

PSYC 200: RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY
Spring Semester 2018

PROFESSOR

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COURSE

Section: 1
Meetings: MWF 12-12:50pm
Location: SCI D223
Prerequisite: PSYC 110
GEP: CM
Credits: 3

TEXTBOOK AND WEBSITE

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

The Desire2Learn (D2L) website (<http://www.uwsp.edu/d2l/Pages/default.aspx>) will be used to distribute documents, post grades, and so on. You need your UWSP login and password to access the system. For assistance, contact the IT Service Desk (see <http://www.uwsp.edu/infotech/Pages/helpdesk/default.aspx> for more information).

DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of research methods in psychology. The course begins with an introduction to the philosophy of science and process of conducting research. It continues with an in-depth discussion of the stages of the research process: idea, design, measurement, analysis, and communication. The course concludes with a discussion about the importance of being well-versed in research methods.

OBJECTIVES

Course-specific. There are three course-specific learning objectives in this course: 1) gain a deeper appreciation of how the research process actually works, 2) learn how to find and critique previous research studies, and 3) gain experience in summarizing and communicating empirical results. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: 1) summarize the five stages of the research process, 2) locate and critique existing empirical studies, and 3) create and present an empirical poster in a professional forum.

General education. As a Communication in the Major course, there are two general education learning objectives for this course: 1) apply discipline-specific standards of oral and written communication to compose an articulate, grammatically correct, and organized presentation/ piece of writing with properly documented and supported ideas, evidence, and information suitable to the topic, purpose, and audience, and 2) critique their own and others' writing/oral presentations to provide effective and useful feedback to improve their communication.

CALENDAR

Section	Unit	Dates	Reading	Quiz
Thinking Scientifically	1: Introduction	M 1/22, W 1/24, F 1/26	Leary 1	F 1/26
	2: Hypotheses	M 1/29, W 1/31, F 2/2	Dunn 3	F 2/2
Designing Studies	3: Descriptive and Correlational	M 2/5, W 2/7, F 2/9	Pelham 6	F 2/9
	4: Experimental	M 2/19, W 2/21, F 2/23, M 2/26	Leary 9	F 2/23
Measuring Responses	5: Scales	M 3/5, W 3/7, F 3/9	Leary 4	F 3/9
	6: Reliability	M 3/12, W 3/14, F 3/16	Leary 3	F 3/16
Interpreting Findings	7: Variability	M 4/9, W 4/11, F 4/13	Leary 2	F 4/13
	8: Significance	M 4/16, W 4/18, F 4/20	Dunn 8	F 4/20
Living Scientifically	9: Communication	M 4/23, W 4/25, F 4/27	Leary 16	F 4/27
	10: Conclusion	M 5/7, W 5/9, F 5/11	Silvia 1-4	F 5/11

Poster Dates and Deadlines	Exams	Bonus Days
Project Survey: M 1/29 by 9pm	F 2/16, Units 1-3	M 2/12, W 2/14, M 3/19, W 3/21, M 4/30, W 5/2
Reference/Abstract: M 2/26 by 9pm	F 3/23, Units 4-6	
Draft Meetings: M 4/2, W 4/4, F 4/6	F 5/4, Units 7-9	
Rough Draft: M 4/9 by 9pm	Other	
Final Draft: M 5/7 by 9pm	Class will not be held on W 2/28 or F 3/2. Use this time to work on the group project.	
Presentation: T 5/15, 12:30-2:30pm		

The Dunn, Pelham, and Silvia readings are posted on D2L under Content. This calendar is subject to revision. Changes will be announced in class, by email, or on D2L.

ASSESSMENT

Exams. There will be three in-class exams in this course. The exams will consist of 45 multiple choice questions. You will choose the 40 multiple choice questions that you prefer to answer. Each exam will cover three units in the course. Check the calendar for exam dates and material covered. Exams will be worth 300 points or 55% toward your final grade.

Quizzes. There will be 10 online reading quizzes in this course. Each of the quizzes will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions and will focus on one chapter of the course readings. All quizzes will be administered through D2L. You should complete quizzes after reading and studying the material. Quizzes will be available on D2L a week before the due date (Fridays at 9pm, except for exam weeks). Click “Quizzes” on D2L and select the appropriate quiz. You will have 15 minutes to complete a quiz. You are allowed to take a quiz twice and receive the higher of the scores. This helps you to earn a better score on the second try or to have another chance to complete the quiz in the event of a technology failure. Each quiz is drawn randomly from a large pool of items. This means that all quiz attempts (even for the same student) are unique. Since you have two attempts over a week’s time to complete a quiz, makeup requests are not granted unless they fall under the course policy on makeups. Although you are only required to complete 8 of the reading quizzes, I strongly encourage you to complete all 10 of them. Students who opt out of early quizzes are likely to be disappointed if they receive lower scores on later quizzes. Skipped quizzes are missed opportunities to learn the material and improve your performance. Check the course calendar for quiz due dates and material covered.

The quizzes help you to: 1) keep up with readings, 2) prepare for class, 3) practice thinking about the material, 4) identify areas that you have not mastered, and 5) lower the percent of your grade based on exams. Quizzes will be worth 100 points or 18% toward your final grade.

Presentation. There will be a poster presentation in this course. Groups of about three students will select an appropriate journal article from an APA journal, summarize the research in an APA-style poster, and discuss this work in an in-class poster session. Groups will submit a draft and get feedback before the session. Final posters/presentations will be evaluated by the professor and other students during the session. The requirements, rubrics, and a sample poster will be provided on D2L or in a handout. The presentation will be worth 100 points or 18% toward your final grade.

Participation. There will be a number of class participation activities throughout the course. Five of these activities will count for credit toward your final grade. These activities and their content will not be announced in advance. In general, activities will involve a combination of worksheets, group discussion, and/or a brief writing assignment. Activities will be worth 50 points or 9% toward your final grade.

PERFORMANCE

This worksheet will help you to track your performance and compute your final grade.

Assessment	Earned points	Possible points
Quiz 1	_____	12.5
Quiz 2	_____	12.5
Quiz 3	_____	12.5
Quiz 4	_____	12.5
Quiz 5	_____	12.5
Quiz 6	_____	12.5
Quiz 7	_____	12.5
Quiz 8	_____	12.5
Quiz 9	_____	12.5
Quiz 10	_____	12.5

Assessment	Earned points	Possible points
Exam 1	_____	100
Exam 2	_____	100
Exam 3	_____	100
Presentation	_____	100
Participation 1	_____	10
Participation 2	_____	10
Participation 3	_____	10
Participation 4	_____	10
Participation 5	_____	10
Total	_____	550

(Total excludes your 2 lowest quizzes)

Final grades	Points	Percent
A	512-550	93-100
A-	495-511	90-92
B+	479-494	87-89
B	457-478	83-86
B-	440-456	80-82
C+	424-439	77-79

Final grades	Points	Percent
C	402-423	73-76
C-	385-401	70-72
D+	369-384	67-69
D	330-368	60-66
F	0-329	0-59

POLICIES

Assessment. To maintain the integrity of classroom exams, the use of mobile devices will not be permitted during exams without prior documented approval from Disability Services or other pertinent offices on campus. This includes requests to use mobile devices for foreign language translation assistance. Students who are found using devices will be dismissed and receive zeroes on their exams. Other penalties will be considered under the misconduct policy.

Attendance. The professor will not take formal attendance. Nonetheless, consistent attendance is important for performing well in the course. Course discussions will help to clarify the material and your participation will be periodically graded by other students. If you cannot attend class, it would be a good idea to let the professor know as soon as possible.

Communication. Please contact the professor with your questions or concerns related to this course, as well as other academic and career-related issues. Office hours are the most reliable means of contact. The professor holds three office hours per week. If you cannot attend office hours, please schedule an appointment. Email is the next most reliable means of contact. The professor generally respond to emails in two business days (this means that he will not respond on evenings or weekends). To avoid being snagged by filters, type PSYC 200 in the subject line. Emails requiring a lot of discussion will be referred to office hours. Other means of contacting the professor (such as landline calling or stopping by outside of office hours) are unreliable.

Disabilities. UWSP is committed to reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire a condition during the semester where you need assistance, contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall (the library) as soon as possible. DATC can be reached at 715-346-3365 or DATC@uwsp.edu.

Emergencies. In the event of a *medical emergency*, call 911 or use the Red Emergency Phone outside of SCI D230. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to those in need. In the event of a *tornado warning*, proceed to the lowest level interior room without windows. See <http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans.aspx> for floor plans showing the severe weather shelters (such as SCI D279). Avoid wide-span structures (such as gyms, pools, or large classrooms). In the event of a *fire alarm*, evacuate the building in a calm manner and meet on the north side of SCI (outside the HEC). Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals. In the event of an *Active Shooter/Code React*, run/escape, hide, fight. If trapped, hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out, and remain quiet. Call 911 when it is safe to do so. Follow instructions of emergency responders. See UWSP's Emergency Management site at <http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt> for details on emergency response procedures.

Illegalities. Under several federal and state laws, as well as university guidelines, the professor is required to report acts of a criminal or offensive nature that occur in and outside of class. 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, current or in the past, may be reported to the Dean of Students (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>) or local authorities.

Incompletes. Incompletes will only be considered for students in exceptional situations, such as serious medical or emergency situations. They are not for students who feel overwhelmed by routine academic or extracurricular activities. Requests for incompletes must be accompanied by documentation. In most cases, all coursework must be finished within one semester to avoid receiving an F in the course.

Makeups. Makeups assessments will only be considered for students who cannot complete them on time due to academic, athletic, or religious obligations, major illnesses, or comparable reasons. Requests for makeups must be accompanied by documentation, such as letters from coaches, doctors, or spiritual leaders. In most cases, makeups must be completed within a week of the original deadline to avoid receiving a zero for the assessment.

Misconduct. The professor takes instances of misconduct (such as cheating and plagiarism) seriously. The minimum penalty for an instance of misconduct will be a zero on the assessment. Other penalties will be considered under university policy. Please do not put yourself and others through disciplinary proceedings. To read UWSP's policies, go to: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>.

Professionalism. 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 (called the Rights and Responsibilities document) has been developed for students and professors. For more information, go to: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>.