

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**PSY 3110-001 Research Methods in Psychology**  
**Fall 2020**  
**2:30 – 4:20 pm MW, UH 5150F/5000**

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Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30  
MW 4:30-5:30, R 11-12  
Also, by chance & by appointment

Teaching Assistants: Jack Shuai  
UH 5009  
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Required Text:

Morling, B. (2018). *Research methods in psychology: Evaluating a world of information*. New York, NY: Norton & Company.

Wilson-Doenges, G. (2015). *SPSS for research methods: A basic guide*. New York, NY: Norton & Company.

*Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). (2009). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

All three are available for purchase at the *Student Union Bookstore* or on various online websites. We will also be using: McClelland, G. (1999). *Seeing statistics* ([www.seeingstatistics.com](http://www.seeingstatistics.com)). Duxbury Press. This is an interactive, internet book and is currently available w/o purchasing a site license.

Course Description & Expected Learning Outcomes:

The purpose of this course is quite simple: to give you head-knowledge about and hands-on experience with research methods in psychology. The overall goal is that you leave with an understanding of how to design, analyze, and effectively communicate good research in psychology. More specifically, after taking this course, you should:

- Have a better understanding of and appreciation for the research process

- Be able to synthesize past literature and develop new research ideas
- Be able to design and conduct empirical research in psychology
- Have an increased skeptical attitude and be able to judge the quality of others' research
- Be able to write APA style reports and effectively present your research orally
- Be able to apply basic statistics in social sciences
- Have a better understanding of how to analyze your own research data via a computerized statistical analysis program
- Have more content knowledge about psychology
- Gain improved critical thinking skills not only from the readings and from the instructor, but also through interactions with your colleagues (other students).

#### Attendance:

You are expected to attend class (i.e., attendance is mandatory) and to be an active participant in a research group. Most students find that the more they put into the course, the more they get back in return.

#### Evaluation:

There are no exams in this course. However, we will have regular quizzes, and you will be required to write 2 APA publication-style research papers. In addition, you will be given and expected to complete a number of assignments throughout the semester. These assignments are intended to “exercise” some of the skills that I think are important for you to learn. Because it is not possible to complete all of your experiments and assignments in class, you should expect to devote extra time outside of class.

Final course grades will be determined by applying the following weights to the scores that you receive:

Paper 1	20%	Quizzes	15%
Paper 2	20%	Attendance &	
Oral Presentation	10%	Participation	5%
Assignments	30%		

#### Important Dates:

In addition to the due dates for papers and assignments (which will be announced in class), there are some other dates to keep in kind: M 9/7 and W 11/11. There is no class on these dates.

#### Late Assignments & Papers:

Assignments and papers are due on the due date (in class, unless announced otherwise). Late work will be accepted but with a substantial penalty unless prior arrangements have been made with me and/or the TA. The penalty for all late work is one letter grade for each class session late. If an assignment is due on a Monday, for example, and you turn in the assignment after

class (later that day), you will lose one letter grade. Try to turn everything in! It is better to hand something in late (for a reduced grade) than to not hand it in at all (for a zero).

#### Special Note:

It's important to note that based on the unpredictability of the COVID-19 virus, things can change at any time, so please be patient and understanding as we move throughout the semester. I also ask that you keep me informed of concerns you may have about class, completing coursework/assignments in a timely manner, and/or health concerns related to the virus.

#### Course Withdrawal, Academic Honesty, and Student Behavior:

Please consult the University Catalog for more detail on these policies. There are two things I will highlight though: 1) academic dishonesty (including plagiarism) will not be tolerated, and there will be severe consequences if I see either, and 2) be polite and respect others, even if you disagree with their opinions.

### Tentative Course Schedule (PSY 3110)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Assigned Reading</b>
1	Aug 17 & 19	Intro Sci Method Terminology	Chp 1 & 2
2	Aug 24 & 26	Research Process Oper Defn	Chp 3
3	Aug 31 & Sept 2	Overview of Measurement & Statistics	Chp 5 & Stats Review
4	Sept 9		
5	Sept 14 & 16	Reading & Writing Reports	Presenting Results
6	Sept 21 & 23	Survey Design	Chp 6
7	Sept 28 & 30	Survey Issues	Chp 8
8	Oct 5 & 7		
9	Oct 12 & 14	Regression Analysis	Chp 9 & Reg Reading
10	Oct 19 & 21	Basic Exp Designs Sampling	Chp 7 & 10
11	Oct 26 & 28	Complex Designs & Interactions	Chp 12
12	Nov 2 & 4		
13	Nov 9	Ethics	Chp 4
14	Nov 16 & 18	Parametric/Nonparametric Statistics	
15	Nov 23	Power Quasi Exp Designs (if have time)	Chp 13
16	Mon, Nov 30 (2:45 – 4:45 pm) – Oral Presentations		