

RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY



Professor: Dr. Erica Weisgram

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Text: Lewandowski, G.W., Ciarocco, N. J., & Strohmets, D. B. (2019).

Discovering the Scientist Within—Second Edition: Research Methods in Psychology. New York: Worth.

Website: canvas.uwsp.edu

Research Methods Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to provide students with a thorough knowledge of the research methods that are used in the field of psychology and practice in applying this knowledge to sample research studies. In addition, students will get practice in communicating in the field through writing and speaking about research in psychology.

Upon completion of this semester, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe core components and steps of the research process
- Discuss ethics in the field of psychology
- Identify and describe elements of qualitative, observational, correlational, experimental, within-subjects, factorial, and mixed designs
- Apply knowledge about research designs to new research topics
- Identify and describe elements of an APA style research report
- Create an APA style research report on a psychological study

Course Requirements

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|---------------------------------------|----------|
| • Chapter Quizzes: 10 x 10 pts each = | 100 pts. |
| • Exams: 3 x 50pts each = | 150 pts. |
| • Written Assignments = | 75 pts. |
| • Final Paper = | 50 pts. |

Total = 375 pts.

Chapter Quizzes

Chapter quizzes provide an opportunity for students to test their knowledge of the material soon after reading it. They also help students keep up with the readings and allow the opportunity to earn more points in the class (thus placing less weight on exams). These chapter quizzes will take place online on Canvas and consist of 10 questions each. Each student will have **two attempts** to complete each quiz and the highest score will be recorded. Questions are randomly generated for each attempt (and each student) and thus you may not have the same questions in both attempts. There are twelve quizzes available throughout the course; the ten highest scoring quizzes will be recorded. Given the already generous opportunities of having multiple attempts and two “freebies,” students will not have the opportunity to make up quizzes after the deadline has passed. I recommend students take as many quizzes as possible and save one’s “freebies” for any emergencies that may arise (i.e., computer crashes, family emergencies, illness, etc).

Exams

There will be three exams given throughout the semester with the last exam taking place during finals week. All exams will cover material presented in lecture, films, and the textbook. If a student is unable to take the exam on the scheduled date for a University-Approved Reason (with documentation or notice from the Dean of Students office), arrangements may be made *beforehand* to take a make-up the exam at another time. All No Shows (students who do not notify the instructor of an absence before the exam) who do not have documentation of illness or accident will receive a zero on the exam and will not be allowed to take the test at an alternate time. Moreover, students who arrive late to an exam will only be allowed to take it if they arrive before the first student finishes and leaves the room. After that point, requests to take exams will be declined unless they are consistent with the makeup policy. Exams will not be comprehensive. **Final exams will be given on the date scheduled by the Registrar’s office, without exception.**

Written Assignments

One goal of this class is for students to put together an APA style research report on a simple study. To meet this goal, there are various writing assignments that will help students practice writing each part of the paper. These assignments include journal article summaries, an annotated bibliography, a five-fingered paragraph, an introduction and method section (based on a common outline), and a results/discussion section. Many of these assignments will be “rough drafts” for the final paper. **Each writing assignment will be turned in at 11:59pm on Canvas on the night indicated on the syllabus.** Late papers will receive a 10% per day penalty and will not be made up at the end of the term. Descriptions of each assignment will be posted in Canvas one week in advance. Some assignments may be completed or started during class periods.

Final Paper

At the end of the semester, students will turn in an APA style research report of a simple study. This report will contain a title page, abstract, introduction, method section, results section, discussion, reference page, and table/figure. APA style and writing style will be important components of students’ grades. **This writing assignment will be turned in at 11:59pm on Canvas on the night indicated on the syllabus.** Late papers will receive a 10% per day penalty and will not be made up at the end of the term.

Final Course Grades:

Final grades will be determined as follows:

A	93%-100%	C+	77%-79%
A-	90%-92%	C	73%-76%
B+	87%-89%	C-	70%-72%
B	83%-86%	D+	67%-69%
B-	80%-82%	D	60%-66%
		F	<60%

Course Policies

- Students should arrive to class on time with cell phones turned off and in their backpack/bag/pocket. Students found using their phone or having their phone out on their desk will be asked to leave until they are finished.
- Students should read the appropriate chapters in the text before attending class.
- Students should be open-minded to learning new information.
- Students should demonstrate respect and professionalism toward fellow students and the instructor throughout the course.

Course Communication

E-mail will be the official mode of communication for this course. Students should feel free to e-mail me at any point with questions about course content. Students can generally expect a prompt response. (However, e-mails sent past 5pm may not be read until the business next day.) When e-mailing, please put "PSY 200" in the subject line to prevent being sorted into Junk Mail by the e-mail filter.

Withdrawal from Courses

See Registration and Records for more information and dates for withdrawing from courses this term:
<https://www.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/default.aspx>

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty of any form (i.e., cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated. If a student is participating in any dishonest behavior, they will receive a "0" for the assignment or exam. It is important to uphold the academic integrity of this institution. Additional information about the consequences of academic dishonesty can be found here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Misconduct.aspx>. Please consult this website if you have any questions or concerns about academic plagiarism:

<http://library.uwsp.edu/guides/vrd/plagiarism.htm>

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities will be appropriately accommodated. Please see Disability Services (<http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>) for further information and contact me with your form within the first two weeks of class.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, a set of expectations has been developed for both students and professors (see <https://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/rightsCommBillRights.pdf>). *All students are expected to be familiar with and to abide by these expectations.*

Mandatory reporting

Under several federal and state laws, and according to several university guidelines, I am required to report acts of a criminal or offensive nature. This includes acts of sexual harassment and assault, bias and hate crimes, illicit drug use, and acts of violence. Any disclosure or description of these incidents – both current and in the past – may be reported to the Dean of Students office (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>) or the local authorities. Due to recent legislation, if any disclosure of unreported neglect or abuse of a child, elder, or disabled individual is made to a University instructor, he or she is required to report such information to the appropriate administrative or law enforcement officials. This includes instances of sexual assault of an adult.

Use of Electronic Devices

Electronic Devices are not to be used during class time without the consent of the instructor. Any student found distracting others or the instructor with their use of electronic devices will be asked to put said device away or leave the classroom. Students may not photograph, videotape, or audio record the instructor without the express permission of the instructor. To maintain the integrity of in-class exams, the use of electronic devices will not be permitted during exams without prior documented approval from the Disability Services office or other pertinent offices on campus. This includes, but is not limited to, requests to use cellular or wireless network-enabled mobile devices for foreign language translation assistance. Students who are found using these devices will be dismissed and receive a zero for their exams. Other penalties will be considered under the misconduct policy.

Emergency Procedures

In the event of a medical emergency call 911 or use Red Emergency Phone (List Location). Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide Emergency Responders to victim. In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window.). See www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans.aspx for floor plans showing severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings. In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner. Meet at the HEC Center. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals. Active Shooter – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of Emergency Responders. See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at www.uwsp.edu/rmgt for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point

Resources for students:

- Tutoring-Learning Center: <http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/>
--Excellent resource for students who are in need of a little extra assistance.
- Counseling Center: <http://www.uwsp.edu/counseling/Pages/default.aspx>
--Provides assistance for students for a number of issues including personal and academic concerns (including Time Management!)

Attendance

Attendance is expected for this course. As exams include a significant lecture component, it is in students' best interest to attend class. If a student needs to miss classes for an extended period due to personal or medical concerns, they should contact the Dean of Students Office at DOS@uwsp.edu. If a student stops attending class for an extended period, the instructor will report the absence to the Registrar's office.

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
9/4	Welcome!	
9/9	Chapter 1	Quiz 1
9/11	Chapter 1	
9/16	Chapter 2	Quiz 2
9/18	Chapter 2	
9/23	Chapter 3	Quiz 3; Journal Article Summaries (2) DUE
9/25	Chapter 3	
9/30	Chapter 4	Quiz 4; Annotated Bibliography DUE
10/2	Chapter 4	
10/7	Appendix B	High-Five Paragraph DUE
10/9	EXAM 1	EXAM 1
10/14	Chapter 5	Quiz 5
10/16	Chapter 5	
10/21	Chapter 6	Quiz 6
10/23	Chapter 6	Introduction/Method Draft DUE
10/28	Chapter 7	Quiz 7
10/30	Chapter 7	
11/4	Chapter 8	Quiz 8
11/6	Chapter 8	
11/11	Writing for Psychology	
11/13	EXAM 2	EXAM 2
11/18	Chapter 9	Quiz 9
11/20	Chapter 9	Results/Discussion/Table DUE
11/25	Chapter 10	Quiz 10
11/27	Chapter 10	
12/2	Chapter 11	Quiz 11
12/4	Chapter 11	Peer Review DUE
12/9	Chapter 12	Quiz 12
12/11	Chapter 12	FINAL PAPER DUE
12/17 2:45	FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM