Lab PSYC 301: Research Methods in Psychology (1 credit)

Summer 2021

COURSE DESCRIPTION | BLACKBOARD LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS | REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS | COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES | TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS | COURSE SCHEDULE | ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION | COURSE POLICIES |GRADING SCALE |UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES |

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The deadlines for adding and dropping classes are as follows:
- **Last Day to Add (Full-Semester Course)**   **May 19, 2021**
- **Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course -no tuition penalty)**   **May 19, 2021**
- **Withdrawal Period (Full-Semester course-100% tuition liability)**   **May 26 – June 1, 2021**

Recommended Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and either PSYC 300, STAT 250, or STAT 350 or equivalent.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome! This course is delivered and conducted entirely online in an asynchronous format via the GMU Blackboard. The course goals include the following:
- Explore, explain, and apply different research designs used in psychology
- Recognize and apply statistical principles in research design
- Apply the principles of scientific writing
- Communicate research ideas in written form using APA guidelines
- Create a research proposal on a topic of your interest

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: This lab course fulfills the writing intensive requirement for the psychology major. It does so through writing multiple drafts of each section of a research proposal (e.g., Preliminary proposal introduction draft, Complete introduction draft, Methods, Results, Discussion) and one full research proposal (Complete Final Research Proposal). These written assignments are completed through a draft/feedback/revision process in which instructor and peers provide comments on drafts. The schedule of due dates is on the syllabus. It is mandatory that students turn in the complete proposal introduction draft and the Final Proposal assignments in order to meet the writing intensive requirement of George Mason University. Students who fail to meet the writing intensive requirement will not pass the Psychology 301 course.

BLACKBOARD LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS

Access to MyMason and GMU email are required to participate successfully in this course. Please make sure to update your computer and prepare yourself to begin using the online format BEFORE the first day of class. Check the IT Support Center website. Navigate to the Student Support page for help and information about Blackboard. In the menu bar to the left you will find all the tools you need to become familiar with for this course. Take time to learn each. Make sure you run a system check a few days before class. Become familiar with the attributes of Blackboard and online learning.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- Morling, B. (2015). *Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of Information* (3rd edition). New York: W. W. Norton & Company. E-book with **InQuizitive**.
- *Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association* *(6th edition).

*This manual is **optional**. If you plan on pursuing a career in Psychology, or attending graduate school, this is a good book to purchase. Most of the information is available online if you don't want to buy the book.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, you should be able to:
1. Explain and apply different research designs used in psychology
2. Recognize and apply statistical principles in research design
3. Apply the principles of scientific writing
4. Communicate research ideas in written form using APA guidelines
5. Create a research proposal on a topic of your interest

To reach these objectives, you are expected to:
1. check gmu.edu e-mail and log in to the course site *daily*
2. read and follow all course and assignment directions, requesting help as needed well before deadlines
3. take responsibility for actions pertaining to the course and applicable consequences
4. complete all exams, discussion, and assignments thoughtfully, accurately, and on time

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Hardware: You will need access to a Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and access to a fast and reliable broadband internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL). A larger screen is recommended for better visibility of course material. You will need speakers or headphones to hear recorded content and a headset with a microphone is recommended for the best experience. For the amount of Hard Disk Space required taking a distance education course, consider and allow for:

1. The storage amount needed to install any additional software and
2. Space to store work that you will do for the course.

If you consider the purchase of a new computer, please go to Technology Buying Guide to see recommendations.

Software: Many courses use Blackboard as the learning management system. You will need a browser and operating system that are listed compatible or certified with the Blackboard version available on the myMason Portal. See supported browsers and operating systems. Log in to myMason to access your registered courses. Some courses may use other learning management systems. Check the syllabus or contact the instructor for details. Online courses typically use Acrobat Reader, Flash, Java, and Windows Media Player, and/or Real Media Player. Your computer should be capable of running current versions of those applications. Also, make sure your computer is protected from viruses by downloading the latest version of Symantec Endpoint Protection/Anti-Virus software for free here.

Students owning Macs or Linux should be aware that some courses may use software that only runs on Windows. You can set up a Mac computer with Boot Camp or virtualization software so Windows will also run on it. Watch this video about using Windows on a Mac. Computers running Linux can also be configured with virtualization software or configured to dual boot with Windows.

Note: If you are using an employer-provided computer or corporate office for class attendance, please verify with your systems administrators that you will be able to install the necessary applications and that system or corporate firewalls do not block access to any sites or media types.

Course-specific Hardware/Software

Check the syllabus for your course or contact the instructor prior to the start of the course to find out about specific technical requirements for your class. Hardware or software required for your course or program may be available for purchase at Patriot Computers (the University's computer store that offers educational discounts and special deals).

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEKS	LAB CONTENT & ACTIVITY	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Week 1 05/17-05/21	**Introduction to the courses and sources of information** 1. **Academic Integrity Certification** 2. **Week 1 Assignment** "Popular Press Article" 3. Review Library tutorial 4. **Assignment # 2** "Research Methods in Popular Press Article" (Read Popular Press Article + Read the Original Article and determine whether the Research Design supports Frequency, Association, and Causal Claims	Submit: • **Assignment** "Academic Integrity Certification" Due by **05/21** at 11:59 pm EST • **Assignment** "Popular Press Article" Due by **05/21** at 11:59 pm EST
Week 2 05/24-05/28	**Sources of Information & Overview of Research Proposal** 1. Instruction Lecture: Brainstorming Ideas and Developing Research Questions 2. Instruction Lecture: Literature Search & Review	• **Small Project:** Submit Bivariate Correlations Results in APA style & Multivariate Statistics Results worksheet **due 05/28** • Post **Research Proposal worksheet #1 in** Small Group Board **due 05/28 by 11:59 PM**

WEEKS	LAB CONTENT & ACTIVITY	ASSIGNMENTS DUE

	3. **Research Proposal:**
	   a. Complete research proposal worksheet #1 (Initial Ideas and 5 article literature review)
	   b. Provide comments on one peer's worksheet #1 in Small Group Board
	4. **Statistics Workshop on Bi-Variate Statistics in SPSS Multivariate Statistics in SPSS. Learn to write results in APA style.**
		and provide comments on one peer's worksheet Due <mark>by 05/30</mark> at 11:59 pm

Week 3
05/31-06/04
	Literature Search for your Research Proposal
	  1. Instruction Lectures:
	    a. Literature Search & Review
	    b. Introduction and Methods
	    c. APA Style citations
	  2. **Research Proposal:**
	    a. Complete research proposal worksheet #2 (Finalizing your idea and 5 more articles lit review)
	     - Provide comments to at least one peer on their proposal worksheet #3 in Small Group Board
		• Post **Research Proposal worksheet #2 in** Small Group Board <mark>**due 06/04 by 11:59 PM**</mark> **and provide comments on one peer's worksheet** Due by <mark>06/06 at 11:59 pm</mark>
		
		• **Research Proposal:** Submit detailed Introduction and Methods **outline** <mark>Due by **06/04**</mark> at 11:59 pm EST to Instructor.
		
		• **Research Proposal:** Submit APA style Introduction and Methods **rough draft** <mark>Due by **06/06**</mark> at 11:59 pm EST to Instructor.

WEEKS	LAB CONTENT & ACTIVITY	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
	b. Prepare an Introduction and Methods Outline c. Prepare an Introduction and Methods APA style draft	

Week 4
06/07-06/11
	Research Proposal Introduction
	1. Powerpoint Lectures:
	    a. Abstract, Results, Discussion
	    b. APA style citations in text
	2. Review examples of Abstracts, Results and Discussion sections.
	3. **Research Proposal:**
	    a. Prepare an Abstract, Results and Discussion section APA style draft
	    b. Submit a full proposal draft to Instructor for feedback (*extra credit*)
		• **Research Proposal:** Submit Abstract, Results, & Discussion Draft. Due by <mark>06/11 at 11:59 pm EST</mark>
		• **Extra credit:** Submit complete paper draft to Instructor for feedback due **Sunday 06/13 by 11:59 PM EST**

Week 5
06/14-06/16
	Research Proposal Complete Draft
	1. Powerpoint Lecture:
	    a. APA-style citations in text and reference section
	    b. Check and correct APA style your proposal.
	2. **Research Proposal**: Finalize your research proposal paper and prepare for final submission
		Powerpoint presentation for Research Proposal is **Due by 06/16** at 11:59 pm EST

WEEKS	LAB CONTENT & ACTIVITY	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
	3. Finalize, record, and submit your poweropint presentation for Research Proposal.	
FINALS 06/17-06/19	**Final Paper Submission** Incorporate peer and instructor feedback, finalize, and submit your Final Research proposal	• **Final Research Proposal via SafeAssignment is Due by 06/18 at 11:59 pm EST**

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

Lab (40% of your final grade in this course): **This lab is 40% of your overall course grade for Psychology 301. The lecture portion of the course is 60%.** Please see detailed description of assignments and points for the lab below.

To promote collaborative environment in the lab and give you credit for your time and ideas you provide to your peers, you will receive points for your (1) responses and comments on your peer's posts in Small Groups Assignments and (2) Peer Review of Research Proposals. These are detailed below. Please note that you will NOT earn points for *receiving* comments on your posts or assignments—only for *providing your comments and reviews.*

Assignments	
Academic Integrity Certification	10 points
Popular Article summary and analyzing the original scientific article	20 points
Small Projects	
Small Project 2 Part 1: Bi-Variate statistics: interpretation and write-up in APA style (Results)	15 points
Small Project 2 Part 2: Multivariate statistics: interpretation and write-up in APA style (Results)	15 points
Research Project	
Worksheet #1 ** - brainstorm research proposal initial idea -Small group comment (at least on 1 peer) - 5 articles literature review	15 points
Worksheet #2 ** - finalize research proposal idea - Small group comment (at least on 1 peer) - 5 more articles literature review	15 points
Introduction and Methods Outline using 10 articles	20 points
Rough Introduction & Methods Draft	50 points
Abstract, Results, & Discussion Draft	30 points
Full Proposal Draft (optional extra credit)	(10 points)
Final Written Proposal	100 points
Final Presentation for Research Proposal	10 points
Total	**300 points**

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: This is an online class and attendance is treated differently from traditional classrooms. You will be presenting with multiple avenues for accessing instructional materials and interaction, from completing individual small projects to participating in different peer interaction activities. You should strive to keep up with the assignments, small projects, and several research project tasks that show that you are "attending" and participating. However, overall completion is based primarily upon your peer interaction and communication throughout this semester. Your final attendance will be counted in this manner.

Reading and Participation: You will be involved in the learning process through active class participation and application of material to research topics of interest. You are expected to contribute to a collegiate atmosphere by offering your own ideas and encouraging ideas of others on topics relevant to this course. You will earn points for participation via commenting on peer's posts in Small Groups and peer/group reviews and writing. Class participation points are discussed below and connected to each particular assignment. No participation points may be made up if the student misses the due date. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Assignments are expected to be turned in via appropriate links on Blackboard on the specified due date. (See late work policy below.)
Late Work Policy: Late work is typically not accepted except in the case of unusual circumstances such as serious illness, family concerns, or religious commitments. You will not be allowed to make up assignments unless you provide the documentation of an excused absence or emergency (e.g., doctor's note <u>for the day</u> of the absence, coach note for competition). Except in rare cases (e.g., an automobile accident on the way to class) you must notify your instructor about any planned or excused absences <u>ahead of time</u>, provide documentation and make arrangements for making up any missed assignments ahead of time. There will typically be a **<u>firm deadline</u>** for making up any missed work, usually within a week or less of the original deadline depending on the complexity of the assignment. **<u>Technology failures, work-related absences, work in other classes, oversleeping or meeting with other instructors are not considered personal emergencies</u>**. Importantly, even if you have a documented, excused absence, there are some types of work in this class that may be impossible to make up, such as in-class activities, workshops, group work and individual discussions and assignments. Additionally, the assignments in this class build upon the previous ones so your grade is likely to suffer if you miss assignments.

Missing multiple assignments, blog and discussion posts will not be tolerated unless there is concrete and documented evidence that the student was unable to be in class and complete these assignments (e.g., surgery, severe family emergency). Generally, missing more than two activities will be highly detrimental to your grade and is typically grounds to recommend that the student withdraw from the class. Students may not turn in multiple late assignments at the end of the semester. If you must miss class assignments, it is important to communicate with your instructor regarding absences and missed assignments in order to complete that work in a timely manner.

Grade Disputes: In this course, if you wish to challenge the merit of an individual grade that you have received on an assignment you must do that within one week of receiving the grade. Ask your instructor to go over the assignment with you and address your concerns. <u>Any dispute</u>

regarding that grade must be addressed and resolved **within one week** of receiving the grade. Otherwise, no further consideration for a change of grade on these assignments will be allowed. Under no circumstances will any grade dispute on individual assignments be considered once the semester has ended and grades have been posted.

Extra Credit: Extra credit will be minimal to nonexistent in this course, as students who are not performing well are generally not spending enough time on required assignments. No extra credit opportunity is provided for one student when not provided for all students. Absolutely no additional work can be completed after the end of the semester. Please contact your instructor if you are having difficulty in this course.

Instructor-Student Communication: Your instructor will make every effort to respond to your emails within 48 hours, but you should typically be contacted within 24 hours. If necessary, an announcement will be posted if the instructor is away from email for more than one day. Please check the following (available on your Blackboard course menu) to address any possible questions before sending an email unless the issue is personal in nature. Your instructor is here to assist you in being successful in the lab.

1. Syllabus
2. Ask Professor
3. On-demand Blackboard videos on how to use Blackboard features, and Technical Requirements.
4. Feel free to respond to other students in the Ask Professor forum if you know the

   answer.

Course Technology Use: Several Internet-related materials are required for access to and success in this course, including the following:

1. **A hard-wired, high-speed Internet connection**: Non-stable or slow Internet connections will not excuse failures to complete any assignments or exams by dates due.
2. **A functioning gmu.edu e-mail account**: Personal e-mail accounts will not suffice for correspondence for this course, as you will only be contacted via their GMU-affiliated e-mail addresses.
3. **Downloading capability:** You must have regular access to a computer onto which they can download and use the Exam Guard browser for testing throughout the course. <insert additional information>
4. **Microsoft Office:** Word access: You must have regular access to a computer onto which they can create, save, and submit written assignments in (.doc) or (.docx) format.
5. **Blackboard familiarity:** This course is delivered and conducted entirely online via the GMU Blackboard. As registrants in this course, you can (a) access the Student Tutorial or (b) contact the Help Desk or (c) refer to the Tech Support tab in the upper-right-hand corner of the course site for more information. You can find the following on BB:
   a. **Course materials:** Various course materials (syllabus, reading materials, notes, guidelines/grading criteria for assignments, projects, and proposal) are/will be available from this site.

      b. **Online discussion:** Discussion of and reflection on course content, inside and outside of class.

      c. **Grades/Progress updates:** You may get an update of their current course grades periodically.

Note: if these resources are an issue for you please contact your lab instructor or course instructor and you will be directed to someone who may be able to help.

Technology: Technological training will be gained in many ways by intensive literature searches using the online library and other online research sites, survey sites (e.g., Survey Monkey), some data analysis using SPSS, some use of Zotero and PowerPoint for presentations.

Writing Intensive Nature of Class: This class fulfills GMU undergraduate requirements for a writing intensive course. You will be expected to exercise writing skills through written research assignments, culminating in a formal independent empirical research report. All written work will be graded not only on its content, but also on how well it is written (e.g., adherence to spelling, grammar, sentence structure, word choice, formatting). For writing assistance, see The George Mason University Writing Center, which offers free writing consultation to all students who are registered for at least one credit hour. For information, please contact the writing center at Robinson Hall Room A114, 703-993-1200.

Official Communications via GMU E-mail: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, and notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. You are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

Class Cancellation Policy: While we do not have in-person class there are weekly "classes" and assignments. .Assignments will be posted according to the schedule and assignments are due as listed. If there are technical difficulties in any way please let your instructor know as soon as possible. If there are major power outages due to storms etc., we will regroup and adjust due dates. (e.g., adjustments to assignment) that will be clearly indicated by a revised syllabus, announced on Blackboard and by e-mail notifications will be sent to students.

GRADING SCALE. Please see the lecture syllabus for the Final Grade Breakdown.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

1. **Academic Integrity and the Honor Code:** Written assignments are expected to be the student's own work. You may use books, notes, and other sources in preparing lab reports. In fact, I encourage you to take advantage of a variety of resources. However, under **NO** circumstances are you to collectively write papers with another student or use the work of others without proper and accurate citations. This is considered to be plagiarism and plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. It is not permissible to cheat, plagiarize, steal or lie in matters relating to academic work. Work such as library references, statistics, and reports of the research studies should be **each student's own work**. Quotations in lab reports should be minimal and the appropriate citation must be given. It is the student's responsibility to understand what is meant by plagiarism and to seek guidance prior to turning assignments. Academic misconduct is taken seriously and may result in a failing grade on the assignment or in the course and will be reported to the GMU Honor

Committee. The instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade in the lab for any student found guilty of honor code violation. See honorcode.gmu.edu for detailed information

2. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, or another person's assistance. Unless otherwise stated in class, all work done for courses -- papers, examinations, homework exercises, laboratory reports, oral presentations -- is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. Any assistance must be reported to the instructor. If the work has entailed consulting other resources -- journals, books, or other media -- these resources must be cited in a manner appropriate to the course. Everything used from other sources -- suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language -- must be cited. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating, you will fail the assignment, and, depending upon the severity of the violation, you may fail the class.

3. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing

4. **Enrollment:** Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes (available from the Registrar's Website: registrar.gmu.edu). After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

5. **Student services:** The University provides range of services to help you succeed academically and you should make use of these if you think they could benefit you. I also invite you to speak to me (the earlier the better).

6. Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

7. **The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS**) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance.   Counseling Center: Student Union I, Room 364, 703-993-2380. Website here.

8. **Accommodations**: If you have any specific needs (e.g., related to vision, hearing, learning, or medical conditions) or any religious or cultural practices, please let me know by the second week of class so that I can make the appropriate arrangements. Disabilities must be documented by the Disability Resources Center (703-993-2474) for reasonable accommodations to be provided. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester.

9. **The George Mason University Writing Center** staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing. University Writing Center: Robinson Hall Room A114, 703-993-1200. The writing center includes assistance for students for whom English is a second language.

10. **Diversity**: George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth. George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and

productivity among its students, faculty, and staff. An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds, and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard, and respected.

11. Notice of a mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a "Responsible Employee", and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason's Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason's confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling & Psychology Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason's Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing cde@gmu.edu.

12. **Religious Holidays**: A list of religious holidays is available on the University Life Calendar page. See the Religious Holiday Calendar. Any student whose religious observance conflicts with a scheduled course activity must contact the Instructor at least 2 weeks in advance of the conflict date in order to make alternative arrangements.

13. Resources for Students:
    a. University Career Services
    b. Student Health Services

Important information for Students: Given the unique circumstances of our situation in this pandemic, I want you to know that I am here to support you and assist you in being successful in the Psychology 301 lab. We will all need some flexibility, hard work and discipline for a successful educational experience, especially given the additional concerns that many of us have. Please communicate what you may need or your concerns so I may help in any way I can, or I will direct you to others who may help. The above are some other valuable resources that can also help you in these times, and in "normal" times.