

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

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Office Hours: By appointment

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introduction to understanding scientific and research methods in the field of psychology. The first objective of this class is to sharpen students' abilities to find, read, evaluate and understand existing research literature; the second aim is to provide students with an overview regarding how to conduct their own research.

The course will begin with an overview and history of the scientific method; followed by the importance of ethics in research and writing; quantitative and qualitative research; reliability and validity; and the differences between correlational, experimental, and quasi-experimental designs. Students will learn about various research study designs, as well as how to write a basic proposal, conduct a literature review, formulate hypotheses, and how to complete IRB submissions. The course will also review how to critically read an article, the basics of writing, summarizing a results section, and reading graphs.

Students will be asked to complete a literature search, summarize research articles, complete a multiple choice midterm exam, and to submit a final outline for a research project.

### **COURSE ASSESSMENT**

**Class participation and attendance (10% of final course grade):** It is expected that all students will complete assigned readings and be active participants in class discussions. All class readings can be found on the course Moodle.

**Literature search (10% of final course grade):** Dr. Siegel will provide a variety of research questions, and students will have to select one question, perform a literature search, and then submit a bibliography of 20 citations.

**Article Summary (30% of final course grade):** Please select two empirical articles of your choice from an academic journal and summarize each article in 1-2 pages.

**Midterm multiple-choice exam (19% of final course grade):** Students will be asked to complete a multiple choice and short answer exam.

**Final Research Project Outline (31% of final course grade):** Please submit a hypothetical project (may be on humans or animals) with 2-3 research hypotheses, an

abstract, a literature review, an outline of the research design, and a bibliography. 8 pages, bibliography not included.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

#### **Attendance:**

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unexcused absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

#### **Academic conduct:**

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.