

**METHOD AND THEORY IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
**50:830:255 (05)**  
**FALL 2019**

**Instructor:** Dr. Courtenay Cavanaugh

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 10 a.m.-12.p.m. or by appointment

**Office Location and Phone:** 307 Armitage Hall, 856-225-6120

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**Class Meetings & Location:** M & W 12:30-1:50; ATG 109

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:** This course is an overview of research methods in psychology. It will include discussion of the following: use of psychological theories to guide research, hypothesis generation, literature review, measurement, experimental design, analysis, interpretation, replication, peer review, increased methodological sophistication, and quantitative analysis. This course will provide you with the skills to begin to develop, implement, and evaluate a research study.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** This course fulfills General Education requirements for Writing Intensive (WRI) and Physical and Life Sciences (PLS). The corresponding learning objectives for the WRI and PLS requirements are noted below along with the psychology department learning objectives for this course. Students who successfully complete this course should be able to do the following:

- Identify and describe research procedures including their strengths and weaknesses
- Critique psychological research and non-scientific sources of information
- Locate peer-reviewed research articles and understand the information presented in them (WRI)
- Learn to write a research study proposal in psychology (WRI)
- Engage in an iterative writing process that involves submitting a rough draft of a literature review, receiving feedback from the course instructor about your review, and revising your literature review based upon the feedback received from the instructor (WRI)
- Demonstrate a broad understanding of scientific principles and the ways scientists in particular disciplines conduct research (PLS)
- Critically evaluate scientific arguments and understand the limits of scientific knowledge (PLS)
- Communicate scientific ideas clearly and effectively (PLS)

**REQUIRED BOOK:** Cozby, P.C. & Bates, S.C. (2018). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (Thirteenth Edition). NYC; NY: McGraw-Hill Education. ISBN: 978-1-259-67698-7. The textbook is available for purchase at the bookstore and a copy of the textbook is on reserve at the Paul Robeson library. The reserve copy is available for two hours at a time.

**GRADING:** Your course grade will be based upon your performance on activities listed below.

Activity	Points	Percent Total Grade
<b>Literature Review</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>40</b>
• Topic identification	2	1
• List of ten peer-reviewed journal articles	6	3
• Literature review outline, research question,& hypothesis	12	6
• Rough draft literature review	30	15
• Final literature review	30	15
<b>Exams</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>30</b>
• Exam 1	20	10

• Exam 2	20	10
• Exam 3 (Final exam)	20	10
<b>Journal Article Reviews</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>
Journal article review #1	10	5
Journal article review #2	10	5
<b>Participation in Human Subjects Research</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Human Subjects Certification</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Attendance and Participation</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>--</b>

## GRADING SCALE

Final grades will be based upon a grading system not more stringent than the one below.

A	180-200 points, 90%-100%
B+	172-178 points, 86%-89%
B	1600-170 points, 80%-85%
C+	152-158 points, 76%-79%
C	140-150 points, 70%-75%
D	120-138 points, 60-69%
F	0-118 points, 0-59%

## COURSE ACTIVITIES

**Literature Review (80 points total and 40% of total grade):** You will be required to write an 8-10 page, double-spaced, peer-reviewed literature review. This paper will require you to apply the research methods you have learned and further your understanding of research methods. The 80 points for this assignment will come from the following five assignments: 1) identification of a research topic, 2) a list of 10 peer-reviewed journal articles related to your topic (the list must follow the citation style of the American Psychological Association Publication Manual-sixth edition), 3) literature review outline, 4) a rough draft of your literature review, and 5) your final paper. The points for these assignments are indicated in the table above and under research paper proposal heading. The assignments are due on the date they are listed in the table on page 4.

**Exams (60 points total and 30% of total grade):** There will be three exams in this course. Each exam will be worth 20 points and 10% of your overall grade. The exams will be based upon assigned reading and material covered in class. These exams will take place during class. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions. Make-up exams will only be given for what I think are truly exceptional circumstances. In these cases, contact me within 24 hours of the exam and explain the situation. You will also need to provide evidence of this exceptional circumstance.

**Journal Article Reviews (20 points total and 10% of total grade):** Twice during the semester you will be given a peer-reviewed research article to read and you will be given questions to answer about these articles. You may receive up to ten points for successfully completing each of these reviews.

**Participation in Human Subjects Research (20 points total and 10% of total grade):** You will enhance your understanding of psychological research by participating in a psychological research studies. You will be required to complete three credit hours, but only two if you avoid missing study appointments. You may sign up for research studies in the psychology department at the following link: <https://rutgerscamden.sona-systems.com/>. If you choose not to participate in human subjects research,

you will need to inform the instructor by November 1<sup>st</sup> and complete two additional journal article reviews that the instructor will assign to you. Those reviews will be due on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Human Subjects Certification (10 points total and 5% of total grade):** You will improve your understanding of ethics in psychology by completing the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Basic Course in Social Behavioral Research. You will need to print your certificate of completion and email it to me as an attachment. Please go to the following link to register and take that course: [https://www.citiprogram.org/index.cfm?pageID=14&region=1&\\_ga=2.14444855.1800761945.1535825346-1467872939.1535825346](https://www.citiprogram.org/index.cfm?pageID=14&region=1&_ga=2.14444855.1800761945.1535825346-1467872939.1535825346) .

**Attendance and Participation (10 points total and 5% of total grade):** You will need to attend class and participate in order to do well in this course. Attendance will be taken each class. If you miss more than two classes, you will lose points from your attendance grade.

### CLASSROOM CONDUCT

- No electronic devices (cell phones, computers, etc.) will be allowed in this class unless you provide evidence of a disability that warrants the use of such technology. In this case, you need to provide me with a note from the disability coordinator. So make sure you turn off cell phones before class and keep all electronic devices put away.
- You are expected to communicate with me and other students in a respectful manner. Some of the material presented in class as well as opinions of other students may not be the same as yours and it is fine to have a different opinion, but it is essential that you express yourself in a respectful manner.
- No cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct will be tolerated. It is your responsibility to know these rules and their consequences  
<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers>  
[https://slwordpress.rutgers.edu/academicintegrity/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2014/11/AI\\_Policy\\_2013.pdf](https://slwordpress.rutgers.edu/academicintegrity/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2014/11/AI_Policy_2013.pdf)  
 If after reviewing the links above you have any questions, ask me.
- You are expected to arrive to class on time and not leave early.

### OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

I will use Sakai to communicate with you about this class and may contact you through your Rutgers email address so you need to check that email account and use Sakai in order to stay informed. I reserve the right to lower your grade if you violate these rules. This syllabus is a working document and may be revised throughout the course.

**DISABILITY SERVICES:** In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the disability services office (<https://success.camden.rutgers.edu/disability-services> ), participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with me and discuss the accommodations with me as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form at <https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration>.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READING</b>
W 9/4	Introduction & Course Overview	
M 9/9	Scientific Understanding of Behavior	Chapter 1
W, 9/11	Continued Discussion	
M, 9/16	Where to Start/ <b>Paper Topic Due.</b> Samantha Kannegiser will provide instruction on literature reviews	Chapter 2
W 9/18	Continued Discussion	
M, 9/23	Ethical Research/ <b>Journal Article Review #1 Due</b>	Chapter 3
W, 9/25	Continued Discussion	
M, 9/30	Fundamental Research Issues / <b>List of ten Articles Due</b>	Chapter 4
W, 10/2	Continued Discussion/ <b>Journal Article Review #2 Due</b>	
M, 10/7	Measurement Concepts/	Chapter 5
W, 10/9	Continued Discussion/ <b>Human Subjects Certification Due</b>	
M 10/14	<b>Exam 1</b> (Chapters 1-5 & Additional Readings)	
W, 10/16	Observational Methods	Chapter 6
M, 10/21	Continued Discussion/ <b>Introduction Outline with Research Question &amp; Hypothesis Due</b>	
W, 10/23	Survey Research	Chapter 7
M, 10/28	Continued Discussion <b>Bring Copy of Rough Draft Introduction to Class</b>	
W, 10/30	Experimental Design	Chapter 8
M, 11/4	Continued Discussion/ <b>Rough Draft of Introduction Due</b>	
W, 11/6	Conducting Experiments	Chapter 9
M, 11/11	Continued Discussion	
W, 11/13	<b>Exam 2</b> /Continued Discussion (chapters 6-9)	
M, 11/18	Other Research Designs/	Chapter 11
W, 11/20	Understanding Research Results	<b>Heidari article</b>
M, 11/25	Continued Discussion	Chapter 12
W, 11/27	<b>No Class</b>	
M, 12/2	Understanding Research Results	Chapter 13
W, 12/4	Generalization/ <b>Must have completed human subjects participation/Bring paper for peer-review</b>	Chapter 14
M, 12/9	Continued Discussion/ <b>Final Paper Due</b>	
W, 12/11	<b>LAST DAY OF CLASSES/Exam 3</b> (chapters 11-14 & Heidari article)	