Instructor Information
Instructor: Dr. Christine Simmonds-Moore
Class Meeting: Tuesdays and Thursdays
Time & Location: 9.30- 10.45 in Melson 218
Office Location: Melson room 215
Telephone (office) 678 839 5334
Telephone (google voice) 678 390 5033
Office Hours: available by appointment
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
e-mail: online@westga.edu

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

University Bookstore
Student Services

Course Information
Course Description
This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of issues in undertaking research. Students will
learn about a variety of research methodologies; different types of data; methods of analysis that are best
suited to the various types of data and the relative merits and limitations of each research approach. Students
will also be introduced to mixed methods designs, which draw from both quantitative and qualitative
research traditions. It is hoped that students will complete the course with a deep conceptual understanding
of the frames and assumptions built into qualitative and quantitative research methods, as well as experience
thinking through research plans and data collection. Students will learn that both qualitative and quantitative
research methods have serious philosophical underpinnings and commitments to rigor, systematic inquiry,
multiple perspectives and ethical concerns. Students will learn about how research can inform evidence-
based practice including needs assessment, program evaluation, and the use of findings to effect program
modification. Students taking this course will therefore become familiar with the various ways in which
one can collect data and make sense of those data.

Texts, Readings, Instructional Resources, and References
Required Texts
Psychology (Fourth Edition). SAGE Publications Ltd.


Students will also be referred to other required reading assignments (pdfs,
weblinks, etc.) throughout the course.
Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Students completing this course will:
1. Understand the relative values and limitations of a variety of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies
2. Demonstrate an understanding of quantitative research designs and the analyses that are suited to them
3. Demonstrate an understanding of qualitative research designs and the analyses that are best suited to them
4. Understand how research can inform evidence based practice
5. Display critical thinking about the various research approaches in psychology
6. Develop a formal research question about a topic they find personally interesting

Grading Information and Policy

Grading structure and point scale
90% - 100% A
80% - 89% B
70% - 79% C
< 69% F

Grading Rubrics

Rubrics are available on courseden for each assignment.
Assignments

Please upload all assignments into the assignment folder on courseden by the due date AND bring in a hard copy to hand in to your professor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Clinic assignments            | To help facilitate discussion and to help you with your own research question, you will be expected to produce 5 short papers (worth 5% each). We will discuss these papers in class in a workshop style format. Bring in 5 additional printed copies to discuss with class members and the professor. | Clinic assignments are due on the following dates:  
1. Jan 15th  
2. Jan 22nd  
3. Feb 7th  
4. April 4th  
5. April 25th | 25% |
| Journal article critique      | You will be given one quantitative and one qualitative article on the same topic (mediumship). You are asked to write a short critical review of each article. This will include a criticism of the introduction, methods, results, etc. - The articles, assignment instructions and rubrics are available on courseden. | Due by 5pm on March 14th. | 30% |
| Research Proposal             | You will design and write up an APA style Research Proposal. Your research design will evolve throughout the semester via the clinics, discussion with peers and your professor. Extra credit will be offered to those who present their research proposal at SPARC in April. | Due by 5pm on May 2nd. | 30 |
| Participation                 | Several small in class and out of class assignments will also be assigned. This will include discussion in the courseden discussion forum and other hands-on activities. These assignments are not graded, but will be taken into account with regard to your class participation grade. | | 10 |
| TOTAL                         | --                                                                                                                                                                                                 | --                                            | 100    |
Please see the Common Language for Course Syllabi for official information on UWG’s Academic Integrity Policy. Please note that I will enforce this policy (see below).

**Academic honesty, plagiarism and Turnitin**
When someone presents another person’s ideas (written or spoken) as their own, this is plagiarism. See [http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism/](http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism/). Prior to submitting your work, please read it over (and ask a friend to do so) and make sure that you are presenting your ideas using your own words. If you are describing the work of others, make sure that you include citations to their work. Turnitin is some electronic software (that is tied to the dropbox in courseden) that allows you and your professor to check the originality in your written work and it can help you to avoid plagiarism. All assignments should be submitted as a hard copy and electronically (via the assignment folder in courseden). 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). Plagiarism is a serious issue. If plagiarism is detected in your work, you will automatically get a 0 for the assignment. If academic dishonesty is detected, it will be reported to the University.

**Missing class**
After 3 absences (excused or unexcused), 3 points will be deducted from your final point total for each class missed thereafter. Coming to class after attendance is taken (or being more than 10 minutes late) counts as an absence. So please remember, not coming to class will make it difficult to grasp the material adequately. However, if you cannot come to class (or choose not to), you do not need to tell me why and please do not ask for the notes. It is your responsibility to get the notes from a friend in the class. If you do not know anyone, ask me and I will put you in touch with a reliable student. Once you have the notes from a classmate, I would be happy to review them with you and answer any questions you have.

Finally, if you anticipate missing more than two class periods, you should plan to take this course during another semester when your schedule permits you to attend all class sessions. You will be marked as absent if you leave class early.

**Communication**
**Contacting me:**
Any questions concerning grades should be sent via CourseDen email. I rarely check my voicemail, so email is my preferred mode of communication. I will endeavor to return all emails in 48-hours during the week. I do not check my email over the weekend, but will endeavor to respond to you as soon as possible following the weekend.

**Expected Response Times**
I will endeavor to grade and return your shorter written assignments within 7 days of the due date. I will aim to return your longer writing assignments within 7-10 days, allowing for reading time and feedback.
Late work policy:
Please plan ahead and make sure that your work is completed and submitted on time. If you submit an assignment after the deadline, there will be a 10% penalty per day late (unless you have valid medical evidence).

Expectations of Students
Course Structure:
This class is structured such that students will have a background in issues in research methods followed by an introduction to quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Please make sure that you do the reading and assignments to prepare for our meetings, as you will learn more from our meetings.

Special components:
This class includes lectures, workshops and some classes in a computer lab (Miller room 2327; computer classroom for sessions on Qualtrics and SPSS).

Final Exam Instructions
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
If you miss more than 3 classes, your grade for participation (total 10%) will be reduced by 1% for each class missed.

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/UWGcares/
- **Accessibility Services**
  https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php

*This syllabus is subject to minor amendments and alterations.*