

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Brenda Estrada, Ph.D.
Course Title & #:	PSY 212: Research Methods in Psychology	Email:	Brenda.estrada@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10754	Webpage (optional):	Imperial.edu
Classroom:	2723	Office #:	Via Zoom
Class Dates:	October 6th-December 6th	Office Hours:	Fridays 9:00 am- 10:00 am
Class Days:	Tuesdays and Thursdays	Office Phone #:	
Class Times:	11:20 am- 12:45 pm	Emergency Contact:	760-997-6048
Units:	3.00	Class Format:	(Hybrid) Face-to-Face + Online

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 evaluations 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)

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

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to: 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

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

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 APA 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

Gravetter, F.J. & Forzano, L.B. (2018). Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences, (6th Ed.). Cengage. ISBN: 978-1-337-61331-6

Textbook is not required. I will provide PowerPoints for each chapter.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Method of evaluation: Written assignments & Weekly discussions.

Instructional Methodology: Audio, visual, demonstration and discussion

Modules Section (Canvas): Each module represents a small chunk of related information. Within each module, there will be tasks for you to perform such as watch videos ,view PowerPoint slides, assignments, and weekly discussions. The modules will become available sequentially as you move through the course.

Research study: Students will be required to conduct a Qualitative APA 7th -style research study on a psychological issue. Your research will be conducted chapter by chapter, and all topics must be approved before you begin writing. There are **five chapters** to complete, each serving a specific purpose. For this course, you will start with **Chapter 2: Literature Review**, as it lays the foundation for subsequent chapters. Submitting all chapters at once is not allowed, as research is a process that takes time to develop thoughtfully. Examples of each chapter will be provided to help you. Each new chapter you submit must be added to the same document. Individual chapters will not be accepted; all chapters must be consolidated into a single document, as this will help you stay organized. Each time you submit a chapter, please allow 3–5 days for review and feedback. At the end of the course, you will be required to submit a final paper that includes the following: a cover page, abstract, Chapters 1–5, strategic plan, coding table, and reference page, all compiled into a single document.

Annotated Bibliography: Students will be required to complete an annotated bibliography on their chosen topic. This serves as the foundation for your research. You will compile and summarize a variety of articles and journals related to your topic. Additional information and instructions will be provided in class and on Canvas, along with a detailed guideline.

Strategic Plan: Students will be required to submit a table of Strategic Plan. This assignment includes the topic, purpose, methodology, instruments and how the research will be conducted. Additional information and instructions will be provided in class and on Canvas, along with a detailed guideline.

Final PowerPoint and Research Paper: Students will create a PowerPoint presentation summarizing their study findings. A presentation template will be provided and must be followed. Each presentation should be 5–8 minutes in length.

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

Meet and Greet Discussion:	10 pts
Weekly discussions (6):	60 points
Annotated Bibliography	50 pts
Strategic Plan:	50 pts
Chapter 1 & 2 assignment :	50 pts
Chapter 3 assignment:	25 pts
Chapter 4 & 5 assignment:	50 pts
Final presentation:	100 pts
Final research study:	150 pts
TOTAL:	545

Course Policies

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. See General Catalog for details.
- 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.

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 may 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 the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations. •

- Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee.
- Student Health Center. A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. 1. Contact the IVC Student Health Center at 760-355-6128 in Room 1536 for more information.
- Mental Health Counseling Services. Short-term individual, couples, family and group counseling services are available for currently enrolled students. Services are provided in a confidential, supportive, and culturally sensitive environment. Please contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760- 355-6310 or in the building 1536 for appointments or more information.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 October 7 th & 9 th	<p>Chapter 1: Introduction, Acquiring Knowledge, and the Scientific Method</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methodology: Qualitative vs. Quantitative Review Syllabus Review table of contents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet and Greet Discussion due on 10/12 at 11:59 PM via Canvas.
Week 2 October 14 th & 16 th	<p>Chapter 2 Research Ideas and Hypotheses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative Meta-Synthesis Review: Strategic plan examples Paraphrase and Summarize How to conduct an annotated bibliography <p>Research Topic Established 10/19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly discussion due on 10/19 at 11:59 PM via Canvas. Submit topic for approval via Canvas
Week 3 October 21 st & 23 th	<p>Chapter 3 Defining, and Measuring Variables</p> <p>Chapter 4 Ethics in Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theoretical Foundations Background to the problem Review: Definition of terms, anticipated limitations, alignment table. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly discussion due on 10/26 at 11:59 PM via Canvas. Strategic Plan Assignment Annotated bibliography due on

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Chapter 1 Writing: Introduction to the Study & Chapter 2: Literature Review 	10/26 at 11:59 PM via Canvas.
Week 4 October 28 th & 30 th	Chapter 5 Selecting Research Participants Chapter 6 Research Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Chapter 3: Methodology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly discussion due on 11/2 at 11:59 PM via Canvas.
Week 5 November 4 th & 6 th	Review: Data Analysis and Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic Analysis & coding table Review of how to conduct coding in research How to create a thematic analysis table (Examples will be provided) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly discussion due on 11/9 at 11:59 PM via Canvas. Submit Chapter 2: Literature & Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study via Canvas 11/9 at 11:59 PM via Canvas.
Week 6 November 11 th & 13 th	Review: Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Cover page, Abstract & Reference Page. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly discussion due on 11/16 at 11:59 PM via Canvas. Submit Chapter 3: Methodology on 11/16 at 11:59 PM via Canvas.

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 7 November 18 th & 20 th	Review all writing chapters, questions, create a PowerPoint for Final Presentations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly discussion due on 11/23 at 11:59 PM via Canvas. Submit Chapter 4: Data Analysis & Chapter 5 Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations Submit Abstract page & Cover page on 11/23 at 11:59 PM via Canvas.
	Thanksgiving Break: November 24th – 28th	
Week 8 December 2 nd & 4 th	Final Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit Final Presentation & Completed Research Project December 1st via Canvas at 11:59 pm <p>Class Presentations.</p>