

PSY290AB RESEARCH METHODS SYLLABUS

MWF
Class – 11-11:50am
Lab – 10-10:50am
Lab – 12-12:50pm

TTh
Class – 11:30-12:45pm
Lab – 10-11:15am
Lab – 1-2:15pm

Life Sciences Building Room 302 / Glendale Community College

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Office Hours	M-F 9:15-9:50am, M 1-3pm, T 2:15-3:30pm, or by appt.
Psychology Website	http://www.gccaz.edu/psyc/

Required and Recommended Materials

Goodwin, C. J. (2008/2011). *Research in Psychology: Methods and Design, 5th/6th ed.* Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. ISBN: 978-0-471-76383-3 (5th) or 978-0-470-52278-3 (6th). A copy of the Goodwin text is available for 2 hour checkout at the Reserve Desk of the main campus John F. Prince Library Media Center. (Required)

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5. Four copies of the APA Manual are available from the instructor for checkout, and must be returned the next class day. (Strongly Recommended)

Important Course Warnings

Workload: This course is work intensive because it is the *only* opportunity you will have to learn psychological research methods before advancing to upper-division psychology courses, and, potentially, to graduate school. There are weekly quizzes and reading assignments, APA style mastery assignments, and lab assignments. In addition, you will have a group project to coordinate that includes developing and running an experiment, writing a paper based on your experiment, and giving two presentations. If you want to succeed in this class, I recommend you factor in appropriate time to complete the work.

College Level Reading, Writing, and English Skills: Due to the large amount of reading, writing, and speaking required and the many unfamiliar terms you will encounter, I strongly recommend that you have sophomore-level reading, writing, and verbal skills in English.

Course Description

“Planning, execution, analysis, and written reporting of psychological research. Surveys the literature, procedures, and instruments in representative areas of psychological research. Prerequisites: ENG101, ENG107 or equivalent. Prerequisites or Corequisites: PSY230 (or equivalent) with a grade of ‘C’ or better, or permission of instructor” (MCCCD description). This course is an introduction to experimental methods in psychology. The goals of this course are for you to learn how research is planned, carried out, communicated, and critiqued. This course will focus on developing general psychological research skills, including knowledge of experimental design, statistics, report writing, and ethical standards of research. All of you are consumers of research from psychology and other scientific disciplines. As such, a major goal of this course is to develop your capacity for critically evaluating “scientific evidence” that is communicated in journals, magazines, newspapers, and news programs. Mastery of the material covered should enable you to evaluate the adequacy of research findings reported by others, design research studies of your own, collect and analyze data, write APA style research reports, and effectively present information in an oral report.

Official Course Competencies

- List the basic assumptions of science.
- Develop an operationally defined hypothesis.
- Identify and classify research methods (observational, correlational, experimental, or quasi-experimental).
- Identify independent and dependent variables.
- Identify confounding variables (sources of secondary variance).
- Design and analyze a basic research project and communicate the study's results in a scientific report.
- Read and summarize a basic scientific report.
- Critically analyze scientific reports and suggest rival hypotheses (explanation).
- Recognize ethical concerns associated with research.
- Recognize that citizens are continuously consumers of scientific information.

Course Goals and Objectives

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Explain the theoretical foundations and rationale of psychological experimentation, including understanding the conditions necessary for conducting different types of psychological research.
- Evaluate the adequacy of others’ research findings as presented in scientific and popular media sources.
- Understand and follow the ethical demands of research.
- Design an experimental research study, and collect and analyze data.
- Write persuasively, and in APA format, about psychological research.
- Clearly and effectively present your research to others.
- Have enjoyed yourself and learned a lot!

Course Requirements and Late Policies

Official Absence Requirements: Official absences include participation in an official activity of the college, jury duty or subpoenas, the death of an immediate family member, and major religious holidays. For more information, see the GCC Catalog and Handbook. If notification of an official absence is received, assignment late penalties will be waived, and the missed class or lab will not be counted as an absence.

Textbook Quizzes (50 points): You will complete at least 10 Blackboard quizzes as homework, worth 5 points each, to help you prepare for lecture. If you take all 12 quizzes, and/or score higher than 12/15 on any quiz, you will earn extra credit. You are allowed one free make-up on a Blackboard quiz during the week following the official due date. Any additional missed quizzes will count toward your two allowed drops. Additional missed quizzes will earn scores of 0.

APA Style Mastery Assignment (50 points): You will learn APA style by completing 10 multiple-choice quizzes on Blackboard that focus on different sections of the APA Manual. These quizzes are not timed, and you will have multiple opportunities to complete each one. During these quizzes, you will want access to the APA Publication Manual, either your own copy or one of the class copies. You are required to complete each quiz, and earn a total mean percentage of 60% across all quizzes, before submitting the Introduction section, or any later section, of your Research Report.

Individual Quizzes (150 points): In class, you will complete at least 10 ten-item multiple choice quizzes, one following each lecture topic. If you take all 11 quizzes, your lowest quiz score will count as extra credit. In addition to the one allowed drop, you are allowed one quiz pass. The quiz pass means that you may make up one quiz without providing any reason for your absence. It is your responsibility to arrange to make up the quiz within two weeks after you return to class.

Lab Participation (125 points): Lab credit will be earned by positive reviews of your performance by your experimental design project teammates and by successful completion of lab work. Missing lab, arriving late, leaving early, and failing to stay task-focused will result in the loss of lab points. You may be able to make up missed lab points by attending the other lab section and/or completing the missed lab assignment.

Homework (75 points): You will earn homework points for completion of brief assignments during the semester. Homework cannot be turned in late unless you have an official absence, or a legitimate and verifiable reason.

Experimental Design Research Report (200 points): In groups, you will design and conduct an experiment on some psychological phenomena of interest. Individually you will find and outline journal articles on your topic, then write a scientific research report in which you summarize related research on the topic, explain your research methodology, review your results, and discuss the implications of the research. The paper will be due in sections throughout the semester. You have one free pass to turn in one section of your paper late (a late due date will be provided). Additional late papers may receive no credit. In addition, you must adequately complete the body of the research report in order to pass this class. Failure to adequately complete your Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results, or Discussion will result in a 100 point deduction (one letter grade) in your overall course grade.

Experimental Design Slide Presentation (100 points), Poster Presentation (100 points), and Oral Presentation (50 points): You and your group will construct slides that explain your research purpose, design, findings, and implications. The slides will be used as part of a poster presentation in the Student Union during the second-to-last week of class, and during an oral presentation during the last week of class. The poster session will be held during class and/or lab time. Failure to attend the poster session without prior approval will result in a 0 on the assignment. With my permission, you may attend the other class's poster session if you are

unable to attend your class's session. If you miss the poster session due to a last minute illness or emergency, and are excused, you will be able to make up most, but not all, of the assigned points. If you are absent on the day of your group's oral presentation, the presentation will be (1) completed without you with you giving the entire talk yourself the day of the final exam or receiving a 0 on the assignment, or (2) rescheduled for the entire group for the day of the final exam, unless there is time available on a different presentation day. Which of these two options is selected depends on the nature of your absence and the wishes of your group.

Final Exam (100 points): You will analyze and discuss the problems within a research article in order to demonstrate your ability to integrate and apply the learned material. The final exam will not be accepted late.

Extra Credit (maximum 20 points): Throughout the semester you will have the opportunity to earn extra credit by responding to e-mails, completing simple assignments, spending additional time at the poster session, and more. In addition, if you complete all Individual and Blackboard quizzes, the points you earn on your lowest-scoring ones will count as extra credit.

Blackboard Participation and E-mail Usage: You are required to use our Research Methods Blackboard website and read all class messages sent to your Maricopa Google e-mail account because these are the main methods of communication and assignment distribution for the class. Failure to read important information posted on Blackboard or sent through e-mail may negatively affect your class grade.

Please Note: If you know you will be absent from class, hand in your assignment early or e-mail a copy prior to the start of class.

Course Schedule

All due dates can be found on the PSY290 Calendar distributed in class. Any changes to the listed due dates will be announced in class. I will do my best to announce upcoming assignments during class, but it is your responsibility to check your Calendar frequently and know when quizzes and assignments are due.

Grading, Attendance, Withdrawal, and Incomplete Policies

Grading works on a points system. There are 1000 points possible for the course. *Always record your grades on your Grade Record Sheet.* If you want to know where you stand, add up all the points you have earned and divide by the total number possible. It is your responsibility to track your own grade. If you are not doing well, please do not wait until the end of the semester to discuss your situation with me. Make an appointment ASAP so we can get you back on track.

Points Needed	Grade	
900.0 (90%)	A	Excellent
800.0 (80%)	B	Good
700.0 (70%)	C	Satisfactory
600.0 (60%)	D	Unsatisfactory
Below 600.0	F	Failing

Attendance: I record tardiness and attendance during each and every class and lab session. Excessive absences (missing more than 2 weeks of class or lab sessions, operationalized as more than 600 minutes of absence) will result in either a lowered course grade or withdrawal from the class. Because we spend nearly the entire semester working on our group projects and groups cannot function without all of their members, attendance is essential. If at any time your absence

interferes with your group's ability to complete their project, you will be withdrawn with a "withdraw pass" if you are currently passing the class or a "withdraw fail" if you are currently failing. If you miss class or lab, it is your responsibility to contact me and your group members to complete missed work before the next class or lab session.

Ethics Violations: If at any time you jeopardize the integrity of your research project, I reserve the right to withdraw you from the class with a "withdraw fail" grade.

Late Policy: Arriving late to class or lab or leaving before dismissal will result in at least 25 minutes being deducted from your total attendance minutes.

Withdrawals: It is your responsibility to know the procedures for and consequences of withdrawal from this class (i.e., it may affect your financial aid), should you wish to withdraw or should you be withdrawn for excessive absences. Once my signature is required to withdraw, all requests must be submitted to me in writing no later than the last day of class for approval. If you fail to complete the withdrawal process, you will receive the grade you earned in the class even if that grade is an F. Remember, you must withdraw from class and from lab.

Incompletes: If you wish to receive an Incomplete grade and fulfill your course obligations next semester, you must (1) provide evidence of a critical personal emergency or illness occurring no earlier than the last week of class; (2) have completed at least 500 points worth of assignments; and (3) submit your request in writing to me prior to the last day of class for approval, and include in that request a timeline for completion of all remaining assignments.

General Course Policies and Information

PG-13 Policy: By nature, I am a rated-G person. To preserve a friendly and appropriate atmosphere in the classroom, I ask that any language directed toward me or your classmates is no worse than what you would find in a PG-13 movie, unless class material requires otherwise.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will result in a minimum of a 0 for all points within that quiz or assignment category, with the addition of a course grade reduction, or outright course failure, depending on the circumstances. "I did not know what I did was wrong" excuses are not acceptable. You are responsible for understanding what constitutes cheating (*giving* or *receiving* help on an exam or assignment when that help is forbidden) and plagiarism (using another author's words without appropriately referencing him/her). See the GCC Catalog and Handbook for complete definitions. You also are welcome to address any questions or concerns to me.

Cell Phones: Cell phones should be turned off before class begins. If there are special circumstances that require you to leave your cell phone on, please speak with me first, and make every effort to make the ring as least disruptive as possible (e.g., low volume or vibrate). If you text or talk on your cell phone during class or lab, I will confiscate it until the end of class. If it happens more than once, you will give me your cell phone at the beginning of each class or lab, and it will be returned at the end.

Special Needs: Please contact me immediately if you have any special learning needs because of a disability.

Audio/Video Taping: No audio or video tapes may be made of lecture without my consent. Any audio or video tapes made with my consent may be used only for class-related purposes by the student requesting them.

Children and Visitors: Children and visitors are not allowed in the classroom.

Missed Classes: If you miss a class it is your responsibility to get all notes and information from a fellow student. If, after getting the notes, you have any questions regarding the information, please come see me.

Course Documentation: Please keep all notes, papers, etc., associated with this class until you receive your final grade.

Rights and Responsibilities: As a student you should be aware of your rights and responsibilities. Please read "Student Rights/Responsibilities" in the GCC Catalog and Handbook.

First Week Schedule Changes: During the first week of class, students may change sections, or drop or add a class without penalty. If you feel that a class is not right for you, consider making changes during the first week.

Disclaimer: While I make every effort to abide by the information presented here, I reserve the right to modify this syllabus and its course schedule at any time.