

PSYC 0105-501
Research Methods for Psychology

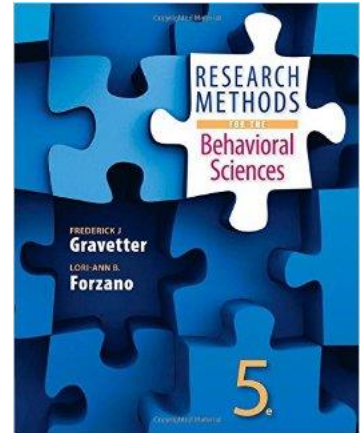


Instructor: Terri Stewart Kinstle, Ph.D.

Email: tkinstle@westfield.ma.edu (once enrolled in the class, all email should occur through Plato)

Required Resources: MindTap® Psychology, 1 term (6 months)
Instant Access for Gravetter/Forzano's Research Methods for the Behavioral Science, 5th Edition (ISBN-13: 9781305264953)

Course Description: The material covered in this course is specifically geared to the undergraduate student majoring in the social sciences, especially psychology. Topics covered include: an overview of the scientific method, hypotheses and predictions, library research, research ethics, types of variables, reliability, validity, experimental designs, and understanding research results, with an introduction to writing research reports in APA style.



Prerequisites: 6 credits in Psychology at the 200-level or above and completion of English Composition I and II

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able to...

1. Describe the nature of scientific inquiry in Psychology.
2. Understand and articulate the strengths and limitations of different research methodologies.
3. Design research studies to investigate a variety of problems, questions, relationships, and issues.
4. Read and critically evaluate scientific research and statements/claims made in the media.
5. Engage in collaborative, scientific discussions.
6. Apply basic research concepts to everyday life situations and problems.

Anticipated Time Commitment: According to the WSU 2014-2015 Undergraduate Catalog/Student Handbook, each credit hour of direct (in-class) instruction at WSU involves a minimum of an additional two hours per week of work outside of the classroom.

Given this policy, a standard 14-week course would typically involve at least 2 hours of time outside of class for every 1 hour in class. For a 14-week, 3-credit class, students could therefore expect to spend 3 hours in class and another 6 hours (at a minimum) outside of class each week. If the 14-week course were an online course, students could expect to spend at least 9 hours per week on coursework (a minimum of 126 hours total for the course). In a 6-week summer course, the same amount of work is expected, but there is less time to complete it. Students can expect to put in a substantial amount of time each week for this 6-week, online course (at least 21 hours each week).