

PSY 211 – Research Methods in Psychology Laboratory

COURSE SYLLABUS

SUPERVISING PROFESSOR: Dr. Erin Jant

Email: erin.jant@wku.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:30am-1:30pm or by appointment

Office: Gary Ransdell Hall, 3023

OFFICE HOURS: Office hours will be held via zoom each week. Please use this link:

<https://wku.zoom.us/my/erin.jant>

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this laboratory course is to teach students how to critically read and evaluate research articles using the content and experiences gained in PSY 210. The goal for students, by the end of the course, is that they will become critical consumers of research and have the competencies necessary to evaluate, reflect, and create elements of a good research article. This course will run online asynchronously.

PREREQUISITE/COREQUISITE: PSY 100 or PSYS 100 with a C or better/PSY 210 Research Methods

TEXTBOOK REQUIRED: Pyrczak, F. (2015). *Evaluating research in academic journals*. (7th Ed.). Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge: ISBN: 978-1-351-26096-1 (e-book) or ISBN: 978-0-8153-6566-2 (paperback)

COURSE TOPICS: Ethics, Library Database Searches, Titles, Abstracts, Literature Reviews, Generalizability, Measures, Experimental Procedures, Quantitative vs. Qualitative Research, Results, Discussions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate appropriate ethical responsibilities as a psychologist when conducting or analyzing research
2. demonstrate the ability to gather sound and relevant evidence to critically evaluate psychological research
3. demonstrate the ability to analyze and synthesize the assembled evidence to create a logical and supported argument based on this analysis

Format of Course: The format of this class will be varied, but will include online lecture-based discussions, whole-class and small-group online discussions, independent and peer-review activities, and hands-on activities.

BLACKBOARD (Bb): We will be using Blackboard for this course. Please familiarize yourself with the various components of our course site so that you can easily navigate yourself, find important information, and complete assignments. "I didn't know where to look" will not be a viable excuse for missed assignments or deadlines.

COURSE POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS:

Professionalism: As pre-professionals, you are expected to display exemplary levels of professionalism while developing your skills and expertise at WKU. Therefore, it is expected that you follow the **Code of Conduct** outlined in the *WKU Student Handbook* (<http://wku.edu/judicialaffairs/student-code-of-conduct.php>) and any additional course policies for classroom conduct announced by your instructor.

Participation: You are expected to attend class (by watching recorded lectures, it is visible to me which you watch and do not) and participating in discussion board AP assignments. Only documented legitimate excuses (e.g., illness, family death) will be considered for make-up work that occurred during, or was due for class. There is a statute of limitations on period for make-up work; students must provide documentation in order to receive

the opportunity for make-up work. Without appropriate documentation and strong communication/notice with your professor, makeup work will not be accepted.

Academic Dishonesty: Under no circumstances will acts of academic dishonesty be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty is a direct violation of the Code of Conduct. Anyone committing such acts will result in a failing grade -- either in that portion of the course or in the course itself. It is up to you to be knowledgeable and familiar with what constitutes academic dishonesty. Ignorance is not an excuse. Determination of the punishment will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Plagiarism detection software will be used in this course.

What is plagiarism? According to the publication manual of the American Psychological Association (2009), plagiarism is “claim[ing] the words and ideas of another as [your] own” (p. 15) or presenting your own previously written work as new scholarship (self-plagiarism).

Class Cancellation Policy: In the event of an emergency class cancellation, please refer to Blackboard for further instructions.

Emergency Policy: In the event of a major campus emergency; course requirements, deadlines, and evaluation measures are subject to changes. This may be necessary due to a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. To get information about changes in this course look to Blackboard or email your instructor.

Disability accommodations: In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Student Resources:

- The Learning Center (<http://www.wku.edu/tlc/>) -- Student Success Center, Downing Student Union, 2141.
- The Writing Center (<http://www.wku.edu/writingcenter/>) -- Cherry Hall, 123 (primary location).
- The Literacy Center (<http://www.wku.edu/literacycenter/>) -- Gary Ransdell Hall, 2066.

Chosen Names and Personal Pronouns: Everyone has the right to be addressed by the name and pronouns that correspond to their gender identity, including non-binary pronouns- for example: they/them/theirs, ze/zir/zirs, etc. Rosters do not list gender or pronouns so you may be asked to indicate the pronouns you use so that I don't make assumptions based on your name and/or appearance/self-presentation (you are not obligated to do so). If you use a chosen name, please let me know. Chosen names and pronouns are to be respected at all times in the classroom and online discussion boards. Mistakes in addressing one another may happen, so I encourage an environment of openness to correction and learning. I will not however, tolerate repeated comments which disrespect or antagonize students who have indicated pronouns or a chosen name. Chosen name and personal pronouns may evolve over time, so if at any point during the semester you would like to be addressed differently, please let me know.

Information from the University: All students are strongly encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines and practices of all public universities and colleges in Kentucky, the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU

Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations can be requested in special cases through the Student Accessibility and Resource Center (SARC): [270-745-5004](tel:270-745-5004) (voice), [270-745-3030](tel:270-745-3030) (TTY), or [270-288-0597](tel:270-288-0597) (video).

All students must immediately report a positive Covid-19 test result or close contact with a person who has tested positive to the Covid-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019. The assistance line is available to answer questions regarding any Covid-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by public health agencies or the office of the governor. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

GRADING/EVALUATION:

You can earn up to 198 points in the course:

- 82 points for formative assessments (FA)
- 80 points for summative assessments (SA)
- 36 points for Active Participation (AP)

Grades will be assigned based on the grading scale below:

Grading Scale & Evaluation Rubric

	A	B	C	D	F
%	90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	0-59
Points	178-198	158-177	138 -157	118 -137	0-117

NO EXCEPTIONS ON FINAL GRADES. There must always be a cutoff point for a grading scale. Your grade is a culmination of all of the points that you received all semester long, based on your work and effort. We will not accept individual extra credit or make any special arrangements regarding grades or adjust grades due to special circumstances of any kind (if you are experiencing undue personal or academic distress during the semester, this needs to be brought to our attention during the semester and resources for help will be provided). Please do NOT ask for any adjustments to your grade at the end of the semester. If you think there is an error, bring it to our attention immediately when grades are uploaded to Blackboard. Keep up to date with your grades all semester long. Work hard and you will not find yourself in a position in which you are barely missing the higher grade that you hoped to achieve.

Active Participation: Points for active participation (AP) will be awarded as pass/fail based on the following criteria/expectations:

- Lecture viewing and discussion boards
- Professional behavior in communications
- Active participation in class discussion boards and other online tasks

These points will be easy to earn if you invest in your own learning and contribute to the learning of others. Active participation points will be recorded in the Blackboard Grade Book under a given date as pass = 3 or fail = 0. Based on the schedule, **you will have up to 36 eligible AP points you can earn.**

Formative Assessments: You will complete a variety of activities related to the topics explored in this course to further develop and enhance your professional competencies. Quality of those activities will be evaluated based on a given rubric and recorded in the Blackboard Grade Book. Performance on these formative assessments will represent **82 of the 198 points possible in the course.**

Summative Assessments: The midterm and final projects for the course will be formal reviews of a given research article. Quality of these assessments will be evaluated based on a given rubric and recorded in the Blackboard Grade Book. Performance on the summative assessments will represent **80 of the 198 points possible in the course.**

Assignment Instructions, Grading Keys, and Rubrics: Use the assignment instructions, grading rubrics, and grading keys provided to you to help you be successful on course assignments. **Procrastination is your enemy**, so plan ahead, and read them in advance so that you can ask questions and be clear on the assignment expectations before you begin any assignment.

Written Work:

- Follow the rules outlined by the American Psychological Association (6th edition) Manual.
- Proofread all written work prior to submission as quality matters.
- All assignments are due by class time unless otherwise noted by instructor. No late work will be accepted unless appropriate documentation is presented.

EMAIL EXPECTATIONS: Please follow the following rules:

- **SUBJECT LINE: "PSY 211"**
- GREETING: Use formal names (e.g., "Dr. Jant" or "Professor Jant")
- **Message clearly articulated and well-written**
- MANNERS= "Please" and "Thank you"
- SALUTATION: "Sincerely" "Thank you"

*****I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours. If you have not received a response in that timeframe, check that you used proper formatting, and then please re-send the email so that it goes to the top of my inbox. I will be available on email from 8:30am-6pm. Between the hours of 6pm-8am I will be less available to respond to emails immediately, but I will respond the following business day. *****

NOTE: If the answer can be found in the materials provided to you such as the syllabus or assignment details posted on Blackboard, you will be directed there. Look first!

PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE: *Emails using texting or instant messaging language (e.g., "idk") will not be reviewed or receive a return correspondence. You are working to be professionals; therefore, your written correspondence to ANY professional on WKU's campus including your professors and instructors should represent your best professional efforts.*

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf. Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.