# Course Description

This course will examine the aims and methods of behavioral and social scientists. Theory and practice in the techniques of scientific research and writing will be emphasized. Both qualitative and quantitative methodology will be examined. By the end of the course, students will have conducted a written review of the literature and developed and presented their own research proposal.

# University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

* **ULO1:**Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World
* **ULO2:**Intellectual and Practical Skills
* **ULO3:**Personal and Social Responsibility
* **ULO4:**Integrative and Applied Learning­
* **ULO5:**Immersed in the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

# Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

* **PLO1:** Analyze from different perspectives the impact of physiology, cognition, social interaction, group situations, interpersonal relations, attitudes, opinions, group conflicts, language, and communication on human behavior. (ULO1, 2, 4, 5)
* **PLO2:** Understand and articulate the application of psychological principles across professional settings, including mental health care, schools, general health care, social services, and corporate environments. (ULO2, 4)
* **PLO3:** Identify the impact of psychology on societal issues, including race, gender, religion, and social inequality, and articulate the role of advocacy to affect policy and societal change. (ULO1, 3, 5)
* **PLO4:** Understand key concepts in statistics and research methodology, and be able to use their acquired knowledge and critical-thinking skills to do the following: comprehensive and critical analysis of original research studies in the field, demonstrated through class discussion, presentations, and research papers. (ULO2, 4)
* **PLO5:** Engage in basic therapeutic counseling skills that allow students to interact appropriately across a variety of supervised professional settings. (ULO1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
* **PLO6:** Engage in critical thinking concerning the application of the discipline and ethical issues relevant to this evolving field of study. (ULO3, 5)

# Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

* **CLO1:** Students will learn strategies for understanding, critically analyzing, writing, and speaking about research in the field of psychology.
* **CLO2:** Students will discuss and critically evaluate moral and ethical issues that arise when conducting research.
* **CLO3:** Students will critically analyze existing research, as well as develop an original research proposal to address an important question in the field.
* **CLO4:** Students will examine the research literature based on a thoughtful and clear understanding of key concepts in research methodology.
* **CLO5:** Students use PowerPoint to produce thorough and creative presentations. They will also conduct a library-based review of the research on their topic area.

# Student Expectations

Students are expected to do the following:

* Ask probing and insightful questions related to course content.
* Make meaningful and relevant connections and application to their own learning process.
* Be productive and contributing members of class discussions.

# Required Course Materials

Patten, M. L. (2013). *Understanding research methods: An overview of the essentials* (9th ed.). Glendale, CA: Pyrczak Publishing.

The American Psychological Association. (2012). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: The American Psychological Association.

# Suggested Point Values

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assessment** | **Point Value** | **Due** |
| **Week 1** |  |  |
| Discussion: Topic Selection | 20 |  |
| Blog: Research Article Summary | 50 |  |
| Research Project Title Page | 20 |  |
| **Week 2** |  |  |
| Discussion: Qualitative Versus Quantitative | 20 |  |
| APA In-Text Citations Worksheet | 20 |  |
| Research Proposal | 100 |  |
| **Week 3** |  |  |
| Research Proposal Peer Review | 20 |  |
| Discussion: Reliability and Validity | 20 |  |
| Literature Review Introduction | 45 |  |
| Literature Review Introduction Peer Review | 20 |  |
| **Week 4** |  |  |
| Research Design Presentation | 250 |  |
| Research Design Presentation Peer Review | 20 |  |
| Research Methodology | 60 |  |
| Abstract | 35 |  |
| **Week 5** |  |  |
| Discussion: Moral and Ethical Research Issues | 50 |  |
| Research Project | 250 |  |
| **Total Points** | **1000** |  |

**Grading Scale**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Range** |
| A | 93-100 |
| A- | 90-92 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 83-86 |
| B- | 82-80 |
| C+ | 77-79 |
| C | 73-76 |
| C- | 70-72 |
| D+ | 67-69 |
| D | 63-66 |
| D- | 60-62 |
| F | 59 |

# Course Schedule

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Start** | **End** |
| One | <insert start date> | <insert end date> |
| Two |  |  |
| Three |  |  |
| Four |  |  |
| Five |  |  |

# Weekly Learning Modules

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week One: Introduction to Research Methods** | | | |
| ***Learning Objectives*** | | ***Alignment*** | |
| * 1. Investigate the literature to address important questions in the field. | | CLO1, CLO4 | |
| * 1. Apply the concepts of quantitative and qualitative research to your topic. | | CLO1, CLO3 | |
| * 1. Analyze the research design in the literature. | | CLO4 | |
| ***Resources, Activities, and Preparation***  *Utilize these resources and complete these activities in preparation for your graded assignments.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Tutorials**  During this course you will be asked to use and participate in various technologies to complete activities and assignments.  **Review** the tutorials available on Blackboard as needed.  **Click** the **Student Resources** button from the menu on the left. | | N/A | N/A |
| **Weekly Participation and Discussion**  The purpose of the weekly discussions is to provide you with a way to synthesize the concepts presented in this course. Each week, you will respond to the discussion questions with a substantive post of 200-to 250-words that addresses all the prompts for the question by 11:59 p.m. EST of the listed due date. By the conclusion of each week, Sunday at 11:59 p.m. EST, you will make at least one substantive comment of 100-to 150-words to three of your classmates’ posts for each assigned discussion question. Your comments must further the discussion by following the RISE Model for meaningful feedback. It is recommended that you check in periodically throughout the week to ensure that you are meeting the participation requirement.  **Review** the RISE Model for Peer Feedback, located on Blackboard. | |  |  |
| **APA**  **Read** [Five Steps to a Great Title](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2010/07/five-steps-to-a-great-title.html).  **Watch** [Setting up the APA Title Page](https://youtu.be/vtMLil6EfGg) (2:54).  **Post** any questions, comments, or observations to share with the class in the Week One General Q & A discussion forum on Blackboard. | | 1.1 | **.25 hour** |
| **Research Design**  **Read** Topics 1–11, 41, 44, & 45 of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Watch** the following:   * [Psychological Research - Crash Course Psychology #2](https://youtu.be/hFV71QPvX2I) (10:50) * [Qualitative vs. Quantitative](https://youtu.be/2X-QSU6-hPU) (9:02)   **Post** any questions, comments, or observations to share with the class in the Week One General Q & A discussion forum on Blackboard. | | 1.2, 1.3 | **.75 hour** |
| **Research Project**  **Read** Topics 7, 8, 14, & 15 and Appendix A of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Watch** the following:   * [Picking Your Topic IS Research!](https://youtu.be/Q0B3Gjlu-1o) (3:10) * [”Developing a Research Question](https://youtu.be/LWLYCYeCFak)” by [Steely Library NKU](https://www.youtube.com/user/nkulibrary) is licensed under [CC BY-NC 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) (4:33)   **Post** any questions, comments, or observations to share with the class in the Week One General Q & A discussion forum on Blackboard. | | 1.1 | **.25 hour** |
| **Research Project Preparation**  **Read** Research Project Requirements.  **Watch** the following Library Resource Video Tutorials:   * [Access Research Guides (LibGuides) at Keiss Library](http://www.screencast.com/t/hs70wBZ89RtH) (2:01) * [Remote Access to Keiss Library's Research Databases](http://www.screencast.com/t/UgO0wRmZsam) (1:19) * [Education Source - Part One: Search for Articles on a Topic](http://www.screencast.com/t/nxH7zFpj9w) (2:53) * [Education Source - Part Two: Narrow and Focus Your Search](http://www.screencast.com/t/1J1FLBZ9) (2:40) * [Education Source - Part Three: Access and Retrieve Articles](http://www.screencast.com/t/USuqwBBB) (2:30) * [ERIC - Part One: Search for Articles on a Topic](http://www.screencast.com/t/VmhLDDfbbt) (3:01) * [ERIC - Part Two: Narrow and Focus Your Search](http://www.screencast.com/t/iG5BIXz425) (2:01) * [ERIC - Part Three: Access and Retrieve Articles](http://www.screencast.com/t/yMN18GPzh) (1:36) * [Request an Article or Book through InterLibrary Loan](http://www.screencast.com/t/eKEeL00PqSc) (1:52) * [Search for Books by Author or Title in Keiss Library Catalog](http://www.screencast.com/t/xKdJ3BDJR2ek) (2:06) * [Search for Books by Subject in Keiss Library Catalog](http://www.screencast.com/t/54Y7PBbPR) (1:43) * [Search for a Thesis by Subject or Author in Keiss Library Catalog](http://www.screencast.com/t/NUaLM4fuv0jy) (2:09)   *Note:* For the research project, due at the end of the course, you will need to cite 7 peer-reviewed journal articles. You will want to start locating these articles sooner rather than later.  **Post** any questions, comments, or observations to share with the class in the Week One General Q & A discussion forum on Blackboard. | | Course | **1 hour** |
| **Smarthinking**  **Review** the Quick Start Guide and student handbook.  **Watch** [Smarthinking\_Introduction](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpvWfPhstQM) (1:49).  **Post** any questions, comments, or observations to share with the class in the Week One General Q & A discussion forum on Blackboard. | | Course | **.25 hour** |
| ***Supplemental Resources and Activities***  *Explore these optional resources to deepen your understanding.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Adobe Connect Live Discussion**  **Review** [Adobe Connect Resources](https://sites.gmercyu.edu/student-resources/adobe-connect-resources/).  **Participate** in the scheduled live session with the course instructor. This session will provide an overview of the course and discuss the major assignments in the course.  **Prepare** to ask questions concerning the content of the week and the course.  *Note:* A recorded lecture will be made available to those who are unable to attend the live session. | | N/A | Live Discussion: lecture and discussion = **1 hour** |
| **Readings**  **Read** the following:   * APA 6th Edition Guidelines Quick Reference Card * APA Help Guide | |  |  |
| **Videos**  **Watch** the following:   * [Develop a research question that works](https://youtu.be/8aYA1ooRce8) (4:55) * [APA formatting: Word 2013](https://youtu.be/nCUdBpuTvNQ) (9:03) | | 1.1 | Video = **.5 hour** |
| ***Graded Assignments***  *Complete these graded assessments by the end of the week unless specified otherwise.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Discussion: Topic Selection**  **Read** Topics 7, 8, 14, & 15 and Appendix A of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Watch** the following:   * [Picking Your Topic IS Research!](https://youtu.be/Q0B3Gjlu-1o) (3:10) * [”Developing a Research Question](https://youtu.be/LWLYCYeCFak)” by [Steely Library NKU](https://www.youtube.com/user/nkulibrary) is licensed under [CC BY-NC 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) (4:33)   In Week 2, you will submit your research question. As you read and watch this week’s resources on research design and research projects, begin to formulate your research questions and gather resources to ensure you have good research questions for Week 2.  **Pos**t a clear and logical response in 150 to 200 words to the following:     * What are the topics you are considering for your research project? What did you learn in your reading or while watching the videos that will aid you in your research process? What struggles are you encountering regarding research? Have you learned any strategies that would help other students? What do you believe will be your biggest obstacles with this research project? What are some ways to overcome these struggles?   *Note:* Initial answers to the questions are due by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Thursday.  **Respond** to at least 3students in a manner that is thought provoking and that appropriately challenges or elevates the discussion. In your responses, share ideas for your classmates on their topic, ways to navigate the library resources, or additional information you think might be help others with their research. All responses must be posted by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday. | | 1.1 | Discussion: one post and replies to three other posts plus Library Research = **3 hours** |
| **Blog: Research Article Summary**  **Read** Topics 1–11, 41, 44, & 45 of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Watch** [Psychological Research - Crash Course Psychology #2](https://youtu.be/hFV71QPvX2I) (10:50).  **Locate** a peer-reviewed journal article on the topic you are interested in choosing for your research project.  **Write** a brief, 1-page or less summary of the article that answers the following:   * Does the research measure qualitative data, quantitative data, or both? * What type of research design was use (true experimental design, pre-experimental design, or quasi-experimental design)? * What type of research was conducted (survey, poll, causal-comparative study, case study, causal comparative research, correlational research, or historical research)? * What variables were controlled? * What were the independent or dependent variables? * What was the sample? * How were the variables measured?   **Submit** your blog post with a link to your article or attach your article by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday. | | 1.3 | Blog & Library Research = **2 hours** |
| **Research Project Title Page**  **Read** [Five Steps to a Great Title](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2010/07/five-steps-to-a-great-title.html).  **Watch** [Setting up the APA Title Page](https://youtu.be/vtMLil6EfGg)(2:36).  **Create** an APA-formatted title page with a draft title for your research project.  *Note:* This may change before you submit the final draft of your project.  **Submit** your title page by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday. | | 1.1 | Guided Project = **1 hour** |
| **Total** |  |  | **10 hours** |

# Faculty Notes

**Course Setup**

**General Questions and Discussion Forum:** This course includes a discussion forum for general questions, comments, and concerns. This forum is intended for any course-related commentary not found within a specific weekly discussion. This forum is not graded. Make sure to monitor this forum for student posts. You are encouraged to make an announcement advertising this forum and monitor and post regularly to build engagement.

**Adobe Connect:** Consider posting an announcement asking students to submit any questions or topics they'd like addressed ahead of time. The instructor can then utilize those questions that come up in the first part of the week to tailor the live Adobe Connect class session that would be scheduled toward the later part of the week. That 1-hour synchronous session will allow students the opportunity to go over any questions they had with the homework and clarify any misconceptions they have about the course content. All Adobe Connect sessions should be recorded and a link to the recording be posted to the course page so any student who misses the session can review it later in the week.

*Note:* It is the instructor’s choice as to what day they will schedule the Adobe Connect Live Session, but it is recommended that they schedule this session for Wednesday of the week so students have plenty of time to review their homework prior to the deadline on Sunday.

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| Week Two: Research Topic | |  |  |
| ***Learning Objectives*** | | ***Alignment*** | |
| * 1. Develop your research topic and research questions. | | CLO3, CLO4 | |
| * 1. Develop your research design. | | CLO1, CLO3 | |
| * 1. Apply APA style guidelines to your writing. | | CLO1 | |
| ***Resources, Activities, and Preparation***  *Utilize these resources and complete these activities in preparation for your graded assignments.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **APA**  **Read** Topics 22 & 23 of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Watch** the first 5 minutes and 36 seconds [Basics of APA- In-Text Citations](https://youtu.be/agXQATse7NQ) (6:40).  **Post** any questions, comments, or observations to share with the class in the Week Two General Q & A discussion forum on Blackboard. | | 2.3 | Video = **.25 hour** |
| **Research Design**  **Sampling Measures of Performance**  **Read** Topics 24–30, 68, & 69 of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Watch** the following:   * [Sampling: Simple Random, Convenience, systematic, cluster, stratified - Statistics Help](https://youtu.be/be9e-Q-jC-0) (4:53) * [04 Sampling Population Sample and Generalizability](https://youtu.be/IOBYsdgGhVw) (7:01)   **Measures of Performance**  **Read** Topics 39 & 40 of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Post** any questions, comments, or observations to share with the class in the Week Two General Q & A discussion forum on Blackboard. | | 2.2 | Video = **.5 hour** |
| **Research Project Preparation**  **Read** Research Project Requirements.  For the research project, due at the end of the course, you will need to cite 7 peer-reviewed journal articles. You will want to start locating these articles sooner rather than later.  **Post** any questions, comments, or observations to share with the class in the Week Two General Q & A discussion forum on Blackboard. | | Course |  |
| ***Supplemental Resources and Activities***  *Explore these optional resources to deepen your understanding.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Videos**  **Watch** the following:   * [APA In-text Citations (6th Edition)](https://youtu.be/uVlsbN99LIQ) (15:40) for more in-depth information on APA formatting * [APA formatting: Word 2013](https://youtu.be/nCUdBpuTvNQ) (9:03) | |  | Video = **1 hour** |
| **Readings**  **Read** the following:   * [Basic Research Designs](https://cirt.gcu.edu/research/developmentresources/tutorials/researchdesigns) (for more in-depth information on research design) * APA 6th Edition Guidelines Quick Reference Card * APA Help Guide | |  |  |
| ***Graded Assignments***  *Complete these graded assessments by the end of the week unless specified otherwise.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Discussion: Qualitative Versus Quantitative**  **Read** Topics 9 & 10 of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Watch** [Qualitative vs. Quantitative](https://youtu.be/2X-QSU6-hPU) (9:02).  **Pos**t a clear and logical response in 150 to 200 words to the following, providing specific examples to support your answers:   * What is the difference between qualitative and quantitative research? Provide examples of both using the topic you are interested in for your research project. Does your topic lend itself more toward qualitative, qualitative, or both? Which type of research do you want to conduct?   *Note:* Initial answers to the questions are due by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Thursday.  **Respond** to at least 3students in a manner that is thought provoking and that appropriately challenges or elevates the discussion. All responses must be posted by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday. | | 1.2 | Discussion: one post and replies to three other posts plus Library Research = **3 hours** |
| **APA In-Text Citations Worksheet**  **Read** Topics 22 & 23 of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Watch** the first 5 minutes and 36 seconds of [Basics of APA- In-Text Citations](https://youtu.be/agXQATse7NQ) (6:40).  **Complete** the APA In-Text Citations Worksheet.  **Submit** your completed worksheet by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday. | | 2.3 |  |
| **Research Proposal**  **Read** Topics 24–30, 39, 40, 68, & 69 of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Watch** the following:   * [Sampling: Simple Random, Convenience, systematic, cluster, stratified - Statistics Help](https://youtu.be/be9e-Q-jC-0) (4:53) * [04 Sampling Population Sample and Generalizability](https://youtu.be/IOBYsdgGhVw) (7:01)   **Write** 1 to 2 pages introducing your topic. In your introduction, address the following:   * Research topic and rationale for selecting this topic * Research questions * The type of research you will conduct * Method or procedure for data collection * The sample population and size * The sampling method * Independent and dependent variables   **Post** your Research Proposal in the Week 3 Research Proposal Peer Review discussion forum by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday.  **Submit** your research proposal to your instructor by11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday. | | 2.1, 2.2 | Library Research = **2 hours** |
| **Total** |  |  | **6.75 hours** |

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| Week Three: Reliability, Validity, and an Introduction to Literature Review | |  |  |
| ***Learning Objectives*** | | ***Alignment*** | |
| * 1. Analyze the research literature on your selected topic. | | CLO3, CLO4, CLO5 | |
| * 1. Analyze research design in terms of validity and reliability. | | CLO1, CLO4 | |
| ***Resources, Activities, and Preparation***  *Utilize these resources and complete these activities in preparation for your graded assignments.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **APA**  **Read** Topic 23: Reference List.  **Watch** [Purdue OWL: APA Formatting: Reference List Basics](https://youtu.be/HpAOi8-WUY4) (3:18).  **Post** any questions, comments, or observations to share with the class in the Week Three General Q & A discussion forum on Blackboard. | | 2.3 | **.25 hour** |
| **Research Design**  **Read** Topics 31–37, 42, 43, & 46 of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Watch** [Reliability & Validity](https://youtu.be/9ltvDNAsO-I) (8:18).  **Post** any questions, comments, or observations to share with the class in the Week Three General Q & A discussion forum on Blackboard. | | 3.2 | **.25 hour** |
| **Research Project**  **Read** Topics 16–18 and Appendices B & C of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Post** any questions, comments, or observations to share with the class in the Week Three General Q & A discussion forum on Blackboard. | | 3.1 |  |
| **Research Project Preparation**  **Read** Research Project Requirements.  For the research project, due at the end of the course, you will need to cite 7 peer-reviewed journal articles. You will want to start locating these articles sooner rather than later. | | Course |  |
| ***Supplemental Resources and Activities***  *Explore these optional resources to deepen your understanding.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **APA**  **Read** the following:   * APA 6th Edition Guidelines Quick Reference Card * APA Help Guide   **Watch** the following:   * [APA Reference Lists: A More Detailed Explanation](https://youtu.be/NvIe2McNbYI) (5:18) * [APA In-text Citations (6th Edition)](https://youtu.be/uVlsbN99LIQ) (15:40) for more in depth information about APA in-text citations * [APA formatting: Word 2013](https://youtu.be/nCUdBpuTvNQ) (9:03) | |  | Video = **1 hour** |
| ***Graded Assignments***  *Complete these graded assessments by the end of the week unless specified otherwise.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Discussion: Research Proposal Peer Review**  **Review** all the research proposals.  **Post** feedback and critique to at least 3 of your classmates by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Thursday. Discuss the following in your feedback:   * Is the topic appropriate and described in enough detail to establish the importance of the study? * Are the research questions clear and concise? Are they measurable? * Is it clear who the participants would be? Are they described clearly? Do the participants fit the project? * Is the sampling method appropriate for the proposed project? Why or why not? * Could another sampling method be helpful? * Any suggestions to improve the research design?   *Note:* This review should not be focused on spelling, grammar, or mechanics. Your reviews should critically examine the appropriate application of the research methods given the proposed project.  **Review** the peer and instructor feedback you received.  **Revise** your research proposal to incorporate this feedback. | | 2.1 | Discussion: one post and replies to three other posts = **1 hour** |
| **Discussion: Reliability and Validity**  **Read** Topics 31–37, 42, 43, & 46 of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Watch** [Reliability & Validity](https://youtu.be/9ltvDNAsO-I) (8:18).  **Pos**t a clear and logical response in 150 to 200 words to the following, providing specific examples to support your answers:   * Regarding your research topic and design, what are some limitations of your study and design? What are some confounding variables? What are some threats to validity and reliability? What are ways to counteract these threats?   *Note:* Initial answers to the questions are due by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Thursday.  **Respond** to at least 3 students in a manner that is thought provoking and that appropriately challenges or elevates the discussion. All responses must be posted by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday. | | 3.2 | Discussion: one post and replies to three other posts + library research = **3 hours** |
| **Literature Review Introduction**  For this assignment, you will begin writing your literature review. This literature review introduction should be at least 2 paragraphs include 3 to 5 peer-reviewed articles.  **Read** Topic 16 and Appendices B & C of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Discuss** the following:   * Identify the broad problem area. * Indicate why the problem is important. * Include the population size. * Define a key variable. * Include supporting statistics.   **Include** an APA-formatted reference page.  *Note:* For the final research project, due in Week 5, you will need to have written a 3- to 5-page literature review.  **Post** your literature review introduction and reference page in the Literature Review Introduction discussion forum by Thursday.  **Revise** your literature review introduction based on the peer feedback you received.  **Submit** your literature review introduction and reference page to your instructor by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday. | | 2.3, 3.1 | Library research = **2 hours** |
| **Discussion: Literature Review Introduction Peer Review**  **Review** all the literature review introductions.  Post feedback to one literature review introduction by Saturday. In your feedback, address the following:   * Did the introduction get you interested in the topic? * Did the introduction define the topic? * Did the introduction state the prevalence and impact of the topic? * Is there anything that should be added or that is missing? * Was this written clearly with correct APA formatting?   *Note:* This review should not be focused on spelling, grammar, or mechanics. Your reviews should critically examine the appropriate application of the research methods, given the proposed project. | |  | Discussion: one post and replies to three other posts = **1 hour** |
| **Total** |  |  | **8.5 hours** |

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| Week Four: Research Methodology and Abstract | |  |  |
| ***Learning Objectives*** | | ***Alignment*** | |
| * 1. Present your research methodology. | | CLO5 | |
| * 1. Examine key concepts in research methodologies. | | CLO4 | |
| * 1. Summarize your research in an abstract. | | CLO3 | |
| ***Resources, Activities, and Preparation***  *Utilize these resources and complete these activities in preparation for your graded assignments.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Research Project**  **Read** the following:   * Topic 76 of *Understanding Research Methods*. * Planning and Building slides sections of [Presenting your research effectively](http://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2014/09/presenting-research.aspx)   **Watch** [How to Write an Abstract: Content](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szwkBea4qv0) (2:51).  **Post** any questions, comments, or observations to share with the class in the Week Four General Q & A discussion forum on Blackboard. | | 4.1, 4.3 | **.25 hour** |
| **Research Project Preparation**  **Read** Research Project Requirements.  For the research project, due at the end of the course, you will need to cite 7 peer-reviewed journal articles. You will want to start locating these articles sooner rather than later. | | 4.2 |  |
| ***Supplemental Resources and Activities***  *Explore these optional resources to deepen your understanding.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **APA**  **Read** the following:   * APA 6th Edition Guidelines Quick Reference Card * APA Help Guide   **Watch** [APA formatting: Word 2013](https://youtu.be/nCUdBpuTvNQ) (9:03). | |  | Video = **.25** |
| ***Graded Assignments***  *Complete these graded assessments by the end of the week unless specified otherwise.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Research Design Presentation**  **Create** an 8- to 10-slide narrated presentation using PowerPoint, Prezi, or any other online presentation tool approved by your instructor that instructs the class about the components of your research design.    **Include** the following elements in your presentation:   * Brief background     + Information on your topic   + Why it is important to study * Research design     + Discuss the design of research.   + Identify the research approach for your study (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods).   + Research questions * Participants     + Identify the sampling method to be used and discuss the process involved to gain participants.   + Describe who your ideal participant is (age, characteristics, etc.), and explain why. * Data collection tools     + Identify all the tools you plan to use for collecting data (survey, interview, observation, etc.). * Procedures (subheading)    + Provide a step-by-step accounting of how the project will be carried out. * Limitations     + Discuss any potential problems with the research design. What are the limitations of the type of research you plan to conduct (for example, search on the Internet for limitations of survey for ideas)?   + Discuss any potential problems with the participants, as well as how you can counteract the limitation(s).   + Discuss any potential problems with the data collection tools, as well as how you can counteract the limitation(s).   + Discuss any potential problems with the research procedures, as well as how you can counteract the limitation(s).   **Post** your presentation in the Research Design Presentation Peer Review discussion forum by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Thursday.  **Revise** your research design presentation based on the peer feedback you received.  **Submit** your presentation to your instructor by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday. | | 4.1 | Library research = **2 hours** |
| **Discussion: Research Design Presentation Peer Review**  **Review** your classmates’ presentations.  **Provide** feedback to 2 presentations by Saturday.  *Note:* This review should not be focused on spelling, grammar, or mechanics. Your reviews should critically examine the appropriate application of the research methods, given the proposed project. | | 4.1 | Discussion: one post and replies to three other posts = **1 hour** |
| **Research Methodology**  **Read** Research Project Requirements.  **Write** 1 to 2 pages addressing the methodology section of your research project.  **Include** the following elements:   * Brief background     + Information on your topic   + Why it is important to study * Research design     + Discuss the design of research.   + Identify the research approach for your study (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods).   + Research questions * Participants     + Identify the sampling method to be used and discuss the process involved to gain participants.   + Describe who your ideal participant is (age, characteristics, etc.), and explain why. * Data collection tools     + Identify all the tools you plan to use for collecting data (survey, interview, observation, etc.). * Procedures (subheading)    + Provide a step-by-step accounting of how the project will be carried out. * Limitations     + Discuss any potential problems with the research design. What are the limitations of the type of research you plan to conduct (for example, search on the Internet for limitations of survey for ideas)?   + Discuss any potential problems with the participants, as well as how you can counteract the limitation(s).   + Discuss any potential problems with the data collection tools, as well as how you can counteract the limitation(s).   + Discuss any potential problems with the research procedures, as well as how you can counteract the limitation(s).   **Submit** your methodology to your instructor by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday. | | 4.1, 4.2 | Library research = **2 hours** |
| **Abstract**  **Read** Topic 76 of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Watch** [How to Write an Abstract: Content](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szwkBea4qv0) (2:51).  **Write** a 150- to 250-word paragraph discussing the key points of your research:   * Research topic * Research question(s) * Participants * Methods   *Note:* Abstracts also discuss results, data analysis, and conclusions but you will not be including these because you are not conducting the study.  **Format** your abstract following APA guidelines, with a running head and title page.  **Submit** your Abstract to your instructor by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday. | | 4.3 | Library research = **2 hours** |
| **Total** |  |  | **7.5 hours** |

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| Week Five: Research Ethics and Final Draft | |  |  |
| ***Learning Objectives*** | | ***Alignment*** | |
| * 1. Evaluate moral and ethical issues in research. | | CLO2 | |
| ***Resources, Activities, and Preparation***  *Utilize these resources and complete these activities in preparation for your graded assignments.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Ethics in Research**  **Read** Topic 12 of *Understanding Research Methods.*  **Post** any questions, comments, or observations to share with the class in the Week Five General Q & A discussion forum on Blackboard. | | 5.1 | **1 hour** |
| **Research Project Preparation**  **Read** Research Project Requirements.  For the research project, due at the end of the course, you will need to cite 7 peer-reviewed journal articles. You will want to start locating these articles sooner rather than later. | | Course |  |
| **Smarthinking**  **Review** the Quick Start Guide and student handbook.  **Watch** [Smarthinking\_Introduction](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpvWfPhstQM) (1:49).  **Post** any questions, comments, or observations to share with the class in the Week Five General Q & A discussion forum on Blackboard. | | Course | **1 hour** |
| ***Supplemental Resources and Activities***  *Explore these optional resources to deepen your understanding.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **APA**  **Read** the following:   * APA 6th Edition Guidelines Quick Reference Card * APA Help Guide   **Watch** [APA formatting: Word 2013](https://youtu.be/nCUdBpuTvNQ) (9:03). | |  | Video = **1.25 hour** |
| ***Graded Assignments***  *Complete these graded assessments by the end of the week unless specified otherwise.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***AIE*** |
| **Discussion: Moral and Ethical Research Issues**  **Read** [Research Ethics Timeline (1932-Present)](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/resources/bioethics/timeline/index.cfm).  **Pos**t a clear and logical response in 150 to 200 words to the following, providing specific examples to support your answers:   * Choose one of these cases, and discuss the moral and ethical impact on the participants.   *Note*: Initial answers to the questions are due by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Thursday.  **Respond** to at least 3 students in a manner that is thought provoking and that appropriately challenges or elevates the discussion. All responses must be posted by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday. | | 5.1 | Discussion: one post and replies to three other posts + library research = **3 hours** |
| **Research Project**  **Read** Research Project Requirements.  **Use** your Weeks 1–4 assignments and peer and instructor feedback to write your research project. Include all the elements outlined in the research project requirements document.  **Submit** your project to Smarthinking by Thursday. Take a screenshot of your submission, as you will submit this screenshot with your final project.  **Review** the Smarthinking feedback and **make** changes as appropriate to your project.  **Submit** your final project to your instructor by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday. | | Course | Guided project = **5 hours** (Spaced over the entire course at an average of 1 hour a week) |
| **Total** |  |  | **11.25 hours** |

# Breakdown of Academic Instructional Equivalencies

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|  | **AIE Hours** |
| **Week 1** |  |
| Required | 8.5 |
| Supplemental | 1.5 |
| **Week 2** |  |
| Required | 5.75 |
| Supplemental | 1 |
| **Week 3** |  |
| Required | 7.5 |
| Supplemental | 1 |
| **Week 4** |  |
| Required | 7.25 |
| Supplemental | .25 |
| **Week 5** |  |
| Required | 10 |
| Supplemental | 1.25 |
|  |  |
| **Total Required Hours** | 39 |
| **Total Supplemental Hours** | 5 |
| **Total Hours** | 44 |