

**Research Methods
PSY210, Summer 2022
(Last Undated: 1/22/2022)**

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Office Hours: By appointment. To set up a Zoom meeting, email me with several time slots that you are available.

Course Introduction:

This course is designed to introduce students to the process of research and common research methods in psychology. Students will also learn the “nuts and bolts” of putting together a research proposal in psychology. **This course will run online asynchronously, meaning that students will read the textbook and PowerPoint slides, complete quizzes, and develop a research proposal independently according to the course schedule.**

Objectives:

- (1) Understanding the canons of the scientific methods
- (2) Understanding and applying the process of research in psychology (choosing a research question, conducting literature review, developing a testable hypothesis, designing the study, conducting the study, analyzing and interpreting the data, reporting results in oral and written form in APA style)
- (3) Describing the advantages and disadvantages of common research methods (e.g., case studies, correlational studies, experiments, and quasi-experiments) and choosing appropriate research methods to test specific hypotheses
- (4) Critically evaluating threats to internal and external validity and discussing ways of addressing those threats
- (5) Learning how to interpret descriptive statistics and inferential statistics
- (6) Applying basic ethical guidelines to research in psychology

Instructional Methods and Activities:

Textbook readings, PowerPoint slides, multimedia resources, online quizzes, and discussion board assignments

Being “Online”- The nature of this class Using Blackboard

This class will be presented through “Blackboard,” which is the name of the website you will use to access materials and complete your assignments. To access Blackboard:

- 1) Go to <https://wku.blackboard.com/>
- 2) You will be required to login using your WKU email username (what you use to access your WKU e-mail).
- 3) After logging in, on the right-hand side of the screen, you will see the course name underlined, PSY 210 – Research Methods. Click on the course name.
- 4) You will see a screen that will have any current announcements in the center. To the left will be a list of menu items or “hot links”. Click on these, depending on what you want to do.
- 5) In general, I will communicate with the class through Announcements, so make sure you check Announcements daily and have them forwarded to your email. However, if I need to contact an

individual student, I will use e-mail. I count on you to check your e-mail at least daily during the week. You can expect me to reply to your email within 24 hours, but usually it will be sooner.

Working the Course

We are covering a semester's worth of content in 4 weeks; therefore, it is imperative that you complete all of the requirements for the course per the daily schedule. To get the most out of the course, you should first complete the assigned readings using active reading strategies and note-taking and PowerPoint slides. Once you have completed your readings and have processed the information, complete the assessment assigned. Please review any feedback that you are given to help you improve throughout the course. Additionally, you will be working on a research project throughout the course, so please refer to the assignment instructions, rubrics, and schedule for more information.

Texts:

- **McBride, D. M. (2020). The Process of Research in Psychology (4th Edition). Sage Publishing. (required)**
- A companion website that includes study materials and datasets from the textbook: <https://edge.sagepub.com/mcbride4e/student-resources-0>
- American Psychological Association. (2019). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th Edition). ISBN: 143383216X (recommended)

Course Requirements:

Quiz (120 points)

After each chapter, you will be asked to complete a quiz. This will allow you to gauge the level of your understanding of the course content and highlight areas where further learning is needed. Quizzes are **open book**, and you can earn up to **120 points (10 points x 12 quizzes)**. **Each week's quizzes must be completed by that Sunday.** For example, Quiz 1, 2, 3, and 4 must be completed by 5/16.

Exam (180 points)

Students will complete three non-cumulative exams (See the Course Schedule for the exam dates), and each exam is worth 60 points. The exams will consist of true-or-false or multiple-choice questions that assess your understanding as well as application of important concepts. Test materials will reflect PowerPoint slides, quizzes, multimedia resources, and textbook readings. **Exam 1, 2, and 3 must be completed by 5/15, 5/22, and 5/29, respectively. Unlike quizzes, exams are NOT open book.**

Lockdown Browser

Exams will be remotely proctored via the Lockdown Browser. You need to **1) install the Lockdown Browser** (see the instructions below) **and 2) complete the practice exam by May 10th.** These steps will ensure your testing environment is suitable for online test administration. You need to have a webcam and high-speed Internet, and it appears that Google Chrome OS is not compatible with the Lockdown Browser.

Here are the instructions on how to install the Lockdown Browser.

1. Navigate to [Blackboard](#).
2. Click on the **My WKU Bb** tab.
3. Click on the **LockDown Browser link** under the box labeled **Software**.
4. Click the **Install Now** button to begin the download of the Respondus Lockdown Browser.
5. When the file has downloaded, run the file to start the installation.
6. Choose the Setup Language.

7. If you accept the terms of the license agreement, select the circle next to this statement and click **Next**.
8. Once the installation is complete, click **Finish**.
9. The Respondus Lockdown Browser can be located in the **All Programs** listing on Windows computers, or in the **Application** folder on an Apple computer.

Research Proposal (100 points)

Students will complete a research proposal in PowerPoint slides. In this project, students have an opportunity to apply knowledge of research methods to design a study that addresses a research question of their own interest. A rubric will be provided on Blackboard. Although I encourage students to decide on their research topic and start working on their research project early on, you will spend most of your time completing a research project during Week 4 and **upload your PowerPoint slides for peer review by 6/1. The final research proposal is due on 6/5.** (Note: Some preparatory work such as proposal topic selection and literature review will be completed as part of the PSY211 course curriculum)

Research Proposal Peer Review (40 points)

During Week 4, you will be asked to develop the Introduction, Literature Review, Methods, and Discussion sections of your proposal and upload a single PowerPoint file to the Discussion Board on Blackboard **(10 points) by May 31** and provide peer-review (minimum 100 words) to two classmates **(20 points = 2 x 10 points) by June 2**. Based on the quality of your feedback, you can earn up to **10 additional points**. These activities will allow you to contribute to the learning of your peers and develop insight from their work.

Late Submission Policy

You are allowed to complete exams and quizzes and submit assignments past the due date. However, **10% will be automatically deducted per day the submission is late.** For example, if a submission is 2 days late, and the student is awarded full points for a quiz, their final grade would be 8 points (2 days late x 1 point deduction per day = 2 point Late Penalty).

Grading:

Grades will be displayed on Blackboard: <https://blackboard.wku.edu/>. The instructor will assign final grades based on the total score.

Exam 1	60 points
Exam 2	60 points
Exam 3	60 points
Quiz	120 points
Research proposal	100 points
Research proposal peer review	40 points
Total	440 points

%	Total Score	Grade	Grade Point Value
90-100%	396-440	A	4.0
80-89.9%	352-395	B	3.0
70-79.9%	308-351	C	2.0
60-69.9%	264-307	D	1.0

%	Total Score	Grade	Grade Point Value
59.9% and below	0-263	F	0

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Reading	Topics	Exam & Assignments
1	5/9	Chapter 1	Psychological research	Quiz1 (Due on 5/16)
1	5/10	Chapter 2	Hypothesis development	Practice exam using Lockdown Browser (Due on 5/10) Quiz2 (Due on 5/16)
1	5/11	Chapter 3	Ethical guidelines for psychological research	Quiz3 (Due on 5/16)
1	5/12	Chapter 4	How psychologists use the scientific method	Quiz4 (Due on 5/16)
1	5/15			Exam1 (must be completed by 5/15 at 11:59pm)
2	5/16	Chapter 5	Variables and measurement in research	Quiz5 (Due on 5/23)
2	5/17	Chapter 6	Sampling	Quiz6 (Due on 5/23)
2	5/18	Chapter 7	Summarizing and interpreting data	Quiz7 (Due on 5/23)
2	5/19	Chapter 8	Reporting research	Quiz8 (Due on 5/23)
2	5/22			Exam2 (must be completed by 5/22 at 11:59pm)
3	5/23	Chapter 10& 11	Survey research & Correlational studies	Quiz9 (Due on 5/30)
3	5/24	Chapter 12	One-factor experiments	Quiz10 (Due on 5/30)
3	5/25	Chapter 13	Multi-factor experiments	Quiz11 (Due on 5/30)
3	5/26	Chapter 14	Quasi-experiments	Quiz12 (Due on 5/30)
3	5/29			Exam3 (must be completed by 5/29 at 11:59pm)
4	5/30		Research proposal work day	
4	5/31		Research proposal work day	Upload a research proposal for peer review (5/31)
4	6/1		Research proposal work day	
4	6/2		Research proposal work day	Peer review on the Discussion Board is due (6/2)
4	6/4			Final research proposal is due on 6/4

Statement on Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses constitute academic dishonesty according to the code of the university. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and penalties can include canceling a student's enrollment without a grade, giving an F for the course or for the assignment. For further information, visit the website of Office of Student Conduct (<https://www.wku.edu/studentconduct/process-for-academic-dishonesty.php>)

Statement of Disability Services: 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.

Title IX/Discrimination and Harassment: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040). 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.