



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2026	Instructor Name:	Nicole Rodiles
Course Title & #:	Psy 212 Research Methods	Email:	nicole.rodiles@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20798	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	212	Office #:	208G
Class Dates:	2/17-6/18	Office Hours:	W: 12-1pm ONLINE
Class Days:	ONLINE	Office Phone #:	760-355-6142 CELL: 760-791-4915
Class Times:		Emergency Contact:	
Units:	3	Class Format:	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 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 214 Stats for Psychology

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

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

OER - Cuttler, Carrie, Jhangiani, R.S. & Leighton, D.C. (2019). *Research Methods in Psychology*, (4th Ed.). Kwantlen Polytechnic University. ISBN 13: 9781999198107

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

This course will consist of a combination of lectures, assigned readings, classroom/ group work, individual projects and performance on quizzes and exams.

Participation. You will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the assigned reading by actively participating in class discussions.

Research Assignments. You will be provided with and/or asked to conduct a literature search for various research articles that align with the various types of research designs discussed in your textbook.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

You will be provided with critical thinking questions in which to analyze and evaluate the article. Questions are to be answered in the following format: double-spaced, size 12 font, and 1 inch margins. Each research assignment will be worth 25 points. Late research assignments will be accepted up to one class period of the due date.

APA Research Paper Structure. You will produce a draft(s) of each component in an APA style research paper for practice purposes. We will discuss the structure for each section in class and use research articles and/or data to prepare for your final paper. The draft for each section will be worth 10 points. No drafts will be accepted after the Research Paper due date.

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. The paper will be worth 100 points. Late research papers will result in a loss of 10 points each day after the due date.

Research Presentation

We will have a poster session at the end of the semester. You will present your research study and results on a poster in the classroom. Students and guests will have a chance to read your research and ask questions or make comments. We will go over the procedures for making a poster in class. The poster and presentation will be worth 50 points.

Chapter Outlines/Quizzes



For each chapter of your text, unless otherwise noted, you will be asked to produce a typed outline. This outline should include the main points of each chapter. Each class period that we start a new chapter, I will be giving a quiz on that chapter in class. You will be allowed to use your chapter outline while taking the quiz. Thus, it is up to you to produce a detailed outline of the chapter that will assist you in taking the quiz. After you take the quiz, we will grade the quiz in class and I will give you points for both the outline and the quiz. Since I will be throwing out the one lowest score for quizzes, no make-up quizzes will be given. Each outline will be worth 20 points. Each quiz will be worth 20 points.

Exams

Four (2) exams will be given. Exams could consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer and essay questions from the class material. No make-up exams will be given unless you have called me PRIOR to the exam and let me know you will not be able to take the exam. If you contact me prior to the exam, you will have one week to make-up the exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

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

[Provide detailed information related to grading practices and grading scale, including values and totals. Consider adding final grade calculation, rubrics, late assignment policy, and other grading practices.]

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.



Course Policies

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. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.

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.

Other Course Information

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.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.



IVC Student Resources

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. To log onto Canvas, use this link: [Canvas Student Login](#). 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. Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

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. 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.

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, 760-355- 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, 760-355-5713, alexis.ayala@imperial.edu.

[Provide a tentative overview of the readings, assignments, tests, and/or other activities for the duration of the course. A table format as in the example below may be used for this purpose.]

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 2/17	Syllabus & Introduction	
Week 2 2/17	Chapter 1 Introduction, Acquiring Knowledge and the Scientific Method	
Week 3 3/1	Information Literacy & APA Style	
Week 4 3/8	NO CLASS Sept 5/LABOR DAY! Enjoy your day off! Research Ideas and Hypotheses	
Week 5 3/15	Defining and Measuring Variables	
Week 6 3/22	Ethics in Research Exam 1 Thought Paper 1	
Week 7 3/29	Selecting Research Participants	
4/5	Happy Easter! Enjoy your break!	
Week 8 4/10	Research Strategies and Validity	
Week 9 4/17	The Experimental Research Strategy Exam 2	
Week 10 4/24	Research Paper	
Week 11 5/1	Research Paper	
Week 12 5/8	Research Paper	
Week 13 5/15	Research Paper	



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 14 5/22	Research Paper	
Week 15 5/29	Presentations	
Week 16 6/5	Presentations	

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