Syllabus
Research Methods
Spring 2020

Professor:	Scott Frankowski, Ph.D.	Course #:	PSYC 4703
Office:	118 O'Donohoe	Time:	2PM – 3:30PM TR
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	(please contact me through email)	Hours:	Thur: 3:30PM-4:30PM

Contacting me: Please contact me through email. Please include the class you're emailing me about in the subject. I will try my best to respond within 24 hours M-F. Emails received on Friday or over the weekend will be responded to on Monday. Note that if you miss class, it will be your responsibility to get notes and caught up with someone else in class (i.e. please don't email asking if you "missed anything in class" – you need to get that information from someone in class).

Prerequisites: 12 hours of psychology including PSYC 3303 and 3313. This course assumes an understanding basic psychological concepts, introductory statistics, and writing in APA format.

Description: An introduction to descriptive and experimental designs used in the study of behavior. Course content emphasizes the evaluation of research, developing research questions and hypotheses, research ethics, psychological measurement, basic data analysis, and research report writing.

Course objectives:

1. Students will develop an understanding of different experimental designs including the ability to identify independent and dependent variables, operationally define them, and to control for potential confounds.
2. Students will learn about ethical guidelines in research design including relevant historical violations and subsequent changes in the field to ensure similar violations do not occur (i.e., ethics training [CITI training], IRB review process, etc.).
3. Students will learn about important considerations in research measurements (reliability, validity, sampling techniques, etc.)
4. Students will become familiar with the strengths and limitations associated with different types of research design including the appropriate use of control techniques to improve the quality of research.
5. Students will get hands-on experience working with data in SPSS within our lab component.
6. Students will acquire a working understanding of APA formatting and development of a scientific research proposal idea that adheres to these guidelines, incorporates relevant research from the field, and establishes a sound, quantifiable research hypotheses.
7. Students will become critical consumers of information and learn how to effectively communicate complex concepts through writing and speech.

Required text
Morling, B. (2018). Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of Information (3rd ed.). W.W. Norton & Company: New York, NY. ISBN: 9780393617542

Recommended text
APA Manual, 7th edition.

Course content and activities

CITI Training.

All students in the research methods course will be required to complete CITI Ethics training. This training allows you to conduct human-subjects research. Students who took my Personality course in Fall 2019, or those who completed CITI training through work with other faculty do not need to complete it again. Everyone, however, needs to upload their certificate of completion to D2L. **DUE Friday Jan. 31st.** This is a course requirement and anyone who does not complete it and upload their cert by the deadline may be subject to being dropped from the course.

Article critiques (10% of grade)

Over the course of the semester, you will be assigned four articles to read. For each of these, you will upload a two-page article critique to D2L. These critiques should be no more than 500 words and they must be in APA format. You should include the following:

- The research design
- The sample characteristics
- A sentence or two about the findings
- An idea to address a limitation of the study or a follow-up study based on the authors' findings and their theoretical framework. Note that just saying that you would increase the sample size or collect data from a different sample is pretty weak and will be graded accordingly (i.e. a poor grade)

Exams (50%)

There will be a midterm and a final exam that will mostly be in a multiple-choice format but may also include short answer and/or essay questions.

Data assignments (10%)

There will be a few data assignments over the course of the semester in which you are given a data set and asked to analyze it and write up the results.

Research Projects (25%)

You are given a choice in this class to complete a group research project (3-4 people), or to write an individual (or with *one* other person) project proposal for a research project. If you choose to do a research project, you *must* do it in a group. I.e. individual research projects

won't be allowed because we simply don't have the time to do that in this course. If you opt to write a research proposal, however, you can complete that individually. Part of the grade for the projects is doing a class presentation at the end of the semester.

- All projects, whether group projects, or individual project proposals will follow Open Science guidelines that I will go over in class. You will upload all project materials and register all hypotheses, study design, materials, etc. on the Open Science Framework.

Misc. (5%)

There may be reading quizzes or points assigned to in-class activities or attendance points. If attendance is poor, I will reallocate points from the exams to attendance. Similarly, if I find that people don't read assigned articles, I'll allocate more points to reading quizzes.

Midterm progress:

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account for students who are at risk of not passing the course. Students who are below a C will receive a midterm progress report between weeks 5-8 of the semester. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with me.

Disability:

Please let me know how I can make the course more accessible. In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to Disability Support Services.

Tentative schedule:

Week	Topic/Reading	DUE	Additional Info
1/21-1/24	Chapter 1		Open science lecture, too

1/27 – 1/31	Chapter 10 - Experiments		
2/3 – 2/7	Chapter 10 - Experiments	**Research Proposal Draft Due (2/6)**	
2/10 -2/14	Chapter 6 – Surveys	**IRBs due for group projects**	
2/17 – 2/21	Chapter 7 - Sampling	**Article critique 1 due**	
2/24 – 2/28	Chapter 8 – Correlational research	**Must begin data collection for group projects**	
3/2 – 3/6	Chapter 8 – Correlational research	**Article critique 2 due**	
3/9 – 3/13	Chapter 9 – Multivariate correlational research		
3/16 – 3/20			
3/23 – 3/27	Chapter 9 – Multivariate correlational research	**Article critique 3 due**	
3/30 – 4/3			
4/6 – 4/10	Chapter 12 – multivariate experiments		**NO CLASS 4/9**
4/13 – 4/17	Chapter 12 – multivariate experiments		
4/20 – 4/24	Chapter 13 – Quasi and small N experiments	**Article critique 4 due**	
4/27 – 5/1			
5/4 – 5/8		**Presentations**	
	Finals week		