

### Course Outline

Welcome to Psychology 74, Research Methodology which attempts to familiarize the student with the scientific approach to studying behavior, although the methods discussed are applicable to many fields of study. The topics to be covered include ;How to develop a research question, Developing a research design, Methods of data collection and measurement, Sampling, Error and variability, Probability, Correlation and Prediction, Descriptive and Inferential Statistics, Ethics, Validity, Reliability, Reading and Writing from a research perspective

Other related topics will include, the role of clinical work as well as theory in research (including threats to validity and ethical considerations) as well as examples of assessment and measurement applications. One of the principal aims of the class is to focus on critical thinking skills and we spend a good deal of time in reviewing and critiquing published research. We will also review certain considerations such as how to read research articles without getting hopelessly lost or frustrated and also how to write. It is recommended that you are enrolled in or have taken English 101 or any equivalent course work.

**The required text for this class is Methods in Behavioral Research 11<sup>th</sup> edition Cozby & Bates**

It is expected that students attend all classes. Excessive absences or tardiness (20-30% of the time) may result in a loss of points which could result in a lower grade or **being dropped**. If you are absent for two (2) classes in a row and do not contact me, I will assume you will no longer be attending class and I may drop you from the course. A portion of class time will be devoted to providing examples using actual research which is both helpful and illustrates certain principles more readily. It is important that I know if you are having difficulty understanding concepts and procedures. Below is our schedule however please understand that there may be changes at times and we may speed up or slow down depending on how the class is proceeding

Week	Topic	Week	Topic	Additional
1 Article 1	Chapters 1-4 Scientific approach Ethics, Parts of a Research Article	9 Quiz 3 3 <sup>rd</sup> Article	Chapters 12-13 Descriptive Statistics, Correlation, Regression	Discuss papers
2	Chapters 4-6 Variables Validity, Reliability ,	10 Discuss paper	Chapter 13 Probability, Levels of significance	
3 Article 1 due Quiz 1	Chapters 7-8 Sampling, Surveys, Experimental Design	11 3 <sup>rd</sup> Article due	Chapters 13-14 Generalizing Results, Replications	
4 2 <sup>nd</sup> Article	Chapters 8-9 Conducting Experiments	12 Quiz 4	Chapter 14 Reviews and Meta-analysis	
5	Chapters 9-10 Complex Experimental Designs	13	Appendix A & B Writing Research & Statistical Tests	
6 Quiz 2	Chapter 11 Single Case Design, Quasi- Exper.Design	14	Appendix B Statistical Tests	
7 2 <sup>nd</sup> Art due	Chapter 11-12 Developmental Research	15	Appendix B & C Statistical Tests and reading statistical tables	
8	Chapter 12 Scales of Measurement	16	- Final	

There will be **four** quizzes (25 points each), **One final exam** (40 Points), **Three** different research and writing exercises (20 points each). Grading is based on points accumulated for all quizzes, tests and papers:

A = 180-200 pts; B=160-180 pts; C= 140-160 pts; D=120-140pts

Required Text Methods in Behavioral Research 11<sup>th</sup> Edition by Cozby and Bates

**All papers are to be typed and given in as a hard copy as no hand written work or e-mailed work will be accepted.** The paper to be reviewed (the first paper) will be given out in class and we will discuss how to interpret with guidelines to writing the critique. The second and third writing assignments will be explained in class

There are no make-ups given for a missed quiz. Please see me regarding any such occurrence. Final grades will be posted and not discussed via telephone or e-mail. I will be in class early, at least ½ hour prior to beginning each class session if you need to discuss any of the above mentioned items. You can also reach me at the following e-mail [camploap@wlac.edu](mailto:camploap@wlac.edu) Office Hours will be ½ hour before class in the assigned classroom

If you have missed a class *please* get the notes from another student and after you have reviewed them if you still have questions I will be go over those questions with you. I do not allow cell phones and pagers to be accessed during class. If you must speak to someone on your cell please leave the class to do so. If you decide to stop attending class it is your responsibility to go through the process of dropping at the Admissions Office. There is a standard of conduct in class and as well as when accessing web sites designed to assist students. The classroom (as well as any websites accessed by students) is a place of mutual respect and although opinions and differing points of view are discussed these views are limited to the professional considerations of the class and related professional issues only. We adhere to a dress code in which clothing with offensive words or comments or other inappropriate reference which is clearly outside the realm of academic standards and is not allowed

**Student Learning Outcomes.** Students will demonstrate

- 1) Knowledge of basic research designs including the use of hypotheses and constructing theories
- 2) Knowledge of the procedures and techniques of descriptive and inferential statistics
- 3) Understanding of experimental and non-experimental designs; how to construct and analyze them
- 4) Ability to critique a research article including appropriateness of design, identifying threats to validity and reliability
- 5) Knowledge of ethical principles and difficulties in both human and animal research
- 6) The ability to critically examine specific topics discussed (with a strong emphasis on current literature)
- 7) Competency and knowledge regarding a specific topic chosen for the paper (and presentation)
- 8) Understanding of how to use the campus library system to conduct research and assist in writing

#### Academic Dishonesty Policy

All students are expected to do their own work. All forms of cheating and plagiarism are strictly forbidden. Students who are determined to have cheated will have their assignments marked 0 for failure. Any such incident may be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs and the Vice-President of Student Services.

Examples of cheating include but are not limited, to the following;

Using unauthorized materials such as notes or “crib” sheets on exams

Copying other student’s exams

Submitting any assigned work that is not the student’s own

Copying other written materials without proper credit to the original author

Downloading from computer networks without citation