



## Research Methods

PSY 301W (10281)

Fall 2017

M/W 2:00 – 3:50

MOD 103



### Professor

Jaime Cloud, Ph.D.

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**Website:** [www.jaimemcloud.com](http://www.jaimemcloud.com)

### Teaching Assistant (TA)

Veronica Villarreal

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### Course Description

This course is designed to provide an introduction to research methodology and a basic framework from which to critically evaluate behavioral science research. You will learn how to design and execute empirical research and will apply this knowledge by conducting a psychological study, writing an APA-style paper, and presenting the results. This course will provide the foundation for your career as a psychologist. It is a strenuous course, but one I believe you will find tremendously rewarding.

**Pre-requisites:** PSY 201, PSY 202, or equivalents and WR 135.

### Psychological Science Program Outcomes (PSO)

1. Explain and/or apply principles, skills, values, or ethics of psychology.
2. Apply appropriate research methods to critically analyze human behavior.
3. Identify and demonstrate knowledge of sociocultural and international diversity.

### Course Goals:

After completing PSY 301, the successful student will be able to:

- locate, interpret, critically evaluate, and summarize psychological research (PSO #2, ULO: Inquiry and Analysis).
- formulate testable hypotheses and identify appropriate study designs for various types of inferences (e.g., causal) (PSO #2, ULO: Inquiry and Analysis),
- apply the basic principles and techniques employed in the scientific method to assess hypotheses (PSO #2, ULO: Inquiry and Analysis),
- apply a preliminary understanding of statistical techniques to analyze data and interpret findings (ULO: Quantitative Literacy),
- demonstrate effective writing and oral presentation skills in APA style (ULO: Written Communication)
- understand and follow the APA code of ethics in treatment of participants and data handling. (PSO #1).

### Office hours

Todd 318

Mon. 10-12

Wed. 10-12 & 1-2

(and by appt.)

### TA office hours

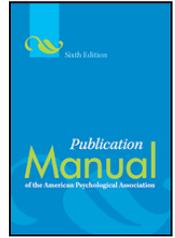
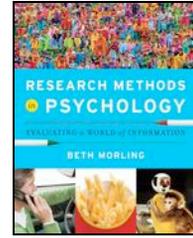
Todd 316

Tue. 2:30 – 3:30

## Textbooks

**Required:** Morling, B. (2012). Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of Information (1/e). ISBN: 978-0-393-93546-2

**Strongly recommended:** Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6/e). ISBN: 1-4338-0561-8



## Classroom Policies

**Email:** You are expected to check your university email account on a daily basis for communication from me concerning the class.

Email is the best way to contact me. I aim to return all inquires within 24 hours; however, I will not respond to emails received after 6:00PM until the following day. In addition, I will not respond to emails about an assignment the day before it is due so do not wait until last minute to begin working on an assignment!

**Classroom Conduct:** In order to effectively communicate class material, all students are expected to be non-disruptive and respectful of one another during lecture. Please refrain from arriving late, leaving early, or packing your belongings until after class is dismissed.

**Cell phones and laptops should only be used for note-taking purposes.**

**Class notes:** It is important to me that you are able to focus your attention on course material and actively participate. For that reason, electronic copies of the PowerPoint slides will be posted on Moodle. On occasion, you will find that a key term has intentionally been left blank; you will be provided the missing term during lecture. I recommend that you print a copy of the slides before each lecture to take notes on in class.

**Audio recordings:** If you wish to make audio recordings of my lectures, please contact me to request permission. Permission to make audio recordings will be granted once the student signs an agreement that specifies acceptable use of the recordings. Video recording the lectures is not permitted out of respect for the other students' right to privacy.

**Extra credit:** There will be two extra credit assignments worth a maximum of 10 points each. Each extra credit assignment is due 2-weeks after it is assigned. In addition, you may earn 2 points of extra credit by attaching a Writing Center slip to any written assignment.

**Student success concerns:** If I determine that your performance in this class is placing you at academic risk, I may refer you to a member of the Student Success Team. A student success specialist will offer to work with you to address issues and develop a student success strategy. Regardless of whether a referral has been made, you are ultimately responsible for tracking your own progress in this course. If you would like to meet with a student success specialist, please contact the Academic Advising and Learning Center at 503-838-8428.

**Student absence notification:** If for some reason you are absent due to an extenuating circumstance or medical situation, you must report the incident through official channels before I will make an exception for late or missed work. To complete a Student Absence Notification Request, go to <http://www.wou.edu/advising/absence> or contact the Academic Advising and Learning Center at 503-838-8428.

## Classroom Policies cont.

**Accommodations:** If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Services, APSC 405, or at 503-838-8250, as early as possible in the term. Students needing medical or mental health care can access the Student Health and Counseling Center by calling 503-838-8313, emailing at [health@wou.edu](mailto:health@wou.edu), or walking in to schedule an appointment.

•**Veterans statement:** Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to the instructor.

•**Service animals:** Students who require the use of a service animal in non-public areas (e.g., classrooms) must request an accommodation through the WOU Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please refer to the ODS website or call ODS (503-838-8250) for more information.

**Mandatory reporting:** As an employee at Western Oregon University, I am required by federal law to report any incident of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment. You have the right to maintain your privacy and not tell me any personal information that could result in mandatory reporting. If you disclose to me (verbally or in writing) about something that has occurred to you or another student, I must inform the appropriate university staff. Reporting is intended to safeguard students and provide students support. If you would like additional information, please visit [www.wou.edu/student/assault\\_care.php](http://www.wou.edu/student/assault_care.php).

**Incompletes:** I do not give incompletes to help students avoid receiving an F. To be eligible for an incomplete, you must be passing the class but lack one essential requirement. In addition, I must find your reason for requesting an incomplete acceptable. Please see me for more details.

**Finals week attendance:** In accordance with university policy, students must be available to meet during finals week. Our scheduled meeting time is Wed., Dec. 6 from 12:00 – 1:50 PM (this is when Block Exam 2 will be administered). **If you will be unavailable on that date, do not take this class!**

**Grade-grubbing:** A responsibility of teachers and scientists alike is to be humble. As such, I remain open to the possibility of being wrong. If you feel that you have been assigned an unfair grade, I encourage you to meet with me and explain your rationale. That said, I am not receptive to students who ask me to give them a higher grade out of the kindness of my heart. I respect students who take ownership of the grade they earned.

## Course Engagement (20 pts.)

Doing well in this course requires a high level of engagement both inside and outside of class. You are expected to attend all lectures and participate in class discussions and activities.

**Lecture Attendance (15 pts.):** Attendance will be taken daily. You will receive 1 attendance point for each lecture day (not exam day) that you attend, for a maximum of 15 points.

**Participation/Effort (5 pts.):** At the end of the semester, I will assign you a participation grade based on your participation in class discussions, activities, and your observance of the basic rules of classroom conduct. If you do not contribute to the class, you will receive 0 pts. (which could result in a lower letter grade).

## Reading Checks (20 pts.)

It is critical in this course that you properly prepare for material covered in class. Part of that preparation includes the completion of reading assignments *prior to the start of class*. To ensure that you keep up with the reading assignments, you must complete a Reading Check on Moodle by 2 PM on the lecture day that a reading assignment is due. Each Reading Check will consist of two dichotomous-choice questions, worth 1 point each. Only your best-scoring 10 of the 15 Reading Checks will count toward your grade. There will be no make-up Reading Checks.

## Quizzes (50 pts.)

To help prepare you for the 50-point Block Exams, there will be two pop-quizzes over the course of the term (worth 20 points each). Each pop-quiz will be administered in class and will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions and one short-answer essay question. There will also be one APA-style exam (worth 10 pts.) administered via Moodle that will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions. **Only students with excused absences from the Academic Advising and Learning Center will be permitted to take a make-up quiz.**

## Exams (100 pts.)

There will be two non-cumulative Block Exams worth 50 points each (the second Block Exam will be given during the final exam period). Twenty-five points of each Block Exam will come from multiple-choice questions, 15 points from short-answer questions, and 10 points from a page-long essay question.

**Review Sessions:** I will host an online review chat on Moodle from 8:00-9:00pm on the evening immediately preceding each exam.

**Study Guides:** I do not provide study guides as doing so would rob you of an additional opportunity to rehearse lecture material. I encourage you to make your own study guide and/or flashcards and share your materials with others. In lieu of study guides, I host an online chat review (see above).

**Make-up Policy:** If a student must miss a Block Exam, the student is required to contact me prior to the exam date. Only students with excused absences from the Academic Advising and Learning Center will be permitted to take a make-up exam.

## Tattooable Terms

Some concepts are so important that they deserve the special status of being “tattooable.” That is, as a psychology major, they should be tattooed into your brain. To help motivate you to master these terms at a level above others, exam questions involving “tattooable” terms will be worth more points. Below are the 12 “tattooable” terms, plus one forbidden term.

- |                          |                        |                             |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ Falsifiability         | ✓ Internal validity    | ✓ Statistically significant |
| ✓ Systematic empiricism  | ✓ External validity    | ✓ Correlation               |
| ✓ Operational definition | ✓ Independent variable | ✓ Interaction               |
| ✓ Reliability            | ✓ Dependent variable   | ✓ Power                     |

**Forbidden term:** ✗ Prove (never, EVER use this word!)

## Research Report (260 pts.)

You will design and execute an empirical research study, culminating in an APA-style research report and poster presentation. Although you are encouraged to share articles and ideas with fellow students who are conducting studies similar to your own, **your research report MUST be written independently.**

**Your research report will be graded across the following phases:**

Literature hunt assignment	5 pts.
Introduction section outline	10 pts.
IRB materials	10 pts.
Introduction/Method draft	50 pts.
Data analysis	5 pts.
Results/Discussion draft	50 pts.
Final paper	100 pts.
Poster presentation	30 pts.
<b>Total</b>	<b>260 pts.</b>

Detailed guidelines will be provided in class and posted on Moodle for each phase of your research report.

**Late policy:** Each phase of your research report is due in .docx format (except for the poster, which is due in .pdf format) via Moodle. A 10% deduction will be applied for assignments or papers that are not uploaded to Moodle by the designated time. An additional 10% deduction will be applied for each 24-hour period thereafter that the assignment or paper is late up until 1-week at which point a grade of 0 will be given.

### Example Deduction for Turning in an Assignment or Paper Late

**Paper due:** Tues. Feb. 11

<b>Day 1:</b> Submitted after noon on Feb. 11, but before noon on Feb. 12	10% deducted
<b>Day 2:</b> Submitted after noon on Feb. 12, but before noon on Feb. 13	20% deducted
<b>Day 3:</b> Submitted after noon on Feb. 13, but before noon on Feb. 14	30% deducted
<b>Day 4:</b> Submitted after noon on Feb. 14, but before noon on Feb. 15	40% deducted
<b>Day 5:</b> Submitted after noon on Feb. 15, but before noon on Feb. 16	50% deducted
<b>Day 6:</b> Submitted after noon on Feb. 16, but before noon on Feb. 17	60% deducted
<b>Day 7:</b> Submitted after noon on Feb. 17, but before noon on Feb. 18	70% deducted
1-week late (or later)	100% deducted

**SONA:** You are responsible for conducting research in a professional and ethical manner using SONA (a web-based system that connects researchers with student participants). You will soon receive an automatically generated email with your username and a temporary password to access SONA at <http://wou.sona-systems.com>. You can find step-by-step instruction sheets and video tutorials on how to use SONA at <http://moodle.wou.edu/course/view.php?id=1784>.

## Information for Student Researchers

**Canceling a study session:** You are responsible for conducting research in a professional and ethical manner. In the event that you must cancel a scheduled session for any reason (e.g., illness, weather), you are expected to (1) contact participants through the SONA website ASAP to notify them of the cancellation, and (2) post notice of the cancellation at the research site prior to the study session or contact the research site at least 30 minutes in advance to ask that notice of the cancellation be posted. To cancel a session in Hamersly Library, contact 503-838-8418 or email libweb@wou.edu. To cancel a session in WUC, contact the front desk at 503 838-8261. If you believe that you provided sufficient notice (e.g., 12 hours) of your cancellation, please do not award participants credit for your study session. Instead, you should mark them as an "excused no-show."

• NOTE: Such cancellations should only be made under emergency circumstances and not for the simple convenience of researchers. Failure to follow this procedure may result in having points deducted from your final grade at a rate of 10 points per incident.

### Miscellaneous information:

- Walk-ins are not allowed! All participants must sign up for timeslots through the SONA website to participate in studies.
- You may not advertise your study on the white board in the library as doing so may give participants the impression that they can walk-in to participate (rather than sign up for a timeslot through the SONA website).
- If you reserve a room in the library, you must arrive on time to claim that room, otherwise it will be released for other students to use. That means if you reserve a room from 9:00AM – 11:00AM but no participants sign up until 10:00AM, you must still arrive at 9:00AM to hold the room.
- Once you reserve a room in the library, wait to receive an email confirmation for your room reservation before listing that room as the location of your study on SONA. The library employee who processes your request may assign you to a smaller room that is more appropriate for the size of your study.
- Participants will be able to sign up for a study until the study appointment is 12 hours away. If there are fewer than 12 hours remaining until a timeslot begins, that timeslot will not be visible to participants.
- Participants will be able to cancel a study appointment through the SONA website until the study appointment is 12 hours away. If there are fewer than 12 hours remaining until the study appointment begins, participants must contact you directly (e.g., via email) to cancel.
- If a participant fails to show up for a study appointment but provides you with an excuse before or soon after the timeslot passes, mark the student as an "excused no-show." If the participant does not contact you at all, mark the student as an "unexcused no-show."
- Once you have all the participants you need, you may cancel upcoming timeslots, but only if NO participants have signed up. If participants have signed up for a timeslot, you must honor the commitment you made and keep their study appointment.

## Grading

There are 450 total possible points in this class. Your total is determined by the sum of scores you receive on each of the items below.

Attendance (15 pts.)	+	Participation (5 pts.)	= 20 pts.																										
Lit. Hunt (5 pts.)	+	Outline (10 pts.)	+	IRB (10 pts.)	+	I/M (50 pts.)	+	Data. (5 pts.)	+	R/D (50 pts.)	+	Final Paper (100 pts.)	+	Poster (30 pts.)	= 260 pts.														
RC 1	+	<del>RC 2</del>	+	RC 3	+	<del>RC 4</del>	+	<del>RC 5</del>	+	RC 6	+	RC 7	+	RC 8	+	RC 9	+	RC 10	+	<del>RC 11</del>	+	RC 12	+	RC 13	+	<del>RC 14</del>	+	RC 15	= 20 pts.
APA Exam (10 pts.)	+	Pop-Quiz 1 (20 pts.)	+	Pop-Quiz 2 (20 pts.)	+	Block Exam 1 (50 pts.)	+	Block Exam 2 (50 pts.)	= 150 pts.																				

**Total = 450 pts.**

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
100 – 93%	92 – 90%	89 – 87%	86 – 83%	82 – 80%	79 – 77%	76 – 73%	72 – 70%	69 – 67%	66 – 63%	62 – 60%	< 60%
450 – 417.5	417 – 404.5	404 – 390.5	390 – 372.5	372 – 359.5	359 – 345.5	345 – 327.5	327 – 314.5	314 – 300.5	300 – 282.5	282 – 269.5	< 269

## Academic Integrity

I expect that all students will act with honor and integrity regarding academic work. Incidents of academic misconduct will be addressed swiftly and may result in a score of 0 for an assignment and possibly a failing grade for the course. All incidents of academic misconduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Make good choices!

According to the Code of Student Responsibility (Section 574-31-030), academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Cheating:** Intentional or attempted use of deception, fraud, and/or misrepresentations of one's academic work.
- Fabrication:** Unauthorized falsification and/or invention of any information or citation.
- Facilitating dishonesty:** Helping or attempting to help another person commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes students who substitute for other persons in exams or represent as their own papers, reports, or any other academic work of others.
- Plagiarism:** Representing without giving credit the words, data, or ideas of another person as one's own work. This includes submitting, in whole or part, term papers of another or the research of another, including but not limited to, products of commercial vendors who sell or distribute such materials.
- Any use or attempted use of electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, iPads, laptops, etc.) in gaining an illegal advantage in academic work in which use of these devices is prohibited.

## Course Schedule – Fall 2017

(subject to change)

Date	Topic	Reading/ Video	Assignment	(Suggested) Time Management
<b>Block 1</b>				
Mon., Sep. 25	Introduction			
Wed., Sep. 27	Sources of Information	Ch. 2, p. 23 – 38; Appendix C; Topic Options video	Course contract Watch APA Video <b>APA Exam</b>	Topic selection
Mon., Oct. 2	Library Day (HL 108)	Ch. 2, p. 38 – 49; Intro Outline video	Lit. hunt due	Lit review & Intro outline
Wed., Oct. 4	Three Types of Claims	Ch. 3, p. 53 – 64; Starting article		
Mon., Oct. 9	Four Types of Validities	Ch. 3, p. 65 - 79		
Wed., Oct. 11	Ethical Guidelines	Ch. 4	Intro outline due	IRB proposal
Mon., Oct. 16	Identifying Good Measurement	Ch. 5; I/M video		Write I/M
Wed., Oct. 18	Surveys, Observations, & Sampling	Ch. 6	IRB due	
Mon., Oct. 23	Bivariate Correlational Research	Ch. 7	EC #1 assigned	
Wed., Oct. 25	<b>BLOCK EXAM 1</b>			Collect & analyze data
<b>Block 2</b>				
Mon., Oct. 30	Introduction to Simple Experiments	Ch. 9, p. 241 – 253; R/D video	<b>I/M due!</b>	Data cont.
Wed., Nov. 1	Introduction to Simple Experiments cont.	Ch. 9, p. 253 – 272	Data anal. due	Write R/D
Mon., Nov. 6	Confounding Variables	Ch. 10, p. 277 – 293	EC # 1 due	
Wed., Nov. 8	Confounding Variables cont.			
Mon., Nov. 13	Hypothesis Testing	App. B, p. A23 – A34		Revise I/M
Wed., Nov. 15	Interpreting Results	Ch. 10, p. 294 – 306; Final Paper & Poster video	<b>R/D due!</b>	
Mon., Nov. 20	Factorial Designs	Ch. 11, p. 311 - 327	EC #2 assigned	
Wed., Nov. 22	<b>NO CLASS</b>			Revise R/D
Mon., Nov. 27	Factorial Designs cont.	Ch. 11, p. 328 - 339	<b>Posters due via email by 8AM!</b>	
Wed., Nov. 29	<b>POSTER SESSION (Willamette)</b>		<b>Final paper due!</b>	Submit paper/ present poster!
<b>Final Exam Week</b>				
Wed., Dec 6 12 – 1:50 PM	<b>BLOCK EXAM 2</b>		EC #2 due	

### Research Report Timeline

