

Grand Valley State University

Psychology 300 (Fall 24: 05): Introduction to Research Methods

2023 Au Sable Hall : 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Professor

Todd Williams
Office: 2313 Au Sable Hall
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Office Hours (Zoom)

Monday at 12:00 - 1:00 p.m
For meetings outside of
these hours, please me with
your availability

<https://gvsu-edu.zoom.us/j/4490093421?pwd=dIA3dHVGTG0yVTloK1gwTmNyVHZnUT09>

Please bring your laptop or tablet to class.

Course Prerequisites: PSY 101, STA 215, and WRT 150. You may not take any of these prerequisite courses concurrently with PSY 300.

Course Description: A general introduction to research methods in psychology. Topics covered include theory development and hypothesis testing; measurement; reliability and validity of methods; experimental, quasi-experimental, and survey research designs; biases in experimentation; inferential and descriptive statistics; and research ethics.

Objectives: 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 [lab report/case study/peer reviewed article]: identifying the author's target audience, purpose, tone, context, and the ways the textual form and style achieves its function. (2) demonstrate an effective scientific writing process. (3) identify the strengths and weaknesses of their own writing processes. (4) design an empirical study consistent with the standards of psychological science.

SWS: 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 Fred Meijer Center for Writing, with locations at the Allendale and Pew/Downtown Grand Rapids campuses, is a peer service available to assist you with

writing for any of your classes. Writing consultants, who are fellow GVSU students, are trained to help you with all stages of your writing process, from brainstorming to organizing to editing your papers. Simply bring an idea, prompt, or draft of your paper along with the assignment sheet to any of the Center's locations. Also, through your Gmail account, you have access to online consultations through Google Docs. The Center's services are free and you can drop in and work with a consultant or make an appointment, either through our website or by calling the Center (616-331-2922). Peer support is available for research and speech/presentation through the Knowledge Market, where the Writing Center partners with the Speech Lab and the Peer Research Center. Additional information about the Knowledge Market and Writing Center services and locations can be found on our website.

Evaluation:

	Description	Weight
Assessment 1 Assessment 2 Assessment 3	Multiple Choice and Short Answer	13.3% each
Assignments	Information Literacy Effective Learning Miscellaneous	10%
Top Hat	Reading Questions / Quizzes	10%
Research Presentation	Presentation Speech Lab Consultation	7% 3%
Research Project I	Literature Review	15%
Research Project II	Project Proposal Writing Center Consultation	10% 5%

This is a tentative grade distribution. Class average will be centered to 75%

Rating	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Percentage Grades
Excellent	A	4.0	90-100%
Excellent	A-	3.7	85-89%
Good	B+	3.3	80-84%
Good	B	3.0	75-79%
Good	B-	2.7	70-74%
Satisfactory	C+	2.3	65-69%
Satisfactory	C	2.0	60-65%
Satisfactory	C-	1.7	55-59%
Poor	D+	1.3	50-54%
Minimal Pass	D	1.0	45-49%
Failure	F	0	0-44%

Absence/Missed Exam/Assignment: Email me a reasonable explanation and the date, for an excused absence. Multiple absences may require documentation from a health professional. In the case of illness, please check in with me within 48 hours of the exam or assignment due date. The weight of the missed exams may be transferred to the final examination.

Student Behavior: (online at <http://www.gvsu.edu/studentcode/index.cfm>) and avoid any behavior which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offense. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense and can result in suspension or expulsion from GVSU. No student shall represent another's substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as their own. Furthermore, no student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has been obtained by the student or which has previously been or is being submitted by the student in another course or program of study at GVSU or elsewhere. All forms of dishonesty are unacceptable at GVSU. Cheating, plagiarism and misrepresentation of facts are serious offenses. Anyone who engages in these practices will receive a grade of zero for the exam or paper in question and no opportunity will be given to replace the grade or redistribute the weights. Any offense will be reported to the Dean of the CLAS who will determine the disciplinary action to be taken.

Accessibility: If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of a learning, physical, or other disability, Please visit Student Accessibility Resources <https://www.gvsu.edu/accessibility/>

Please introduce yourself in person or by email and inform me how I can best support your learning needs. If you would like physical assistance evacuating this classroom in an emergency, please help me develop a plan to assist you.

Student Academic Success Center: Students who require help in developing strategies for better time management, writing, study or examination skills should contact the Advising Resource Centre (200 STU; <https://www.gvsu.edu/sasc/>) for free tutoring sessions.

Psych Friends: Academic support for GVSU students who are either a psychology major/minor or a behavioral neuroscience major. Appointments via Navigate or email psychfriends@gvsu.edu

Speech Lab: The Grand Valley Speech Lab is a peer-to-peer communication center that helps students with all elements of oral presentations (154 Lake Michigan Hall; <https://www.gvsu.edu/speechlab/>)

Technology Requirement: Access to high-speed internet is required to access the text and complete homework assignments

Research Methods in Psychological Science (Freberg & Thompson, 2022) and **Tophat Learning Platform**.

Please visit: <https://tophat.com/students/>
 JOIN CODE: 498035



Lecture slides, readings, homework assignments, videos, popular media and research articles, will be posted in Top Hat. Blackboard will only be used for emergency announcements and grades.

Tentative Schedule

August 27/ 29	
No SLA for Section 15 during this week	
Topic	Reading(s)
Tuesday: Introduction and Syllabus	Syllabus
Thursday: Information Literacy	Assignment
September 3/5	
SLA for Section 15 begins	
Tuesday: Effective Learning	Bjork et al., 2013 Assignment
Thursday: What is Science?	Top Hat: Module 1
September 10/12	
Tuesday: What is Science?	
Thursday: The Scientific Enterprise	Top Hat: Module 2
September 17/19	

Information Literacy Assignment Due September 20 (Submit to Blackboard)	
Tuesday: The Scientific Enterprise	
Thursday: Communicating Science	Top Hat: Module 3
September 24/26	
Effective Learning Assignment Due Sept 26 (Midnight)	
Tuesday: Ethics in Research	Top Hat: Module 4
Thursday: Research Fundamentals	Top Hat: Module 5
October 1/3	
Tuesday: Assessment 1	
Thursday: Research Fundamentals	
October 8/10	
Tuesday: Measurement	Top Hat: Module 6
Thursday: Measurement	
October 15/17	
Tuesday: Observation	Top Hat: Module 7
Thursday: Observation	
Fall Break – October 20-22	
Literature Review Due October 24	
October 24	
Thursday: Surveys	Top Hat Module 8
October 29/31	
Tuesday: Independent Groups	Top Hat Module 9
Thursday: Assessment 2	
November 5/7	
Tuesday: Independent Groups	Module 9
Thursday: Repeated Measures	Module 10

November 12/14	
Tuesday: Complex Experiments	Module 11
Thursday: Complex Experiments	
November 19/21	
Tuesday: Communicating Research	
Thursday: Qualitative Methods	Module 12
November 26	
Thanksgiving Day Recess November 27 - December 1	
Tuesday: Descriptive Statistics	Module 14
December 3/5	
Research Presentations	
Assessment 3	
Tuesday, December 10, 10:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.	
Project Proposal Due December 10, 11:59 p.m.	