

Foundations of Psychological Research

PSY 201-V001 (19058)

Tu/Th 10:10 AM – 12:05 PM | 4S-217

Spring 2020

City University of New York
College of Staten Island
Department of Psychology

Instructor: Valkiria Duran-Narucki, Ph.D. (a.k.a. Dr. Durán / Dr. D.)

E-mail: Valkiria.Duran@csi.cuny.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. *I can also see you by appointment.*

Room: Bldg. 4S, Room 209A **Phone:** 718.982.3775 **Skype:** @ValkyDuran

Description from CSI Course Catalogue

4 hours; 4 credits. An introduction to the methods of psychological research. Comparison, evaluation, and illustration of research methods such as survey, case study, questionnaire, interview, experiential, correlational, and experimental using a broad range of psychological topics such as physiological, developmental, learning, perception, personality, social, clinical, and industrial. Research design, data presentation and analysis, relation of data and theory, and ethical problems in research will be discussed. Majors should take the course within their first 12 credits in psychology.

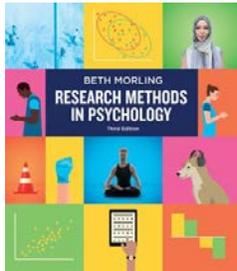
Prerequisites:

PSY 100 with minimum grade of C and Mth 122 or higher (except 217/218) with minimum grade of C.

Course Goals

After you successfully complete this class, you will be able to:

- Understand what a scientific fact is and why psychology uses research methods.
- Know the basic aspects of the research methods most commonly used in psychology.
- Understand advantages and disadvantages of different methodological approaches.
- Be able to meaningfully criticize and question scientific claims.
- Use specialized online databases such as PsychInfo to find peer-reviewed empirical publications.
- Be familiar with the structure of APA style research papers.
- Read research results and understand how they were obtained.
- Critically review the different aspects of published research. Learn how to read and write the different sections of an empirical research article.



Required Textbook:

Morling, B. (2018). *Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of Information*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. Third Edition. (ISBN: 978-0-393-61754-2)

Consider keeping this book if you intend to pursue a career that involves research or if you are going to graduate school. You will need a quick and simple guide that will refresh your memory. Other important materials will be posted on Blackboard.

We will be using this textbook “for real”. Please bring it to class, sometimes we will use it for in-class assignments and group work. You can also get the E-book, rent, or whatever option is affordable and convenient to you.

****Blackboard use will be crucial for this class, make sure you have access to our Blackboard site*.***

Grade

The following is a breakdown of your grade for this class:

Written Assignments (5)	25%
In-class assignments (4)	20%
Exams (4 partial)	45%
Discussion Board Participation	5%
Attendance & Class Participation	5%
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Total:	100%

Total Point Range	Letter Grade
93% – 100%	A
90% – 92%	A-
87% – 89%	B+
83% – 86%	B
80% – 82%	B-
77% – 79%	C+
70% – 76%	C
60% – 69%	D
0% – 59%	F

Grades are allocated according in the following way:

NOTE: Students need a minimum grade of C to move on to the next required course in the psychology major sequence (PSY 201, PSY 266, PSY 33X). Be mindful that if you get a grade of D you won't be able to remove it from your GPA calculation, whereas you can remove a grade of F from your GPA calculation by re-taking the class and getting a higher grade. You can read about this policy at:

http://www.csi.cuny.edu/counseling/AcademicCounseling.html#Problematic_Grades.

For this class you will get the grade that your assignments and my records indicate. I won't be modifying your grade as this would be academic misconduct.

Written Assignments (25%):

The five written assignments will help you understand the process of doing research. Each assignment's instructions will be posted individually on Blackboard (under the "Assignments" section). You will be working to write and understand specific sections of a research proposal, learning to find peer-reviewed, empirical articles to create a literature review, learning to understand and write a methods section, learning to use and apply the APA style of writing and using psychology research databases. Students with good attendance (less than 2 days missed) who wish to re-write one of these assignments for a better grade (must have a grade of 50% or less) will be allowed to do so with instructor's approval. The new grade will substitute the lower

grade. If a lesser grade is achieved the previous, the higher grade will be unchanged. Only one paper can be rewritten, please choose carefully. The rewritten paper is due at the end of the semester. Please do not expect feedback from this additional paper to move on writing your following papers. This is considered an opportunity for extra credit and not “comments on a draft”.

In-Class Assignments (20%):

These assignments will be done during class time and will be turned in either individually or in groups. They are meant to diagnose and practice skills learned during the lecture part of the class. It is important that you attend all classes so that you don't miss any of these assignments, the assignments will be given according to the pace of the class. There will be no makeups for missed in-class assignments, however, the same policy applies as above: Students with good attendance (less than 2 days missed) who missed one of these assignments and would like to make it up (must have a grade of 50% or less or have missed the assignment due to a justified absence) will be allowed to do so with instructor's approval. We will have an extra in-class assignment toward the end of the semester. The new grade will substitute the lower grade. If a lesser grade is achieved in this new assignment the previous higher grade will be unchanged.

Partial Examinations (45%):

There will be 4 partial exams during the semester. These are multiple-choice tests that cover a *partial* number of chapters from the required textbook. These examinations will be administered on Blackboard. The tests will be posted for a period of time, usually 4-5 days, for your convenience. Many of you work part time and full time and would like to offer you the opportunity to schedule the exam when you are able to take it. You should plan to take the tests during those days, It is the student's responsibility to take the test in the allotted time. Test won't be re-opened for students that forget to take the tests. If a test is missed due to a medical reason of importance, students should bring a doctor's note. Grades and correct answers to the tests will only be available after the tests are offline. Please make sure that you have access to Blackboard and that you use a computer when taking the tests, there are stations available at the library and other computer labs throughout campus for this purpose (<http://www.csi.cuny.edu/technologysystems/facilities.html>). Many students have reported having problems with the test when taken on a tablet. The exams are timed and therefore they are not “open book”. Make sure that you study in advance for these tests. If you need any particular accommodation please let the instructor know at least one week in advance. I will gladly coordinate test administration with the Center for Student Accessibility.

Discussion Board Participation (5%):

You must participate on Discussion Board threads online via Blackboard. Each chapter we cover has a prompt to which you should respond. You should participate at least once a week. You are required to pose a question, comment, anecdote, or other material connected to the topic for that week as indicated on each thread. The participation should be meaningful. In order to get 5% in the online discussion board participation, you should post at least 10 times (there are 12 discussions in total). You will receive .5% of your final class grade for each meaningful, complete, post that you make (e.g. 10 posts = 5 points). You are encouraged to engage in conversations with other students.

Attendance & Class Participation (5%):

Class participation is required. You can participate by raising your hand and contributing your ideas, questions, anecdotes, or opinions in class. If you do not like to speak in class, please simply pay attention. Being on your phone during class will decrease your grade for class participation.

This grade is SUBJECTIVE and is based on the instructor's impression of you. Make sure you make a good impression.

You are required, in addition, to attend every session of this course. Attendance is considered a "job skill". You can miss up to 2 classes without penalty if you have an emergency or if you justify your absence with documents that explain the circumstances of your absence. If you miss three classes you will automatically receive a grade of 3.5 (out of 5). More than four classes missed will assign you 2% in class participation and attendance. Five or more classes missed will assign you between 1-0%.

CSI's attendance policy establishes that: "Students are expected to attend all sessions. A student who is absent in excess of 15 percent of the class hours in one semester is assigned a grade of WU (withdrew unofficially), subject to the discretion of the instructor." For this class, 15% of classes is approximately 4.5 days. Notice that you cannot make up in-class written assignments or tests unless you document the *emergency* that made you miss class.

The instructor will take attendance at the beginning of class. This is an OBJECTIVE measure of your attendance. It is the student's duty to let the professor know if he/she was late for class. The instructor's records will be used to determine attendance. If you have problems to attend class or be on time for class, it is better that you let the instructor know earlier in the semester rather than later. In addition, if you leave class before class ends without informing the professor you will be marked absent.

Schedule for this class

Please note that this is a general schedule for the semester. It is subject to changes and adjustments and these will be informed to you in a timely manner. If a change is made, an e-mail will be sent out to the whole class and a revised schedule will be posted on Blackboard.

CLASS CALENDAR SPRING 2020		
Date	Reading Assigned/Class Topic	Assignment Due
Tuesday January 28	Welcome, expectations, assignment information, grading, book info, review syllabus.	Please get the required textbook <u>ASAP</u>.
Thursday January 30	Chapter 1: Psychology Is a Way of Thinking	
Tuesday February 4	Chapter 1: Psychology Is a Way of Thinking	
Thursday February 6	Chapter 1: Psychology Is a Way of Thinking/ Chapter 2: Sources of Information: Why Research Is Best and How to Find It	
Tuesday February 11	Chapter 2: Sources of Information: Why Research Is Best and How to Find It	
Thursday February 13	Chapter 2: Sources of Information: Why Research Is Best and How to Find It	Last day to drop without a grade of "W" is 2/16/2020/Last day to change major/minor for Spring

Tuesday February 18	Chapter 3: Three Claims, Four Validities: Interrogation Tools for Consumers of	
Thursday February 20	Research Workshop: Using Psych Info. Obtaining articles for First Written Assignment.	Class will meet this day at: 3N-115
Tuesday February 25	Chapter 3: Three Claims, Four Validities: Interrogation Tools for Consumers of Research	First Written Assignment due
Thursday February 27	Chapter 4: Ethical Guidelines for Psychological Research	First Partial Exam online today Chapters 1, 2 & 3
Tuesday March 3	Chapter 4: Ethical Guidelines for Psychological Research	
Thursday March 5	Chapter 5: Identifying Good Measurement	
Tuesday March 10	Chapter 5: Identifying Good Measurement	
Thursday March 12	Chapter 6: Surveys and Observations: Describing What People Do	
Tuesday March 17	Chapter 7: Sampling: Estimating the Frequency of Behaviors and Beliefs	
Thursday March 19	Chapter 7: Sampling: Estimating the Frequency of Behaviors and Beliefs	Second Partial Exam online today, Chapters 4, 5, & 6
Tuesday March 24	Chapter 8: Bivariate Correlational Research	
Thursday March 26	Chapter 8: Bivariate Correlational Research	*Notice that we cover chapter 10 <u>before</u> chapter 9
Tuesday March 31	Chapter 8: Bivariate Correlational Research/ Chapter 10: Introduction to Simple Experiments	Second assignment due 4/1/2020 Last day to drop with a grade of "W"
Thursday April 2	Chapter 10: Introduction to Simple Experiments	
Tuesday April 7	Chapter 10: Introduction to Simple Experiments	Third assignment due
Thursday April 9	Spring Break	
Tuesday April 14	Spring Break	
Thursday April 16	Spring Break	
Tuesday April 21	Chapter 10: Introduction to Simple Experiments/ Chapter 9: Multivariate Correlational Research	Third Partial Exam online today, Chapters 7, 8 & 10
Thursday April 23	Chapter 9: Multivariate Correlational Research	
Tuesday April 28	Work on Fourth Assignment in class	

Thursday April 30	Chapter 12: Experiments with More Than One Independent Variable	Fourth assignment due
Tuesday May 5	Chapter 12: Experiments with More Than One Independent Variable	
Thursday May 7	Chapter 14: Replicability, Generalization, and the Real World	
Tuesday May 12	Chapter 14: Replicability, Generalization, and the Real World	Final assignment due
Thursday May 14	Writing APA style reports and conference posters Last day of regular classes – Extra In-class assignment	Fourth Partial Exam online today. Chapters 9, 12 & 14

For more information on registrar deadlines, please see the CSI academic calendar, which can be found at:

https://www.csi.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/academicCalendars/SPRING2020_ACADEMIC_CALENDAR.pdf

Class Specific Policies:

- There will be no make-up dates for exams except for medical emergencies, in which case, a doctor's note should be provided. In the event of any personal tragedy, please contact me as soon as possible. Do not wait until the end of the semester, do not wait until you are failing.
- I am available for appointments; feel free to approach me regarding class, or other academic-related matters. Stop by my office. I have office hours every week, make an appointment to make sure I can give you my undivided attention.
- No cellphones will be allowed during class time unless we are using them as a part of an activity. If you need to receive an urgent text or call from a relative, employer, or other person, please let me know in advance. I will write your name on the board if you are becoming a distraction to me.
- Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and will be sanctioned according to the University's Law (see student handbook). If you are in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask me or read CSI's plagiarism policy at: <http://www.csi.cuny.edu/catalog/undergraduate/academic-policies.htm#o3518>

Important CSI Resources:

Center for Student Accessibility

In accordance with federal law the College offers a number of resources for accommodating individuals with disabilities. "Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the [Office for Disability Services]. Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of student's eligibility from the office of Disability Services, which is located in 1P-101. It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with the Office for Disability Services Staff and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor. To learn more about the accommodations and services that are available, please contact the Center for Student Accessibility
718-982-2510

Center for the Arts (1P), Room 101
CSA@csi.cuny.edu

Counseling Center

The Counseling Center provides individual and group counseling for students of the College of Staten Island. We offer personal and academic counseling services. Students are given the opportunity to explore issues that can help them achieve success. To make an appointment please call 718-982-2391 or drop-in by 1A-109. Students can also be seen on a walk-in basis. Email: counseling@csi.cuny.edu

The Writing Center

2S-216

Bob Brandt, Tutoring Coordinator

Contact information: (718) 982.3635

The Writing Center, under the direction of the English Department, assists students in improving reading and writing skills in all subject areas. Our basic approach is to help students improve their skills by providing them with meaningful feedback and guidance. We are here to help each student thoroughly fulfill his or her own potential through a better understanding of course requirements, assignments and readings.

To meet these goals, we offer several modes of tutoring. Students with regularly scheduled appointments meet for one class period (50 minutes) a week with a designated tutor, sometimes one-on-one and sometimes in small groups that include up to three other students in the same class or at the same level. Tutors are available during our drop-in hours to assist students with immediate concerns regarding a specific assignment. Drop-in tutoring does not require an appointment.

First Gen Support Statement: Some of you might be the first generation (first gen) in your family attending college. CUNY is proud to have students like you. Our mission is to find you where you are and help you move forward to the next step in your journey. In order to do that, we hope to encourage a sense of control and self-direction. First gen students often times don't grow up surrounded by the culture of college. If you are having a hard time with the routines and expectations of college, please ask for help. As an instructor, I can only help if I know that help is needed. In addition, you have already paid for many services available to you in our college when you paid tuition (like writing help or counseling). Take it from me, a first gen professor, if you keep your focus and do the work your possibilities are endless.