

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):	http://www.imperial.edu
Classroom:	2723	Office #:	N/A
Class Dates:	October 6th-December 6th	Office Hours:	Wednesdays 12:00 P.M.- 1:00 P.M. via Zoom
Class Days:	Tuesday-Thursday	Office Phone #:	N/A
Class Times:	11:20 A.M.- 12:45 P.M.	Emergency Contact:	Elvia Camillo- (760)355-6144
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

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Method of evaluation: Lectures, written assignments, exams, weekly discussions, group work or individual work.

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 watching videos, viewing PowerPoint slides, assignments, and weekly discussions. The modules will become available sequentially as you move through the course. All assignments for this course should be submitted via Canvas.

Research study: Students are required to conduct a qualitative case study on a psychological issue, following APA 7th edition guidelines. The research will be completed chapter by chapter, with topics requiring approval before you begin writing. There are five chapters in total, each with a distinct purpose. For this course, you will begin with Chapter 2: Literature Review, as it provides the foundation for all subsequent chapters.

Please note: all chapters must be submitted sequentially, not all at once. Research is a process that develops thoughtfully over time. Examples of each chapter will be provided as guides. Each new submission must be added to the same document to ensure continuity and organization separate chapter files will not be accepted.

Please allow 2–3 days for review and feedback after each submission. By the end of the course, your final paper must be compiled into a single document that includes the cover page, abstract, Chapters 1–5, Strategic Plan Table, table of contents, and reference page.

The purpose of submitting each chapter separately is to allow for ongoing feedback and revision throughout the writing process. A Table of Contents template will be provided as a guideline to help you organize and format each section appropriately.

The research study will be composed of the following chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Chapter 2: Literature review

Chapter 3: Methodology

Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Results

Chapter 5: Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Annotated Bibliography: Students will be required to complete an annotated bibliography on their chosen topic. This assignment will serve as the foundation for your research project. You will gather, read, and summarize a selection of peer-reviewed journal articles related to your topic. Additional details and step-by-step instructions will be provided in class and posted 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, theoretical foundations and how the research will be conducted. Additional information and instructions will be provided in class and on Canvas, along with a detailed guideline.

Mid-term Exam: There will be one exam. The exam could consist of multiple-choice questions from the class material. If you are unable to take the exam, you will need to notify me as soon as possible. You will have one week to make-up the exam. The exam will be worth 50 points. The exam will be delivered via Canvas.

Final PowerPoint Presentation: Students will be required to present your research study in a PowerPoint presentation using the template provided. You may only modify the color scheme and font style; however, the slide subtitles must remain exactly as they are.

Weekly Discussions: Students are required to reply to at least one classmate in each discussion. Weekly discussions are worth 10 points and are designed to create a reflective environment where you can share challenges, strategies, and what has worked for you during the research process. There is no minimum word count. Discussions will be posted on Canvas, opening on Mondays and closing on Sundays at 11:59 PM.

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
Chapters 1-3 Writing Assignment:	50 pts
Chapter 4 & 5 Writing Assignment:	50 pts
Final presentation:	100 pts
Final research study:	150 pts
Mid-term Exam:	50 pts TOTAL:
585 points	

Grading Scale (Total = 575 points)

- A (90–100%) → 527–585 points
- B (80–89%) → 468–526 points
- C (70–79%) → 410–467 points
- D (60–69%) → 351–409 points
- F (59% and below) → 350 points or fewer

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.

Classroom Etiquette

Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.

- Food and Drink: are prohibited in all classrooms while class is in session. 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.
- **Children in the classroom:** Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

Online Netiquette:

- What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.
- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette...
 1. Identify yourself
 2. Include a subject line
 3. Avoid sarcasm
 4. Respect others' opinions and privacy
 5. Acknowledge and return messages promptly
 6. Copy with caution
 7. Do not spam or junk mail
 8. Be concise
 9. Use appropriate language
 10. Use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning
 11. Use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks.

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 important 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.

Other Course Information

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services which may be available.

- **CANVAS LMS.** Canvas is Imperial Valley College's main Learning Management System. The Canvas Student Guides Site provides a variety of support available to students 24 hours per day. Additionally, a 24/7 Canvas Support Hotline is available for students to use 877-893-9853.
- **Learning Services.** There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your Campus Map for the Math Lab; Reading, Writing & Language Labs; and the Study Skills Center.
- **Library Services.** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the Study Skills Center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

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.

Student Counseling and Health Services

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 and El Centro Regional Center provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC Student Health Center at 760355-6128 in Room 1536 for more information.
- **Mental Health Counseling Services.** Short-term individual, couples, family, and group therapy are provided to currently enrolled students. Contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760355-6310 in Room 1536 for more information.

Veteran' Center

The mission of IVC Military and Veteran Success Center is to provide a holistic approach to serving military/veteran students on three key areas: 1) Academics, 2) Health and Wellness, and 3) Camaraderie; to serve as a central hub that connects military/ veteran students, as well as their families, to campus and community resources. Their goal is to ensure a seamless transition from military to civilian life. The Center is located in Building 600 (Office 624), telephone 760-355-6141.

Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)

The Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) offers services such as priority registration, personal/academic counseling, tutoring, book vouchers, and community referrals to qualifying low-income students. EOPS is composed of a group of professionals ready to assist you with the resolution of both academic and personal issues. Our staff is set up to understand the problems of our culturally diverse population and strives to meet student needs that are as diverse as our student population.

Also, under the umbrella of EOPS our CARE (Cooperative Agency Resources for Education) Program for single parents is specifically designed to provide support services and assist with the resolution of issues that are particular to this population. Students that are single parents receiving TANF/Cash Aid assistance may qualify for our CARE program, for additional information on CARE please contact Lourdes Mercado, 760355- 6448, lourdes.mercado@imperial.edu.

EOPS provides additional support and services that may identify with one of the following experiences:

- Current and former foster youth students that were in the foster care system at any point in their lives
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Formerly incarcerated students

To apply for EOPS and for additional information on EOPS services, please contact Alexis Ayala, 7603555713, .

Student Equity Program

•The Student Equity Program strives to improve Imperial Valley College's success outcomes, particularly for students who have been historically underrepresented and underserved. The college identifies strategies to monitor and address equity issues, making efforts to mitigate any disproportionate impact on student success and achievement. Our institutional data provides insight surrounding student populations who historically, are not fully represented. Student Equity addresses disparities and/or disproportionate impact in student success across disaggregated student equity groups including gender, ethnicity, disability status, financial need, Veterans, foster youth, homelessness, and formerly incarcerated students. The Student Equity Program provides direct supportive services to empower students experiencing insecurities related to food, housing, transportation, textbooks, and shower access. We recognize that students who struggle meeting their basic needs are also at an academic and economic disadvantage, creating barriers to academic success and wellness. We strive to remove barriers that affect IVC students' access to education, degree and certificate completion, successful completion of developmental math and English courses, and the ability to transfer to a university. Contact: 760.355.5736 or 760.355.5733 Building 100.

• The Student Equity Program also houses IVC's Homeless Liaison, who provides direct services, campus, and community referrals to students experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. Contact: 760.355.5736 Building 100.

Students Rights and Responsibility

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.

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC Library Department provides numerous Information Literacy Tutorials to assist students in this endeavor.

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 10/6 -10/12	Chapter 1: Introduction, Acquiring Knowledge, and the Scientific Method Chapter 2 Research Ideas and Hypotheses Chapter 3 Defining, and Measuring Variables <u><i>In addition to the lecture, the following items will be discussed in class:</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorm Topic Ideas • Review table of contents • Review Syllabus 	Meet and Greet Discussion due on 10/12 at 11:59 P.M. via Canvas.
Week 2 10/13-10/19	Chapter 4 Ethics in Research Chapter 5: Selecting Research Participants Chapter 6: Research Strategies <u><i>In addition to the lecture, the following items will be discussed in class:</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of Case studies/Research Designs/How to formulate a research question • A review of how to create a Strategic plan • A review of how to create an annotated bibliography • Tips for Paraphrasing and Summarizing PeerReviewed Articles 	Weekly discussion due on 10/19 at 11:59 P.M. via Canvas. Submit topic for approval on Friday, October 17th at 11:59 P.M. via Canvas

<p>Week 3 10/20-10/26</p>	<p>Chapter 7 The experimental Research Strategy Chapter 8: Experimental Designs: Between-Subjects Design & withing Subjects Design Chapter 10 The nonexperimental and Quasi Experimental Strategies</p> <p><u><i>In addition to the lecture, the following items will be discussed in class:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theoretical Foundations • Background to the problem • Review Chapter 1 Writing: Introduction to the Study & Chapter 2: Literature Review 	<p>Weekly discussion due on 10/26 at 11:59 PM via Canvas.</p> <p><u>Strategic Plan and Annotated Bibliography on Sunday, October 26th at 11:59 P.M. via Canvas</u></p>
<p>Week 4 10/27-11/02</p>	<p>Chapter 11: Factorial Designs Chapter 12: The Correlational Research Study Chapter 13: The Descriptive Research Strategy</p> <p><u><i>In addition to the lecture, the following items will be discussed in class:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Chapter 3 Writing: Methodology 	<p>Weekly discussion due on 11/02 at 11:59 P.M. via Canvas</p> <p>Midterm Exam (Chapters 16) available from 10/27-11/3 on Canvas</p>

<p>Week 5 11/3-11/09</p>	<p>During this week we will be reviewing the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Chapter 4 Writing: Data Analysis and Results • Thematic Analysis • How to code literature review • Codes, Categories, and Themes. • Review Chapter 5 Writing: Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations. 	<p>Weekly discussion due on 11/09 at 11:59 P.M. via Canvas</p> <p><u>Submit Chapters 1-3: Writing on Sunday, November 9th at 11:59 P.M. via Canvas</u></p>
<p>Week 6 11/10-11/16</p>	<p>During this week, you will be required to work in groups (or individually) to code the literature review and finalize the research assignment.</p>	<p>Weekly discussion due on 11/16 at 11:59 P.M. via Canvas.</p>
<p>11/18-11/20</p>	<p>During this week we will be reviewing the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover Page • Abstract page • Reference Page • APA 7th Format Requirements for final submission • Review Final PowerPoint Assignment 	<p>Weekly discussion due on 11/20 at 11:59 P.M. via Canvas.</p> <p>Submit Chapter 4 & 5: Writing on Sunday, November 23rd at 11:59 P.M. via Canvas</p>



Week 7 11/25-11/27	Thanksgiving Week	No assignments during this week.
Week 8 12/2-12/4	Final Presentations	Submit Final Research Paper and Final Presentation on December 4 th .

This may change in case of an emergency.

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****