

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

PSYC 26133 Research Methods in Psychology

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: PSYC 11003 General Psychology, PSYC 25133 Introduction to Behavioral Statistics or MATH 21003 Probability and Statistics I, and one of the following: ENGL 10203 Composition II, ENGL 14343 Honors Composition, or ENGL 24603 Introduction to Writing Studies.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Introduces various methodologies used in conducting scientific research in psychology, both animal and human. Discusses ethical conduct in research with in-depth ethics training; database searches; review of empirical research literature; scientific writing; experimental design; data gathering and interpretation; and the evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of various research methods. Requires writing a basic research proposal.

B. Additional Information

This course is required.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Use basic vocabulary, concepts, and principles of the scientific method;
2. Apply basic statistical analyses to behavioral data;
3. Demonstrate familiarity with the methodologies employed in conducting behavioral research;
4. Discuss and apply ethical principles of psychology through the completion of an online short course in ethics in human research; and
5. Generate a research question, search a database, read and critically evaluate the structure of an empirical research article, formulate a testable hypothesis, design the methodology for a research study including a

survey, and orally present and defend a proposal for research to the professor and classmates.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Ethical Decision Making

Students will recognize and analyze ethical dilemmas.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate effectively with a variety of audiences in any setting.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will draw conclusions and solve problems.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Experimental Design
- B. Scientific Method
- C. Ethics in Behavioral Research
- D. APA Style Writing
- E. Development of Surveys and Questionnaires