores will replace lower scores on other homeworks). Homeworks will be worth 20 points each for a total of 180 points (25% of your final grade).

Quizzes

There will be four quizzes in this course. Each quiz will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions and will focus on three modules of material. You will have 40 minutes to complete a quiz and are allowed to take each of them twice—you will receive the higher of your two attempts. All quizzes are drawn randomly from larger item pools. This means that all quiz attempts are unique (even for the same student). Although you are only required to complete three of the quizzes, you are encouraged to complete all four (this will allow you to replace lower scores on other quizzes). Quizzes will be worth 60 points each for a total of 180 points (25% of your final grade).

Project

There will be a research proposal project in this course. A proposal is a detailed plan that asks a novel research question and proposes an empirical study for answering that question. It helps to organize your thinking, as well as to show others that your planned study is important, sound, and feasible. Proposals will be completed in small groups and will include an introduction and method section. There will also be interim deadlines and peer evaluations of group members. The project will be worth a total of 180 points (25% of your final grade).

Bonus

If you CLEARLY make a "good faith effort" to complete ALL 12 discussions, 12 homeworks, and four quizzes, you will receive an extra credit participation bonus. A "good faith effort" refers to making reasonable attempts on ALL assignments, rather than weak ones for the purpose of obtaining this bonus. The bonus is worth 36 points (an extra 5% on top of your final grade).

Please review the course calendar, Canvas assignments tab, and Canvas modules for detailed information and specific due dates for assignments. There is a 24-hour grace period AFTER due dates, which means that late submissions in this window will be accepted WITHOUT penalty. Grades will be posted on Canvas and typically within one week of submission.

PROGRESS WORKSHEET

Discussion	Earned Points	Possible Points
1		20
2		20
3		20
4		20
5		20
6		20
7		20
8		20
9		20
10		20
11		20
12		20
Total		180

(Total excludes three lowest discussions)

Homework	Earned Points	Possible Points
1		20
2		20
3		20
4		20
5		20
6		20
7		20
8		20
9		20
10		20
11		20
12		20
Total		180

(Total excludes three lowest homeworks)

Project	Earned Points	Possible Points
Hypothesis		20
Intro. Draft		40
Method Draft		40
Final Draft		80
Total		180

Quiz	Earned Points	Possible Points
1		60
2		60
3		60
4		60
Total		180

(Total excludes one lowest quiz)

Grand Total		720
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GRADING SCALE

Final Grade	Points	Percent
A	670-720	93-100
A-	648-669	90-92
B+	626-647	87-89
B	598-625	83-86
B-	576-597	80-82
C+	554-575	77-79

Final Grade	Points	Percent
C	526-553	73-76
C-	504-525	70-72
D+	482-503	67-69
D	432-481	60-66
F	0-431	0-59

COURSE POLICIES**Communication**

Our communication in this course will occur through digital methods. If you want to contact me with a private matter (such as your course grades), you can send an email. I generally respond to emails within 48 hours (excluding weekends or holidays). You can also visit in-person office hours or make an appointment (in-person or online). Conversely, if you need to contact me about a public matter (such as asking a question about the project), you can post in the Questions discussion forum on Canvas (see the Course Overview module). This allows everyone to ask questions, answer questions, and review answers.

Disabilities

UWSP is committed to reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire a condition where you need assistance, please contact the Disability Resource Center. [Check out their website](#) for more information.

Extensions

Extensions will generally only be considered for students who cannot complete assignments on time due to academic, athletic, military, or religious obligations, major illnesses, and comparable reasons. Requests for extensions might require documentation, such as letters from coaches or physicians. In most cases, assignments will need to be completed within one week of the initial deadline to receive credit.

Incompletes

Incomplete grades will only be considered for students in exceptional situations, such as serious medical and emergency situations. They are not for students who feel overwhelmed by routine academic or extracurricular commitments. Requests for incompletes must be accompanied by documentation. In most cases, all coursework must be completed within one regular semester (fall or spring) to avoid receiving an automatic F in the course.

Misconduct

The professor takes all academic misconduct (such as cheating and plagiarism) seriously. The minimum penalty for each instance of misconduct will be a zero for the assignment. Additional penalties will be considered under university policy. Please do not put yourself or others through disciplinary hearings. To read about UWSP's policies, check out the [Dean of Students' website](#).

Netiquette

In an online course, a majority of our communication takes place in the discussion forums. Our primary means of communication here is written. The written language has many advantages: more opportunity for reasoned thought, more ability to go in-depth, and more time to think about an issue before posting a comment. Still, written communication also has some disadvantages, such a lack of face-to-face signaling that occurs via body language, intonation, pausing, facial expressions, and gestures. Accordingly, please be aware of the possibility of miscommunication and compose your comments in a positive, supportive, and constructive manner. You can learn more at [this netiquette website](#).

Safety and Reporting

UW-Stevens Point is committed to the promotion of safe, inclusive, and productive campuses—where people from all backgrounds and perspectives can actively and comfortably contribute to our learning communities. Thus, under federal and state laws, as well as university policies, the professor is required to report acts of an offensive or criminal nature that occur inside or outside of class. This includes acts of sexual harassment and assault, bias and hate crimes, illicit drug use, and violence. Disclosure or description of such incidents, past or current, may be reported to the [Dean of Students](#) and local authorities. If you would like to report incidents anonymously, please review the options on the [Dean of Students' website](#).