

## Basic Course Information

Semester:	<b>Fall 2019</b>	Instructor Name:	<b>R. Wyatt</b>
Course Title & #:	<b>PSY 212: Research Methods</b>	Email:	---
CRN #:	<b>11618</b>	Webpage (optional):	<b><a href="http://www.imperial.edu">http://www.imperial.edu</a></b>
Classroom:	<b>B-Yard at CEN</b>	Office #:	---
Class Dates:	<b>Wednesdays</b>	Office Hours:	---
Class Times:	<b>17:30pm to 20:40pm</b>	Emergency Contact:	<b>Manuel Altamirano</b>

## Course Description

This course introduces research methodologies used in the behavioral sciences. It emphasizes an appreciation of the scientific method, the development of research skills, knowledge of research ethics, and the evaluation of scientific research. Students conduct library research, design and implement research projects using appropriate methodologies and controls, analyze and interpret data using a statistical computer program, and write research reports using the APA format.

## Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

PSY 101 and (PSY 214 or MATH 119) with a grade of "C" or better.

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Evaluate and summarize relevant peer reviewed scientific articles.
2. Develop a research design to evaluate a hypothesis.
3. Communicate background, results and implications of research using APA style.

## Course Objectives

1. Compare and contrast different research methods and sampling techniques
2. Explain how controls are used to reduce threats of internal validity, external validity, and measurement validity
3. Discuss the characteristics and benefits of the scientific method, and explain the logic behind hypothesis testing
4. Design and conduct empirical research project(s)
5. Utilize library research and evaluate the reliability of sources
6. Critically read, extract information, evaluate, and summarize research in behavioral sciences
7. Analyze research data using a statistical package, demonstrating knowledge of statistics by selecting the appropriate descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, graphs, and tables to evaluate, explore, and communicate findings

8. Write college-level scientific research papers using American Psychology Association writing style (e.g., abstract, introduction, methods, participants, materials, procedure, results, discussion, reference section)
9. Explain ethical issues pertaining to behavioral science research with animal and human subjects.

### Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Cozby, P.C. & Bates, S.C. (2015). *Methods in Behavioral Research, (12th Ed.)*. McGraw Hill.

### Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

**Peer Review Papers:** There will be a total of two (2) peer review papers throughout the semester. This is a 2 page paper based on the readings and class material. These peer review papers should address an interesting. The main focus of this assignment is for you to understand critically about how research methods are conducted in Psychology and to begin exploring your own research ideas. You do not have to write what you think I would agree with, you just need to justify your ideas and statements with explanations.

**Tests:** There will be a total of two tests given throughout the semester. All tests will be multiple choices and true/false. All tests are worth 100 points. There is just a Mid-Term exam and a Final.

**Pop-Quizzes:** In Psychology, no day is ever the same. My classroom is no different. Pop-Quizzes will occur and they CAN NOT BE MADE UP. **Research Paper:** There will be a research paper due at the end of the semester in which you will work individually or with a partner to demonstrate your ability to design a research project, collect data, and write up the results of the research in the correct APA format. The paper will include a Title Page, an Abstract, an Introduction (literature review) of the research topic, a Method section, a Results section, a Discussion section, and a Reference page. Graphs, charts and figures can also be included.

*Out of Class Assignments:* The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

### Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Peer Review Papers: 200 Points  
Tests (MidTerm/Final): 200 Points  
Pop-Quizzes: 50 Points  
Research Paper: 550 Points  
**Total:** 1,000 Points

### **Attendance**

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.

### **Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the importance of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor will report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or

attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

### Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or Manuel Altamirano.

### Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC General Catalog.

### Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Tentative, provisional overview of the readings, assignments, tests, and/or other activities for the duration of the course.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic</b>
Week 1	Syllabus & Introduction
Week 2	Chapter 1: Scientific Understanding of Behavior
Week 3	Chapter 2: Where to Start
Week 4	Chapter 3: Ethics in behavioral Research
Week 5	Chapter 4: Studying Behavior
Week 6	Chapter 5: Measurement Concepts
Week 7	Chapter 6: Observational Methods
Week 8	Chapter 7: Asking People about Themselves
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Mid-Term Exam / 1<sup>st</sup> Thought Paper</b>
Week 10	Chapter 8: Experimental Designs Chapter 9: Conducting Experiments
Week 11	Chapter 10: Complex Experimental Designs
Week 12	Chapter 11: Single, Quasi, and Developmental Research
Week 13	Chapter 12: Research Results – Description & Correlation
Week 14	Chapter 13: Research Results – Statistical inference
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>
Week 16	Chapter 14: Generalizing Results
<b>Week 17</b>	<b>Research Paper Due / 2<sup>nd</sup> Thought Paper</b>
Week 18	Final Exam

**\*\*\*Tentative, subject to change without prior notice\*\*\***