

Method Section

20 points

Instructions: Although methods sections usually report how researchers collected data, you are writing a research proposal, so you have not actually collected data. Instead, you should describe how you would collect data (therefore, your methods section should be in future tense - i.e., “Participants will include...”).

Title page The title page is one page (on a separate page).

- ☐ Full title of your proposal
- ☐ Your name
- ☐ Your affiliation (University of California, Merced)
- ☐ The course number and name (PSY 15: Research Methods)
- ☐ The course instructor’s name and title (Dr. Haiyan Liu)
- ☐ The assignment’s due date
- ☐ A page number (which also appears on the following pages).

Method Section - includes 3 sections

- ☐ **Participants:** describe who your participants would include (i.e., How many? From where will you recruit them? What age group are you looking at? etc... be specific!).
- ☐ **Measures:** Describe any measures/instruments you would use and cite sources (if you are using an existing questionnaire/survey). Exactly how are you going to measure each - and EVERY – variable.
- ☐ **Procedure:** Describe exactly how you would collect data (i.e., What is the design of your study and how exactly will you carry it out?) - What will you tell participants? In what order will you give the surveys? - i.e., What does the participant experience from the beginning to end of a data collection session.

The purpose of a methods section is to describe your study so well that someone would be able to replicate your study, so you should be very specific in your descriptions.

Formatting: APA 7th edition formatting (*check the headings and subheadings section!*); Typed, 12 point, Times New Roman font, double spaced, 1-inch margins. Include the title page you created in assignment 7 as well as your methods section. Please refer to the example posted in the rubric folder for a good example of methods formatting.

Submission and Due time: Submit your work to CatCourses by **09:00 AM** on **November 15**. Pdf format only.

Effects of Vacationing on Martial Satisfaction

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PSY 15: Research Methods

Dr. Haiyan Liu

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Method

Participants

The participants will include 300 married couples from the local area of both San Marcos and Austin, Texas. These locations have diverse populations that can meet the wide range of criteria for participants and for the convenient proximity to the researchers. Participants will range in age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. Couples must have been married for at least one year, have plans to take at least 1 vacation per year, and be willing to complete the 5-year longitudinal study.

Measures

Three inventories will be administered to the participants. One survey will obtain demographic information, the second form will measure relationship satisfaction, and the third will obtain details about vacations.

The demographics form will request information such as age, gender, ethnicity, and income. It will also ask participants to indicate how long they have been married.

The Couples Satisfaction Index (Funk & Rogge, 2007) will also be used to measure overall relationship satisfaction. The 32 items are measured on a likert scale and include items that address overall satisfaction with relationship, the amount and topic of disagreements, and feelings about the relationship. Example items include, "How well does your partner meet your needs?" and "I sometimes wonder if there is someone else out there for me." Response options depend on the item but are all on a likert scale with options including 0 (not at all) to 5 (completely) or 0 (not at all true) to 5 (completely true).

Lastly, participants will complete a Daily Vacation Diary that is a modified version of Daily Diary Measure (Laurenceau et al., 2005). In addition to asking participants to list the

activities they did together while on vacation, it also asks about their levels of intimacy and conflict. Lastly, it asks participants to rate their excitement and anxiety in regard to their relationship.

Procedure

Participants will be recruited through radio advertisements, flyers on University campuses, and snowball sampling. Couples will complete the first two instruments (the demographics and couple satisfaction index) at the research office. They will also receive a copies of the vacation diary to take with them when they go on a vacation. They may submit the vacation diary via mail, fax or in person. The participants will return to the research office each year to complete the Couples Satisfaction Index. Couples are asked to participate in the study for a total of five years. Participants who complete the study will be offered a \$100 prepaid Visa card and will also be entered in a drawing for a vacation getaway.