

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Winter 2020	Instructor Name:	Veronica Landeros
Course Title & #:	Psy 212: Research Methods	Email:	----
CRN #:	15272	Webpage (optional):	https://imperial.blackboard.com/
Classroom:	Off Campus Site	Office #:	---
Class Dates:	Tues, Wed, Thurs	Office Phone #:	---
Class Time:	16:00-20:35	Emergency Contact	Manuel Altamirano

Course Description

This course introduces research methodologies used in the behavioral sciences. It emphasizes an appreciation of the scientific method, the development of research skills, knowledge of research ethics, and the evaluation of scientific research. Students conduct library research, design and implement research projects using appropriate methodologies and controls, analyze and interpret data using a statistical computer program, and write research reports using the APA format. (CSU, UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

PSY 101 and (PSY 214 or MATH 119) with a grade of "C" or better.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Evaluate and summarize relevant peer reviewed scientific articles.
2. Develop a research design to evaluate a hypothesis.
3. Communicate background, results and implications of research using APA style.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast different research methods and sampling techniques
2. Explain how controls are used to reduce threats of internal validity, external validity, and measurement validity
3. Discuss the characteristics and benefits of the scientific method, and explain the logic behind hypothesis testing
4. Design and conduct empirical research project(s)
5. Utilize library research and evaluate the reliability of sources
6. Critically read, extract information, evaluate, and summarize research in behavioral sciences
7. Analyze research data using a statistical package, demonstrating knowledge of statistics by selecting

the appropriate

descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, graphs, and tables to evaluate, explore, and communicate findings

8. Write college-level scientific research papers using American Psychology Association writing style (e.g., abstract,

introduction, methods, participants, materials, procedure, results, discussion, reference section)

9. Explain ethical issues pertaining to behavioral science research with animal and human subjects.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Cozby, P.C. & Bates, S.C. (2015). *Methods in Behavioral Research, (12th Ed.)*. McGraw Hill.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

This course will consist of a combination of lectures, class discussion/activities, assigned readings, videos, individual projects and performance on quizzes and exams.

Thought Papers. There will be thought papers due at various times during the semester. These are essays of 1-2 pages, which will be based on the readings and class material. Late papers will not be accepted. Thought papers should address the following:

- 1) A provocative or interesting idea regarding behavior research from the text, class discussion, an article from the internet or magazine, and/or a television program, from your point of view.
- 2) Don't provide a review of the reading/program, but your own thoughts regarding the topic. The main focus of thought papers is for you to learn to think critically about psychology. The intention of the assignment is to get some ideas down about the readings, class discussion, or human behavior and then begin exploring your ideas. You do not have to write what you think I would agree with or what is necessarily true, you just need to justify your ideas and statements with explanations.

Assignments. There will be various in class and/or take-home assignments to help you learn the class material. All assignments will be worth 10 to 30 points.

Quizzes. There will be several quizzes. Quizzes will be administered in class assignments, will be announced in advance typically, and will occur about once every 2-3 class meetings. It is important to come to class to know when a quiz might occur. **HOWEVER BE PREPARED FOR UNANNOUNCED QUIZZES.** These will generally occur if I notice an overall decline in class participation and attendance. Quizzes may include any or all of the following types of questions: multiple choice, true-false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer/essay.

Exams. The exams are entirely multiple choice, and you must take them all. If you are late to class, you will not be allowed to take the quizzes or exams. Some chapters listed may not be covered in class, but you are still responsible for the material, unless otherwise specified. No make-up exams will be given unless you have called me PRIOR to the exam and let me know you will not be able to take the exam. If you contact me prior to the exam, you will have one week to make-up the exam.

Method of Evaluation: Class Activities, Attendance, Mid –Term, Quizzes, Final, Problem Solving Exercise, Written Assignments.

Instructional Methodology: Audio visual, Demonstration, Discussion, Group Activity, Lecture

Out of Class Assignments:

Students are given homework assignments to ensure preparedness for class. There will also be periodic Thought Papers assigned throughout the semester.

Reading and Writing:

Reading assignments include assigned text readings; current articles and/or sources from the internet. Students will write an autobiography and complete Thought Papers throughout the semester.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

How much you learn in the course, as well as your final grade, depends on the effort you put into the readings, assignments, class preparation, and class participation & attendance. Grades will be assigned on the basis of the following weights:

100-90 = A

89-80 = B

79-70 = C

69-60 = D

59 & Below = F

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to arrive to class on time, with all electronic devices turned off and put away. Since participation in classroom work and discussion is an important part of this course, students will have **10 points deducted** from their class points for each unexcused absence. Students having three unexcused absences may be dropped from the class. Students who are tardy three times will be considered as having been absent once. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved conferences and contests and attendance upon field trips will not be counted as absences. If you are tardy to a test you will NOT be able to take it. If

you are more than 20 minutes to a class (start time or from break) you will not be able to sit in on the lecture. **DISRUPTIONS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!**

LEAVING CLASS: Students are expected to remain in the classroom throughout the entire class session. Students leaving the class early, or just briefly, without prior instructor approval, will have **points deducted** from their class points.

Classroom Etiquette

- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).

*****STUDENTS WHO DO NOT COMPLY WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE.*****

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.**
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: looking at another student's papers, speaking out answers or questions, the use of open books or notes, use of cell phones, finger spelling in sign language or by notes written on the skin. Baseball caps may not be worn during quizzes or tests. Do not use iPods or such music-providing devices during lectures or tests.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test

information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or Manuel Altamirano.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC [General Catalog](#).

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Tentative, provisional overview of the readings, assignments, tests, and/or other activities for the duration of the course.

Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic
1/8	Syllabus & Introduction
1/9	Chapter 1: Scientific Understanding of Behavior Chapter 2: Where to Start
1/14	Chapter 3: Ethics in behavioral Research
1/15	Chapter 4: Studying Behavior
1/16	Chapter 5: Measurement Concepts
1/21	Chapter 6: Observational Methods
1/22	Chapter 7: Asking People about Themselves
1/23	Chapter 8: Experimental Designs Chapter 9: Conducting Experiments
1/28	Chapter 10: Complex Experimental Designs
1/30	Chapter 11: Single, Quasi, and Developmental Research
2/4	Chapter 12: Research Results – Description & Correlation Chapter 13: Research Results-Statistical Inference
2/5	Chapter 14: Generalization
2/6	Final

*****Tentative, subject to change without prior notice*****