



**PSYC 200: Research Method in Psychology**  
**Fall, 2016**  
*T/R 11-12:15PM @ D217*

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**Office Hours:** MW 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM or by appointment

**Required Text and Materials**

Cozby, P. C. & Bates, S. C. (2014). *Methods in behavioral research*. New York, NY: McGraw Hill Education.

**Course Description**

This course is designed to present the fundamentals of conducting psychological research. In the beginning, basic definitions and properties of scientific research will be covered. Then students will learn the specific research methods that are necessary to continue pursuit in psychology. Lastly, this course will focus on how to interpret numerical results and generalize findings.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of this semester, students should know: 1) why research is important in psychology; 2) how to read and interpret scientific findings (e.g., academic articles); 3) how to design research projects to answer specific research questions; and finally 4) how to interpret research results, derive conclusions, and present findings.

**Grading Procedure: Total (100 pts.)**

4 Article Reports	5 x 4
Topic Proposal	5
Literature Review	15
Final Proposal	20
2 Exams	20 x 2
IRB Proposal	1 extra credit

**Letter Grades**

A:	100-94	C+:	79-77
A-:	93-90	C:	76-74
B+:	89-87	C-:	73-70
B:	86-84	D+:	69-67
B-:	80-83	D:	66-60

## Assignments and Assessments

**Article Reports:** Four articles will be assigned for reading and in class discussion. For each of them, students will write a short summary of the article, including: 1) what was the research about; 2) who did the researchers study; 3) how was the research carried out; 4) what did the researchers find/concluded. Please write the summary in APA format (e.g., as a tiny APA style paper, instead of bulletin points). In addition, two questions will be needed from students about the articles in the reports. Each report should be about 1 page long.

**Topic Proposal:** Students will need to think about a potential research topic they are interested in, and write a short proposal. Within the proposal, identify and define the topic, and describe what the student would like to know about it. This should be roughly one page. APA style is required, but no citations are needed.

**Literature Review:** For the interested topic, find a minimum of 5 relevant articles, and summarize each one, including: research question, general methods, and conclusion. Make sure to pay attention to the flow of the paper. This should be between 2 - 3 pages.

**Final Proposal:** The final proposal is a summary of the proposed research protocol. It should first summarize the research topic through the relevant past findings. Then it should declare specific research questions and hypotheses. Finally, it should present the proposed research protocol, including information on target sample group, tools to be used and actual data collection procedures. This paper should be written professionally using APA style formats. The body of this paper should be between 4-6 pages.

**Exams:** The exams for this course will be standard multiple choice exams (40 items). Scantrons will be used.

## Class Policies

**Attendance:** No formal attendance will be recorded for this course. However, it is strongly recommended for students to attend every lecture to receive the full benefit of this course. In addition, absent individuals are expected to obtain lecture notes and information on their own (e.g., from class mates).

**Makeups:** Makeup opportunities for late/missed assignments will only be granted for valid reasons that can be substantiated by students.

**In Class Technology:** No technology is permitted during exams, the only exception is when student has prior approval from the Disability Services office or other pertinent units on campus. Laptops are permitted for note taking purposes during lectures.

**Disability:** In accordance with the University policy, if a student has a documented disability and requires accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, he or she should notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester and make this need known. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through Disability Services (DS: LRC 609, 715-346-3365). To learn

more about DS, go to: <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>. To learn more about the university's policies/procedures, go to: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>

**Professionalism:** The instructor and students in this course will adhere to the University's general Codes of Conduct defined in the University's Community Rights and Responsibilities. The Code of Academic Conduct (Academic Honesty Policy) requires that students do not engage in academic dishonesty. For details, refer to:

- *Community Rights and Responsibilities* (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>)
- *Academic Misconduct Webpage* (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Misconduct.aspx>)

**My Policy:** Be respectful to yourself, your fellow students and your instructor throughout the semester. Disruptive/disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.

### Tentative Schedule

Wks	Dates	Class Topic	Assignments
1	9/6 9/8	Syllabus + Introduction Ch1 – Scientific understanding of behavior	
2	9/13 9/15	Ch2 – Where to Start Library tour	
3	9/20 9/22	APA format: Writing Research Papers Ch3 – Ethics in Behavioral Research	Topic proposal due
4	9/27 9/29	In Class: IRB proposal Ch4 – Fundamental Research Issues	
5	10/4 10/6	Ch4 (variables) Ch5 – Measurement concepts	IRB proposal due
6	10/11 10/13	Review Session 1 Exam 1	
7	10/18 10/20	Ch6 – Observational Methods Article 1	Article 1 report due
8	10/25 10/27	Ch7 – Survey Research Article 2	Article 2 report due
9	11/1 11/3	Ch8 – Experimental Design Article 3	Article 3 report due
10	11/8 11/10	Ch9 – Conducting Experiments Ch10 – Complex Experimental Designs	Proposal lit review due
11	11/15 11/17	Ch11 – Single-case, quasi-Experimental and Developmental Research Article 4	Article 4 report due
12	11/22 11/24	Online Activities Happy Thanksgiving	
13	11/29 12/1	Ch12 – Description and Correlation Ch13 – Statistical Inference	
14	12/6 12/8	Ch14 - Generalization Special topic	Final proposal due
15	12/13 12/15	Reserved Final Review	
Final	12/19	2:45 – 4:45PM	Final proposal return to you

\*The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as deemed necessary and will communicate any changes to the class.