

FUNDAMENTALS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

This course will introduce you to the ways in which psychologists use the scientific method to ask and answer questions. The emphasis of this course is on building the skills needed to be a successful psychology major at the University of Washington, including information literacy, research ethics, scientific study design, and scientific reporting.

Instructor: Ann Culligan, Ph.D.
Instructor Email: Preferred: Canvas inbox;
 Other: anncv@uw.edu
Office hours: Fridays, 9:15-10:15am and by appointment;
 Guthrie 125

Teaching Assistants (See Canvas for 'TAs' office hour times and locations)

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Lecture Times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10:30-11:20am in Gowen 301

Skill sections & Skill labs: Tuesdays (Skill Sections) and Thursdays (Skill Labs)

Sections	Meeting time	Instructor	Tuesday section	Thursday lab
AA	8:30	Kevin	PAA A212	MGH 044
AB	9:30	Kevin	PAA A212	MGH 044
AC	10:30	Ashley	SAV 139	SAV 117
AD	11:30	Ashley	PAR 313	SAV 117
AE	12:30	Santino	SWS 032	MGH 044
AF	1:30	Santino	SWS 032	MGH 044
AG	2:30	Youngwon	MGH 242	MGH 044
AH	3:30	Youngwon	LOW 112	MGH 044

Course Learning Goals: By the end of this course, students will:

1. Understand the major methods of psychological research and how to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses;
2. Improve their critical thinking about scientific research in psychology;
3. Be able to search for, read, comprehend, analyze, and evaluate scientific literature in psychology;
4. Develop scientific writing skills appropriate for the field of psychology;
5. Understand ethical issues surrounding research in psychology.

Course accessibility: Dr. Culligan and the teaching staff are committed to creating an accessible learning environment for all students in this course. "'Accessible' means those with a disability are able to acquire the same information and engage in the same interactions - and within the same timeframe - as those without disabilities." (University of Montana, Office of Civil Rights Settlement Agreement, 2012)

To request accommodations due to a disability, contact Disability Resources for Students, 011 Mary Gates Hall, (V: 543-8924, TTY: 543-8925). DRS will contact Dr. Culligan with a letter about your accommodations.

Religious observances: If religious observance will necessitate your missing class, please contact Dr. Culligan in advance. (Dates will be verified.)

Course requirements

- **Textbook:** Price, P. (2016) Research Methods in Psychology.
This is an open-source textbook, available online at no cost to students. You will find it linked on Canvas.
- **Additional articles:** Posted on Canvas
- **Poll Everywhere app installed on your smartphone, tablet or laptop.** (If you do not have access to one of these, contact your professor.) After logging in, join the presentation **PollEv.com/anncv**

Course Web Site: <https://canvas.uw.edu>

- Assignments, readings (including the textbook), lecture outlines, screencasts, and other resources are available on Canvas.
- Course announcements will be made through Canvas. It is your responsibility to be aware of this information, as well as any direct communication from a member of the teaching staff.
 - Set up instant or daily-summary emails from Canvas alerting you to important communication. Do this under "Account" --> "Notifications" page. "Conversations" and "Announcements" are the two critical areas to stay on top of daily, other potential notifications are up to you.
- Be sure to check the Canvas website and your email regularly for any schedule changes or other important information.

Course policies:

- **Responsibility:** Your success in this course, college, and life in general, depends on you taking responsibility for your own work and actions. The teaching staff is here to provide you with information, resources, and support, but it is up to you to keep up with assigned readings, turn in assignments on time, ask questions when you are unclear, and seek help when you need it. Honest, timely communication with the teaching staff is key to remaining in control of your own success.
 - If you are experiencing life events that are impinging on your ability to fully succeed in this class or others, contact your professor(s) right away. More often than not, we can help you if we know about the situation before deadlines have passed.
- **Etiquette:** Please be respectful during lecture, sections, and labs. This includes paying attention to your instructors and fellow students.
 - **Cell phones are to be used only for responding to Poll Everywhere questions.** Using a cell phone for other reasons during class is inconsiderate, distracting, and a detriment to your learning. If a conversation or activity on your phone is a priority, do not come to class.
 - **Laptop policy:** Laptops are permitted in the back row, and far left (your left, as you are sitting in the classroom) seats only.

- **Attendance:** Class will be in session 10:30-11:20am, Monday/Wednesday/Friday. Be in your seat at 10:30am. Do not begin packing up until Dr. Culligan has signaled the end of class.
 - **If you miss class:**
 - Do not contact Dr. Culligan about class absences. This is your own right and responsibility. As an adult, it is up to you to assess the costs and benefits of your own priorities and act accordingly. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the information you need from the screencast or a classmate. The same applies to your scheduled section and lab.
 - **Absolutely no doctor's notes or other written excuses will be accepted.** Your health status is protected by law and is not your professors' business. To protect your privacy, the course grading policies allow for a few absences without experiencing harm to your grade. It is up to you to balance your own academic performance, well-being, and other life priorities.
 - If you experience an extended illness or other ongoing issue that is impacting your overall academic performance, contact Student Health and Wellness (206.543.6085; Elm Hall 109) for assistance managing your unique circumstances.
- **Contacting your instructors:** The Canvas inbox is the preferred mode of communication with the teaching staff.
 - Private messages should be sent through the Canvas inbox.
 - Emails will typically be answered within 24 hours during the week, and 48 hours over weekends.
 - When emailing a professor or TA: address the recipient, use proper grammar, be honest, courteous, and brief, and sign your name.
 - Questions about the course and specific assignments should be sent directly to your assigned TA. Include "Psych 209" in the subject line.
 - If you have an inquiry or issue that will take more than a brief email to answer, please meet with one of the teaching staff during office hours or by appointment.
 - Emails asking a question that is clearly answered in the syllabus or on the website, or requesting a change of grade after the end of the course will not be answered. Read the syllabus and course website, and be aware of course policies so that you can stay on top of your performance in this class.
- **Grade inquiries:** All grades will be posted in your Canvas gradebook. It is your responsibility to keep track of how you are doing in the course. If you are concerned about your performance in class, come to office hours to speak with the professor or your TA right away.
 - **If you have a question about a specific grade:** You have one week from the time the grade was posted to ask your TA or professor to check on the grade for you. (Do not ignore your grade all quarter.)
 - **The last day to drop a class or change to S/NS status is 11/13/18.** After this date, there is little that can be done to prevent a failing grade from appearing as 0 on your transcript.
 - **See specific grading policies below**

Grading - Your final grade will be calculated from the total points earned on homework assignments, activity points, quizzes, and exams, as described below. All grades will be posted in the gradebook on the course website. The grading scale and course grading policies are also posted on the course website.

You are responsible for keeping track of how you are doing in the course. Be proactive - if you need help or feel that you are falling behind for any reason, at any time throughout the quarter, contact your professor or TA right away. We are happy to help you, but can only do so if you contact us as soon as you need help, *during the quarter*.

- **Homework Assignments (120 pts; 30% of course grade)** Students will be required to complete four homework assignments over the quarter:
 - **HW1:** Research questions and hypothesis (15 points)
 - **HW2:** Literature review (25 points)
 - **HW3:** Study design (30 points)
 - **HW4:** Research proposal (50 points)
 - Please use the following format for your typed work: double-spaced, 12-point font, and 1" margins.
 - Assignments should be saved as a .docx, .rtf, or .pdf. Other formats will not be accepted.
 - For each assignment, both a first draft and a final draft will be due. You will receive feedback on the first draft, and will be graded on the final draft.
 - Failure to turn in a first draft will result in a 50% deduction of the assignment grade on the final draft.
 - All assignments are to be turned in to the Canvas dropbox associated with the assignment, by 11:59pm on the date specified.
 - Technology “issues” are not acceptable reasons for failure to turn in the correct assignment, on time. Turning in an empty document or the wrong assignment will earn zero points. Claiming that you turned something in when there is no record of you having turned it in will earn zero points. It is up to you to make sure that you have turned in the correct assignment on time; this is not your TA’s responsibility.
 - Updated or corrected assignments can always be submitted before the assignment deadline.
 - Due to the number of assignments being turned in this quarter, late assignments will not be accepted. (See the above statement about being proactive!)
- **Activity Points (20% of course grade)** Students will have the opportunity to earn activity points through various participation activities throughout the quarter in lectures, skill sections, and labs.
 - In lecture, these points will be earned through Poll Everywhere responses. You must be **prepared** and **present** to earn credit on these activities.
 - You are required to have access to Poll Everywhere on a smartphone, tablet, or laptop, as part of your preparation.
 - Be sure that you are logged into pollev.com/anncv at the start of each class, so that you are prepared to respond when questions are presented.
 - Poll Everywhere grading:
 - Factual questions: Correct answers will earn 1 point; incorrect attempts will earn 0.5 point.
 - Opinion or other subjective multiple-choice responses will earn 1 point.

- Only multiple-choice questions are graded; open-ended questions are not graded. (Please keep this in mind and refrain from including unrelated responses to open-ended questions. These are not anonymous.)
 - These points will appear as “Lecture W#” in the gradebook.
- In labs and skill sections, points will be earned through a variety of activities.
 - These points will appear as “AP W#” in the gradebook.
 - The lowest of these grades will be dropped, to allow for one absence.
- Participation points cannot be made up and credit will not be given for anything other than in-class participation. (No excuses needed or accepted!)
 - There will be a surplus of points available, to allow for a few absences, technology glitches, or other unforeseen challenges that may arise. When these complications arise, you do not need to inform the teaching staff.
 - If you are having trouble with Poll Everywhere, visit the help desk at Learning Technologies in Odegaard Library (2nd floor).
- **Exams (200pts; 50% of course grade)** Students will take one online introduction quiz (25 points), one online plagiarism test (25 points) and three in-class exams (two midterms and the final; 50 points each).
 - Exams will be cumulative to the extent that understanding builds on previous material throughout the quarter.
 - Each exam will be comprised of 50 multiple choice questions, plus a few bonus questions.
 - All students are required to bring a scantron form, #2 pencil (with an eraser), and photo ID to each exam.
 - If you must miss one of the midterms, you are required to email Dr. Culligan BEFORE the scheduled midterm for permission to take a makeup exam. (You may only make up one midterm. Do not miss both.)
 - Makeup exams for midterm one and two will ONLY be given immediately after the final exam. Makeups will be comprised of essay and problem-solving questions.
 - The final exam will be given at 8:30-10:20am on 12/10/18. No final exams will be given early - plan accordingly.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY – Read the statement of academic responsibility linked on the course website. You are responsible for knowing all the material contained therein. Of particular relevance to this course, **please pay close attention to the sections on cheating on exams and plagiarizing written work.** Students suspected of violating UW policies will receive notice of the suspicion, and may be subject to the following penalties: a grade of **0** for that test/paper, being reported to the committee on academic conduct, and failing the course.

Course Schedule (subject to change)
Check Canvas for specific readings and assignments

Date	Topic	Reading required for the scheduled class	Assignment due
Week 1 9/26-28			
Wednesday Lecture	Course overview	- Syllabus - UW Statement on Academic Responsibility	
Thursday Lab	Introduction to research articles	“Very happy people”	
Friday Lecture	Scientific thinking in Psychology	Chapter 1	DUE: Bring your annotated syllabus to class
Week 2 10/1-5			
Monday	Scientific theories	Chapter 4	DUE: Read at least one of the articles posted in the HW1 assignment (see W1 module in Canvas)
Tuesday Section	Formulating research questions, operationalizing variables, and building hypotheses		DUE: Three psychological observations from everyday life
Wednesday Lecture	Scientific method	Chapter 2	DUE: Online Introduction Quiz
Thursday Lab	Library skills for psychological research	“If happiness is what you seek, researchers say...”	Bring to section: “Naked and Unashamed”
Friday Lecture	Ethics and ethical research	Optional: “On the social psychology of the psychological experiment...”	DUE: HW1 draft (upload in assignment dropbox)
Week 3 10/8-12			
Monday Lecture	Ethics and ethical research	Chapter 3	
Tuesday Section	Deconstructing the research article	- Indiana University's Plagiarism tutorial	DUE: Plagiarism test* - students must take and pass this test, print the certificate, and turn it in (as a hard copy) to their TA in section.
Wednesday Lecture	Ethics and ethical research	“Psychology, Science, and Knowledge Construction: Broadening Perspectives from the Replication Crisis”	
Thursday Lab	Reviewing literature		
Friday Lecture	Measuring variables	Chapter 5	

Week 4 10/15-19			
Monday Lecture	Measuring variables		DUE: HW1 final (upload in assignment dropbox)
Tuesday Section	Scientific writing	“Summarizing a Research Article” “The rejection of moral rebels”	
Wednesday Lecture	Measuring variables		
Thursday Lab	Review for Exam 1		
Friday Lecture	Guest lecturer from the Psych Writing Center		DUE: HW2 draft (upload in assignment dropbox)
Week 5 10/22-26			
Monday Lecture	Exam 1	Chapters 1-5, and additional readings	
Tuesday Section	Asking ethical questions		
Wednesday Lecture	Correlational research	Chapter 7.1 & 7.2	
Thursday Lab	Acknowledging sources	Chapter 11	
Friday	Correlational research		
Week 6 10/29-11/2			
Monday Lecture	Case studies and observational research	Chapter 7.4	DUE: HW2 final (upload in assignment dropbox)
Tuesday Section	Designing correlational research		
Wednesday Lecture	Case studies and observational research		
Thursday Lab	Correlational research		
Friday Lecture	Survey Research	Chapter 9	
Week 7 11/5-9			
Monday Lecture	Survey Research		
Tuesday	Review for exam 2		
Wednesday Lecture	Exam 2	Chapters 7.1, 7.2, 7.4, 9, 11, 12, and additional readings	
Thursday	Proposal workshop		
Friday Lecture	Single-factor experimental designs	Chapter 6 (and review chapter 12)	

Week 8 11/12-16			
Monday Lecture	No class – Veterans Day observed		
Tuesday Section	Correlation to experimental research		(Last day to drop a class)
Wednesday Lecture	Single-factor experimental designs		
Thursday Lab	Single-factor experimental designs		
Friday Lecture	Factorial designs	Chapter 8	DUE: HW3 draft (upload in assignment dropbox)
Week 9 11/19-23			
Monday Lecture	Factorial designs		
Tuesday Section	Factorial designs		
Wednesday - Friday		No class – Thanksgiving holiday	
Week 10 11/26-30			
Monday Lecture	Experimentation and validity		DUE: HW3 final (upload in assignment dropbox)
Tuesday Section	Factorial designs		
Wednesday Lecture	Quasi-Experimental Designs	Chapter 7.3	
Thursday Lab	Validity and reliability		
Friday Lecture	Quasi-Experimental Designs		DUE: HW4 draft (upload in assignment dropbox)
Week 11 12/3-7			
Monday Lecture	Single-Case Experimental Designs	Chapter 10	DUE: Peer-review of HW4 (upload in assignment dropbox)
Tuesday	Proposal workshop	Bring laptops to section	
Wednesday Lecture	Research Strategies and Issues		
Thursday	Review for Final Exam		
Friday Lecture	Course wrap-up		DUE: HW4 final (upload in assignment dropbox)
Final exam			
Monday 12/10	8:30-10:20am No entry after 8:45am.	Chapters 6, 7.3, 8, 10, and additional readings	The final exam will not be given early for any reason. If you are enrolled in this course, plan to be here for the final.