College of Social Sciences, PSYC 4220-01: Research Explorations

Spring 2020

Instructor Information
Instructor: Dr. Christine Simmonds-Moore
Class Meeting/ Time & Location Tuesday/Thursday 3.30-5.10 Humanities Academic room 205
Office Location: Melson 215
Telephone (direct) 678 839 5334 you can also text (678) 390-5033
Office Hours are by appointment: students can sign up for a meeting via google calendar or by arrangement with the professor
Westga email csimmond@westga.edu

Support for courses
*Hyperlinks provided for accessibility throughout; full URLs are available at the end of the document.

CourseDen D2L Home Page
CourseDen Help (8 AM – 5 PM)
Call: 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933-8946 or email: online@westga.edu

24/7/365 D2L Help Center
Call 1-855-772-0423

University Bookstore

Student Services

Course Information
Course Description (from catalog):

This class is designed to encourage personal and collective original research into areas of particular interest in psychology and to acquaint the student more closely with various methodologies.

Class details
This is a 4 credit high impact class (HIC) in which students will become familiar with a variety of research methods and important issues in research. They will develop an understanding of research in psychology by exploring some famous psychological research studies. They will learn how to design a study and develop an original research proposal. Students will collect a slice of data and then will analyze and write up the findings of a research project as an APA paper.

Texts, Readings, Instructional Resources and References

Required Texts

January 6th, 2020


You will also be asked to engage in other readings which will be provided as pdfs or links via courseden or located by the student via our library resources (for individual research projects).

Students are also encouraged to make use of the companion website at:
https://edge.sagepub.com/creswellrd5e

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

As a result of participating in this class, students will:

- Have knowledge of merits and limitations of different methodological designs in psychology
- Exhibit knowledge of key research studies from the history of psychology
- Demonstrate awareness of ethical issues in psychology
- Conduct a literature search and review
- Develop a research proposal
- Conduct a small research study
- Engage in data analysis
- Formally write up a research study in APA style
### Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary and critique of a famous study</strong></td>
<td>Students will work in pairs to present their own summary and replication (or representation) of a famous study from the history of psychology (as described in the Hock text) to the class. They will critically evaluate the study design, methodology, analysis and conclusions. Students will also think about how the study might be improved if it were repeated today. By so doing, students and their peers will gain a deeper insight into the strengths and weaknesses of research design and practice and issues in conducting and reporting research. They will also become more familiar with key studies from the history of psychology. Presentations should last 30 minutes.</td>
<td>Presentations will take place during class time throughout the first half of the semester. Students will choose a topic and select a paper within the topic that they would like to unpack.</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research proposal</strong></td>
<td>Students will engage in a literature review, develop research questions and/or testable hypotheses in an introduction section, propose a methodology and plan of analysis for a research study (to be conducted in the second half of the semester). The proposal will be developed via peer and faculty feedback in workshops during the first half of the semester. The project should be feasible to run during 1 semester.</td>
<td>The literature review (10%) will be submitted on February 6th by 5 pm The proposed method (10%) will be submitted on March 12th The proposed analysis section (10%) will be submitted on March 12th.</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>APA research paper</strong></td>
<td>Students will conduct and write up a research project on a topic that they find personally interesting and meaningful. This will relate to their research proposal topic, and will include the collection of a feasible slice of data.</td>
<td>The final APA paper will be submitted on May 4th 2020 by 5 pm.</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflexive journal</td>
<td>Students will keep a journal of their key research learnings and experiences (from readings the classroom and experiences with research) throughout the semester. The student will then prepare a one-two page summary of their key learnings that will be submitted at the end of the semester.</td>
<td>Key learnings will be shared informally during class time. The written summary of the reflexive journal is due on April 28th 2020 by 5 pm.</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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<td>100</td>
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Grading Information and Policy
Assignments will be graded using a rubric to ensure consistency and transparency.

Grading structure and point scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
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</table>

Please read over the assignment expectations and rubrics prior to submitting your work. Each assignment has a different percentage weighting which all add up to a total of 100%. At the professor’s discretion, there may be opportunities for additional credit during the course.

Grading Rubrics
Rubrics for the different assignments will be available on courseden.

Please see the [Common Language for Course Syllabi](#) for official information on UWG’s Academic Integrity Policy.

Plagiarism and Turnitin
Plagiarism is a serious issue in academia. This occurs if someone presents another person’s ideas (written or spoken) as their own. Turnitin is some electronic software (that is tied to the assignment folder in courseden) that allows you to check the originality in your written work and can help you to avoid plagiarism. It is highly unlikely that you will get an originality report of 0 – but the reports will be color coded, and a higher score (above 25% similarity) implies that your work is less original, you should aim for a low score (this means that your work is more original). If plagiarism is detected in your work, you will automatically fail the assignment, and may fail the course.

Communication Rules

Communication Rules:
If you have a question about a grade, please email me using the email within the courseden system. You can also organize an office hour appointment in person or via email or the telephone. Office hours appointments can be booked directly via google calendar and are 30 minutes in length. I prefer that you send me your questions via email or CourseDen email as I rarely check my voicemail. You can also send a text message via google voice to contact me directly.
Classroom Etiquette:

- Be sensitive and reflective to what others are saying.
- Keep the dialog collegial and professional.
- It is expected that students arrive on time (not more than 10 minutes after the official start of the class) and stay for the duration of the class. Students who are attending only to sign the class roll will not be marked as having attended.
- Students should switch their cell phones off or onto “silent” during class time and should not use Facebook, email, texts etc. such that you can concentrate on the class.
- If you use your cell phone or electronic device for non-class related purposes during the class, I will not be able to write a letter of recommendation at the end of your degree.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions and engage in discussions relevant to the topics covered during each session.
- Remember that it is not possible to hear what someone is saying when more than one person talks at once.
- When emailing your professor, please use appropriate language (as if you are writing a letter). This is good practice for life after university and reflects professionalism.

Expected Response Times

I will endeavor to grade your assignments in a timely manner. Presentation grades will be given following the completion of all presentations by all groups (using a rubric). I will make every attempt to return your short written assignments within 7 days, but the amount of feedback required may extend that time. I will endeavor to return all emails in 36-hours during the week. If you email me over the weekend, I will endeavor to reply first thing on Monday morning.

Late work policy:

Exams must be completed by the due date. Assignments may be accepted late, subject to a penalty, unless there is a valid medical or other extenuating circumstance (in which case, evidence will be requested).

Expectations of Students

Course Structure:

This is a high impact class (HIC) that focuses on the development of a research idea that students will actually carry out on a small sample of data (a “data slice”). It is important that all students read and prepare prior to attending classes. Classes will consist of workshops/labs, lectures, student presentations, discussions and time for data collection and analysis. Students will work closely with their peers, as they develop their projects and for a critique of a classic study from the history of psychology. This class will help students become familiar with research design and methods. It is expected that students keep on top of the assignments in order to gain the most from the experience of developing a research project, and formally writing it up.

Registrar’s office

Link to the site of the registrar’s office which contains important dates concerning add/drop and withdrawal [http://www.westga.edu/registrar/802.php](http://www.westga.edu/registrar/802.php)
What to do if you miss your final exam
If you miss your final exam and prior arrangements have not been made, you may receive a grade of F on that exam or paper and this may affect your final grade in the class. If you miss your exam due to an emergency, please contact the Psychology office at (678)839-6510 or go to Melson Room 123 as soon as possible to complete the application: “Missed Final Exam: Verification of Emergency”. This form will need to be approved by the chair for an incomplete grade which may allow you the time to make up your exam or complete your final assignments. This application will require documentation and authorization from you to verify your emergency.

Course and UWG Policies
Attendance Policy:
In order to distribute Title IV funding (federal student aid), student attendance verification is required. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that they are marked present by signing the class roster that will be circulated during each class. If you do not sign the class roster, you will be marked as absent. Students who do not attend classes during the first week may be dropped from the class. Students who add classes during drop/add are responsible for ensuring that they are verified as being in attendance by contacting the course instructor.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:
If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the Office for Accessibility Services. UWG also provides Accessibility Statements for Technology that you may be required to use for this course.

For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG Email, Credit Hour, and UWG Honor Code policies as well as information on Academic Tutoring, Student Services, and Technical Requirements, Privacy Policy, and Accessibility Statements, please see the Common Language for Syllabus document.

Additional Support Information
Technical Support
Technical support for CourseDen, as well as the technological requirements, accessibility statements, privacy statements, tutorials, and other information can be found at Technology Requirements.

Center for Academic Success
The new Center for Academic Success (CAS) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. The CAS offers free appointment-based peer tutoring in core courses, as well as supplemental instruction (SI)—which is peer-facilitated collaborative learning—in a variety of disciplines. Students seeking help with study skills and strategies can attend workshops though the Academic Success Workshop series, or work individually with either a staff or peer Academic Coach. Beginning Fall 2014, the CAS will also offer “Back on Track,” a voluntary academic recovery program designed for students who want
to improve their grades and academic standing. The Center for Academic Success is located in UCC 200, and can be reached at 678-839-6280. Our email address is cas@westga.edu.

Smarthinking

Smarthinking offers online tutoring services and resources (including the Writing Center) for UWG students/instructors in all courses. A link to Smarthinking is available in CourseDen under Resources in the navigation bar.

Student Services

Here is a great resource of Student Services for all students at UWG, whether or not they are taking online courses. This link provides students with most of the information they need. If a student is experiencing distress and needs some help, check out UWG Cares.

Full URL Support for Courses

- **CourseDen D2L Home Page**
  https://westga.view.usg.edu/
- **CourseDen Help (8 AM – 5 PM)**
  https://uwgonline.westga.edu/uwg-online-student-help.php
  Email: online@westga.edu
- **24/7/365 D2L Help Center**
  https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/
- **University Bookstore**
  http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/
- **Common Language for Course Syllabi**
  https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php
- **UWG Cares**
  http://www.westga.edu/UWGCaress/
- **Accessibility Services**
  https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php
- **Student Services**
  http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php
- **Center for Academic Success**
  http://www.westga.edu/cas/
- **Distance Learning Library Services**
  https://www.westga.edu/library/resource-sharing.php
- **Ingram Library Services**
  http://www.westga.edu/library/
- **Proctored Exams**
  http://uwgonline.westga.edu/exams.php#student
- **UWG Accessibility Statements for Technology**
  https://docs.google.com/document/d/16Ri1XgaXiGx28ooOzRvYPrav3Aq3F5NJYbVDGVnEa/edit?ts=57b4c82d#heading=h.yrqfefffvts1f

*This syllabus is subject to minor alterations in content and order.*