

**Psychology 301- 003**  
**Research Methods in Psychology**  
 Spring 2005  
 Krug Hall 204  
 Tuesday & Thursday 9:00-9:50 a.m.

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**Instructor:** Lesley Ducenne  
 Office: Thompson Hall 131  
 Phone: (703) 993-1349  
 Email: [lducenne@gmu.edu](mailto:lducenne@gmu.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00 – 11:00 pm or by appointment

**Texts:**

Shaughnessy, J., Zechmeister, E., & Zechmeister, J. (2003).  
*Research Methods in Psychology* (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.), McGraw-Hill Higher Education: Boston.  
 (Required).

Thaiss, C., & Sanford, J. F. (2000). *Writing for Psychology*, Allyn and Bacon:  
 Boston. (Optional).

Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association (5<sup>th</sup> edition).  
 (Optional)

**Prerequisites:** Six hours of Psychology courses or permission of instructor. Students are strongly encouraged to take Psyc. 300 statistics, concurrently.

**Course Goal:** This course is designed to provide an introduction to research methods in psychology. It will include general issues in research as well as specific descriptive, experimental and applied methods. We will discuss the strengths and weaknesses, the ways that data are collected and analyzed, and the limits to interpretation for the various techniques. The course should help develop skills in critically evaluating research studies as well as provide the tools needed to identify a research question and design one's own study.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Exams:** There will be 4 exams consisting of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay type questions. They will cover the text, lecture, and any other material covered in lecture. Your lowest grade will be dropped. The final exam will be cumulative (i.e. will cover chap. 1-12). If you must miss an exam due to illness or any other reason, this will be the grade that will be dropped. No make-up exams will be given. No exceptions!

**Others:** In addition to the exams, there will be homework assignments, short in-class quizzes, and in-class activities that may not be announced in advance. Homework assignments will be due at the beginning of the next class. Late homework will not be accepted. For the in-class quizzes or the in-class activities, you must be in-class or no points will be received.

**Special Needs:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please inform me at the beginning of the semester and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Lab:** You must be enrolled in a Psyc. 301 Lab section and attend the section in which you are enrolled. Lab is designed to provide hands-on experience with research and exposure to some classic research studies. It is considered writing intensive, so it will include multiple writing assignments with some feedback. A separate lab syllabus will be provided in the first lab session. Your lab instructor is responsible for the labs and lab grades.

**Grades:** 40% of your grade for this course will be determined by your Lab grade, 60% will be determined from the lecture grade. For the lecture portion of the class, 75% of your grade will be determined by your 3 exams, and the remaining 25% will consist of in-class quizzes, homework, and in-class activities.

The following distribution will be used for assigning final letter grades. I reserve the right to alter the cut-off points. Any changes to the distribution will be announced in class:

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A+	97 – 100	B+	87 – 89.9	C+	77 – 79.9	D+	67 – 69.9
A	93 – 96.9	B	83 – 86.9	C	73 – 76.9	D	63 – 66.9
A-	90 – 92.9	B-	80 – 82.9	C-	70 – 72.9	D-	60 – 62.9
						F	0 – 59.9

### HONOR CODE

The Honor Code will be strictly enforced. “Cheating encompasses the following: 1) the willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students; 2) the above may be accomplished by any means whatsoever, including, but not limited to, the following: fraud, duress, deception, theft, trick, talking, signs, gestures, copying from another student, and the unauthorized use of study aids, memoranda, books, data or other information; 3) attempted cheating. Plagiarism encompasses the following: 1) presenting as one’s own the works, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgement; 2) borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgement. Lying encompasses the following: The willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work.” See the University handbook for further information regarding cheating and plagiarism.

**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE \*\***

<b>DATE/TOPICS</b>		<b>READINGS</b>
Jan. 24 & 26	Introduction to research methods	Chap. 1
Jan. 31 & Feb. 2	Scientific Method	Chap. 2
Feb. 7 & 9	Ethical concerns	Chap. 3
Feb. 14 & 16	Observational methods	Chap. 4
Feb. 21 & 23	Survey research/Correlational research	Chap. 5 & 12 (pp. 424-435)
Feb. 28		Review
<b>March 2</b>		<b>Exam 1</b>
March 7 & 9	Unobtrusive measures	Chap. 6
<b>March 14 &amp; 16</b>		<b>Spring Break</b>
March 21 & 23	Independent Groups Designs	Chap. 7
March 28 & 30	Repeated Measures Designs	Chap. 8
April 4 & 6	Complex Designs	Chap. 9
April 11		Review
<b>April 13</b>		<b>Exam 2</b>
April 18 & 20	Single-Case Research Designs	Chap. 10
April 25 & 27	Quasi-experimental Designs	Chap. 11
May 2	Correlational Research	Chap 12 (pp. 399-423) & review
<b>May 4</b>		<b>Exam 3</b>
<b>May 16</b>		<b>Final exam 7:30-10:15 a.m.</b>

\*\* Any schedule changes will be announced in class in advance. After an absence, students should contact the instructor to obtain accurate information.

**Last day to add:** Feb. 7

**Last day to drop with no tuition penalty:** Feb. 7

**Last day to drop:** Feb. 24th