

PSY 310—Summer 2022
Research Methods in Psychology I: Research Design and Ethics

Class Meetings: Online

Office hours: TBD (We will find a time that works best for most in the first week); I am happy to meet with you over Zoom or through email appointment if you can't make these

Instructor: Amanda Gilchrist, Ph.D

Email: agilchrist@cottey.edu

Phone: (417)667-8181, ext. 2276 or (573)289-5609 (cell)

Course Objectives: Welcome! Research in psychology has enabled us to learn much about human behavior in various domains. The goal of this course is to help you understand the basics of the research process in psychology. This will include selecting a suitable research question, obtaining relevant background information, differentiating between different research designs, collecting data from research participants, and selecting appropriate data analyses.

Prerequisites: You will have needed to successfully complete and pass PSY 101 (General Psychology). Additionally, you must **either** have previously passed **or are currently enrolled** in MAT 112 (Elementary Statistics). If you have not taken these courses, please speak to me as soon as possible.

Required Textbook: Morling, B. (2018). *Research Methods in Psychology, Third Edition*. W.W. Norton.

This course addresses the following Cottey College Learning Outcomes:

- **Outcome III: Thinks critically.** One of the things you'll learn early on in this course is that even if you're not planning on doing research, you are likely going to be a consumer of research. This means that it's important for you to think critically, approaching claims with a healthy sense of skepticism and drawing conclusions based on interpreting evidence appropriately.
- **Outcome VIII: Acts responsibly.** A major component of research methods includes research/scientific ethics. In recent years, a variety of ethical issues involving psychology have been raised. As scientists, it is our responsibility to be ethical in research situations and to reinforce that knowledge continuously. You will be introduced to these ethical principles in this course.

This course addresses the following APA Learning Goals and Outcomes:

- **Goal 1: Increases knowledge base in psychology**
 - 1.1: Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes
 - 1.3: Describe applications of psychology
- **Goal 2: Scientific inquiry and critical thinking**
 - 2.1: Use scientific reasoning to interpret psychological phenomena

- 2.2: Develop psychological information literacy
- 2.3: Engage in integrative thinking and problem solving
- 2.4: Interpret, design, and conduct basic psychological research
- 2.5: Incorporate sociocultural factors in scientific inquiry
- **Goal 3: Ethical and social responsibility in a diverse world**
 - 3.1: Apply ethical standards to psychological research and science

How Are We Doing Class This Summer?

This is a **six-week course, running from June 6th to July 15th**. Normally, this class would be taught in 15 weeks, so you'll see that each week, we're going to touch on 2-3 topics instead of just one topic per week. **This course is largely asynchronous**—this means that I'll make materials (slides, recorded lectures, handouts, quizzes) available to you each week, and you'll work through them at your own pace. So if you have a job this summer or you live in a different time zone, you can find a time that works best for you. But this also means you're going to have to manage your time effectively! The more you put into it, the more you'll get out of it—and hopefully it will make our discussions more fun.

Once a week, **I'd like us to check in with each other on Fridays over Zoom** just to see how you are all doing with the material. **Come prepared with at least one question that you had on the week's work that we can all discuss as a class.** If you can't make it on Fridays, email me with your question and let me know how you're doing.

Under normal circumstances, PSY 310 is a writing-intensive course. Because of the short duration of this summer course, **this class will not be writing-intensive** (don't worry, PSY 311 still will be!). **If you need another writing-intensive psychology course, please make sure to include that in your 2022-2023 schedule.**

Course Requirements and Grading Policies

Midterm (75 pts) and Final Exam (100 pts)

You will be taking two online, short-answer exams in this semester to see what you've learned. The midterm will post during the third week of class (June 20-24); you'll have by the Sunday on that weekend to complete it (June 26). The final exam will post during the last week of classes (July 11-15) and it will need to be completed by July 15th. Both exams will include short-answer questions and will have a time limit of 75 minutes for the midterm and 2 hours for the final. You'll only have one chance to take the exam, so make sure that you're well-prepared and have kept up with the readings and lectures.

Forum Participation (180 points)

An asynchronous class makes it hard to have good class discussion and see if you have any questions, but that's where a forum comes in. Twice a week, I'll give you a prompt or any activity through eLearning's Discussion Forum. You'll need to respond to the prompt in a thoughtful way—each week's post will be worth 15 points. **Sometimes this may require you to read an article or search a database, so please don't wait to do these at the last minute.** If you'd like to respond more than once a week or post additional thoughts or questions you have, you're more than welcome to do so. The forum is going to be one of the biggest ways to interact with each other, so let's make good use of it. ☺

Quizzes (75 points)

To help you prepare for the exams and make sure you understand the concepts you're learning, there will be five quizzes worth 15 points each. These will use a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions, and you can take these quizzes multiple times until their deadline at the end of each week.

Homework Assignments (100 points)

There will be five homework assignments that you'll need to complete, worth 20 points each. Each handout will have additional instructions and will be due at the end of the week.

Grade Disputes:

If you have an issue with your grade, you will need to meet with me and submit your issue in writing **within 3 days of receiving your assignment or exam grade.** I will not accept any disputes after that time.

Late Assignments:

Assignments must be turned in on the due date specified in your syllabus. If you're having difficulty completing assignments, please email me as soon as possible. **I will not accept any late assignments.**

Total Point Breakdown

Midterm	75 points
Final Exam	100 points
Forums	180 points (15 points each)
Weekly Quizzes	75 points (15 points each)
Homework	100 points (20 points each)
Total	530 points

I will make sure assignments are graded and returned to you within 2 days of turning the assignment in. Final course grades will be calculated based on your percentage of total points. To calculate your current grade, divide the points you have earned so far by the total points possible at this point in the semester:

A	92.5% or higher	D+	67.5-69.5%
A-	89.5-92.5%	D	62.5-67.5%
		D-	59.5-62.5%
B+	87.5-89.5%		
B	82.5-87.5%	F	59.5% or lower
B-	79.5-82.5%		
C+	77.5-79.5%		
C	72.5-77.5%		
C-	69.5-72.5%		

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic integrity is fundamental. I expect you to abide by Cottey's Honor Code. This means that all students are expected to submit their **own original work** on project assignments. Don't cheat on these! The college has a strict policy on cheating and plagiarism, which includes filing reports with the Vice President of Academic Affairs if this is violated. **Using ideas or words written by another person (including current or former members of the class) are considered plagiarism and/or cheating. That also includes checking websites like Chegg and CourseHero. The first instance of cheating will result in a 0 on the assignment; further instances of cheating will be sent to the VPAA.**

All instances of plagiarism/cheating or other violations of academic integrity will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the Cottey College Honor Code. If you have any questions about these policies, feel free to contact me.

Students Requiring Accommodations:

Cottey College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a documented disability that impacts your academic performance and wish to seek accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services. Before meeting with your professor, you must obtain the proper paperwork from the Coordinator of Disability Services, Heather English,

located in the Kolderie Center on the first floor of the Rubie Burton Academic Center (RBAC 164). You may contact her by phone at (417) 667-8181 x. 2131 or by email at smcgee@cottey.edu. All information and discussions are confidential.

Tentative Schedule

These dates may be subject to change, depending on how long it takes us to cover a particular topic. If we have to push something back, I'll keep you informed via email, **so make sure you're checking your Cottey email at least once a day. All times are based on the Central Time Zone, so keep that in mind!**

Week 1 (June 6-10): Introduction to Research and Research Claims

Reading: Morling, Chapters 1-3

Forum posts #1 and #2 due Sunday, June 12th @ 11:55 pm

Quiz #1 due Sunday, June 12th @ 11:55 pm

Homework #1—"Why We Lie"; read the article provided on eLearning and complete the handout. Due Sunday, June 12th @ 11:55 pm

Week 2 (June 13-17): Research Ethics and Measurement

Reading: Morling, Chapters 4-5

Forum posts #3 and #4 due Sunday, June 19th @ 11:55 pm

Quiz #2 due Sunday, June 19th @ 11:55 pm

Homework #2 due Sunday, June 19th @ 11:55 pm

Week 3 (June 20-24): Descriptive Methods and Sampling

Reading: Morling, Chapters 6-8

Forum posts #5 and #6 due Sunday, June 26th @ 11:55 pm

Homework #3 due Sunday, June 26th @ 11:55 pm

MIDTERM EXAM posts online on Monday, June 20th; due Sunday, June 26th @ 11:55 pm

Week 4 (June 27-July 1): Experiments

Reading: Morling, Chapters 10-11

Forum posts #7 and #8 due Sunday, July 3rd @ 11:55 pm

Quiz #3 due Sunday, July 3rd @ 11:55 pm

Homework #4 due Sunday, July 3rd @ 11:55 pm

Week 5 (July 4-8): Factorial Experiments and Quasi-Experimental Designs

Reading: Morling, Chapters 12-13

Forum posts #9 and #10 due Sunday, July 10th @ 11:55 pm

Quiz #4 due Sunday, July 10th @ 11:55 pm

Homework #5 due Sunday, July 10th @ 11:55 pm

Week 6 (July 11-15): Replication and Wrapping Things Up

Reading: Morling, Chapter 14

Forum posts #11 and #12 due Sunday, July 17th @ 11:55 pm

Quiz #5 due Sunday, July 17th @ 11:55 pm

FINAL EXAM posts online Monday, July 11th; due Sunday, July 17th @ 11:55 pm