

PSYC 502: Research Methods in Psychology

CRN: 50062 | Sec: 1

Download syllabus

Credit hours: 4 (<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/dpcletters/GEN1106.pdf>)

Credit hour workload estimate: 45 hours (3hrs per week) at minimum

Term: Spring 2025, 1/21/25-5/5/25

Meeting: In person MW: 11:10-12:30 Location: KING N310

Instructor: Michael A. Mangan, MFA, PhD

Office: MCC 430

Office hours: M: 5:00-6:00 | W: 12:30-1:30 (or by appointment)

Electronic communication: Please use "Inbox" in Canvas (not my UNH email)

tel# (603) 862.3404

Please review: [Important UNH Policies and Procedures for Students](#)

Overview & Objectives

We will examine the various methods used in psychological research. The objectives for this course are for you to: 1) learn the basic research methods used in psychology, 2) understand the rationale underlying the appropriate use of the various methods, 3) apply statistical analytic methods to answer research questions, 4) gain a working understanding of APA editorial style, 5) gain knowledge of how to present the results of research; 6) gain a skillset that will help you be a more critical consumer of results of psychological research.

Course Materials

- Price, P.C., Jhangiani, R.S., Chiang, I.A., Leighton, D.C., Cuttler, C. (2017). **Research Methods in Psychology, 3rd American Edition.**
- Available for free (download as PDF or read online) at: <https://opentext.wsu.edu/carriecuttler/>
- It is a comprehensive textbook for research methods classes. It is an adaptation of the second American edition and is published under **Creative Commons Attribution: Non-Commercial Share-Alike.**
- **Canvas app** (search for it on your phone/tablet) will be needed for communications and other class information and tasks.
- **Technology:** In order to access course materials and to complete assignments, you will need a reliable laptop, tablet, or mobile device that supports access to the Internet and up-to-date applications compatible with the UNH learning management system (Canvas). For all uses of Canvas (especially quizzes and tests) UNH CIS recommends using **Firefox** or **Chrome**.

Class meetings: Learning best takes place when students are active participants (i.e., engaged cognitively, emotionally, and behaviorally) in the process. This means your attendance and involvement are needed. This is an in-person/face-to-face class and all students are expected to attend class. UNH is no longer requiring faculty

to provide remote access to any course scheduled for face-to-face meetings. Virtual attendance (Zoom) will not be available. **We will do something every day that requires your presence. Work designated as in-class "participation" must be completed and submitted while in class and must be your own. Submitting in-class work remotely or assisting another to do so is considered cheating/collaboration and is in violation of UNH academic honesty policy.** Completing any assigned in-class work remotely without prior approval will result in a "0" for that assignment. Likewise, as a matter of academic honesty, assisting another student to complete work remotely (e.g., sharing the questions and/or your answers) will also result in a "0" for that assignment for all involved. More than one instance of the above-mentioned behavior will result in the forfeiture to earn further credit for that portion of the course.

General Guidelines for In-Class Participation:

- Attend class and come prepared (e.g., do the assigned reading focusing on learning objectives).
- Make an honest attempt to answer all questions in assigned exercises and activities.
- Be proactive in your own learning by interacting with others when asked to do so.
- Please don't hesitate to ask me questions/discuss any concerns.

Course policies

Late arrival/early departure: Please arrive to class on time. If you must leave at any time during class, please let me know at the beginning of class.

Attendance: This is an in-person/face-to-face class and all students are expected to attend class. Virtual attendance will not be available. Since we will be covering new material each day, if you miss class you are responsible for getting notes and any other information you may have missed from a classmate. UNH policy statement on attendance: <https://catalog.unh.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/attendance/>

Excused absence: You can miss up to six in-class assignments, ***for any reason***, (including illness, emergency, bereavement, you overslept, forgot, athletics, field trip for another class, and so on). Further accommodations (e.g., make ups) for missed work due to absence will be unlikely.

Unexcused absence: Any more than six absences (for any reason) is excessive and will not be excused. If you're dealing with extenuating circumstances that will keep you out of class more than six days you will need to notify me immediately. You will also need to email the [Dean of Students](#) to request that a Dean's Letter be sent to me. Any accommodations are at the discretion of the faculty.

Notification: If you will miss class and you expect it to be unexcused (per the above description), you are expected to notify me in advance (via "Inbox" in Canvas). If advance notice is not possible (e.g., severe illness/emergency), notification is expected within 24 hours. Failure to provide such notification will result in forfeiture of any possible accommodations.

COVID-19 Safety: You are responsible for following any UNH mandated safety procedures.

Course disruption: In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to change when necessitated by revised course delivery, semester calendar or other circumstances. Information about changes in this course can be obtained at the Canvas site or by contacting me via Inbox in Canvas. If the course is not able to meet face-to-face students should continue to check Canvas for announcements and updates to this syllabus as needed.

Class recording: Your classroom is equipped with technology that can provide remote access to class instruction. Because of the need to accommodate potential isolation and quarantine due to the COVID pandemic, lectures or other class meetings for this course may be recorded by the university using UNH media

platforms. Such recordings may be available for educational use by students enrolled in the class (including both for instruction and as a review tool), the course instructor(s), and other university officials who support course instruction. Your voice or image may be captured on the recordings, and by enrolling in this course you are consenting to such recording for these purposes. The university and Zoom have FERPA-compliant agreements in place to protect the security and privacy of UNH Zoom accounts. You may not share recordings outside of this course. **Taking photographs or recording on any device in class is prohibited.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

Note taking in class: I will use PowerPoint slides to guide lecture and will post them on Canvas. You will need to take notes while in class. At times I may move too quickly, or for some, too slowly. I try to pace my coverage of the material to best support students' learning as a whole. Never hesitate to stop me if you need me to repeat or clarify anything.

Classroom-behavior expectations: To ensure a climate of learning for all, disruptive or inappropriate behavior may result in exclusion (removal) from this class. As a reminder, unless approved by your instructor, cell phone use, including text messaging, and videotaping and recording, is not permitted in this class by Faculty Senate rule.

Academic honesty: Plagiarism, cheating, collaborating on work, or other forms of academic dishonesty are not acceptable. Faculty and students have a joint responsibility to ensure the integrity of learning. All work that you submit must be your own except in those instances when I give specific permission to collaborate. When quoting, summarizing or explaining ideas that are based on another's work, whether in print or online, make sure to cite references appropriately. Plagiarism is using another's words. For the UNH complete academic honesty policy, see the current college catalog. Please view the following links: [Academic Integrity](#) and [Plagiarism](#).

AI: Any and all use of automated writing tools, including ChatGPT and similar artificial intelligence (AI) tools, is strictly prohibited in this course. Any use of automated writing tools is considered plagiarism (as defined by SRRR 9.3) and will be handled in accordance with existing UNH policy.

Student support resources: UNH provides a number of ways to get academic and technical support with learning. Students can use [myUSNH](#) to access the full range of campus resources.

Accessibility services: According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended, 2008), each student with a disability has the right to request services from UNH to accommodate his/her disability. If you are a student with a documented disability or believe you may have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 201 Smith Hall. Accommodation letters are created by SAS with the student. Please follow-up with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of the identified accommodations in the letter. Faculty have an obligation to respond once they receive official notice of accommodations from SAS but are under no obligation to provide retroactive accommodations. For more information refer to www.unh.edu/studentaccessibility or contact SAS at 603.862.2607, 711 (Relay NH), or sas.office@unh.edu.

Note: Accommodation letters must be sent to me electronically via Clockwork (ask at SAS). Students with accommodations for tests or other coursework are responsible for giving me advance notice from the start of the term so that we may make appropriate arrangements. Without appropriate notification, I will probably not be able to provide accommodations.

Confidentiality and mandatory reporting: The University of New Hampshire and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students and for the university as a whole. To this end, the university requires faculty members to report to the university's Title IX Coordinator any incidents of sexual violence and harassment shared by students. If you wish to speak to a confidential support service

provider who does not have this reporting responsibility because their discussions with clients are subject to legal privilege, you can find a list of resources by visiting <https://www.unh.edu/diversity-inclusion/sexual-misconduct>. For more information about what happens when you report, how the university considers your requests for confidentiality once a report is made to the Title IX Coordinator, your rights, and report options at UNH (including anonymous report options), please visit <https://www.unh.edu/affirmativeaction/reporting-students>.

Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP): SHARPP provides free and confidential advocacy and direct services to survivors." <https://www.unh.edu/sharpp>

Emotional or mental health distress: Your academic success and overall mental health is very important. If, during the semester, you find you are experiencing emotional or mental health issues, please contact the University's Psychological and Counseling Services (PACS; 3rd floor, Smith Hall; 603-862-2090/TTY: 7-1-1), which provides counseling appointments and other mental health services. If urgent, students may call PACS M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and schedule an Urgent Same-Day Appointment.

Communicating with me: If you have questions or just want to talk, I encourage you to contact me before or after class, during office hours, by phone or by using *Inbox* in Canvas. You can expect to hear back from me within 24 hours. Please check Canvas regularly (daily) for messages and announcements.

Notification: If you will miss class and you expect it to be unexcused (per the above description), you are expected to notify me in advance (via "Inbox" in Canvas). If advance notice is not possible (e.g., severe illness/emergency), notification is expected within 24 hours. Failure to provide such notification will result in forfeiture of any possible accommodations.

Evaluation

Quests (10%): There will be 10 section "Quests." A Quest is a hybrid of a quiz and a test. As such, they are useful as assessments of learning and as teaching/learning tools. Quests will be completed remotely (on Canvas) on scheduled dates (see course schedule below). Each Quest will cover one chapter and will be composed of 10 items: five multiple-choice, three true/false, and two "fill in the blank."

- Quest items will align with topic learning objectives (available on Canvas). Items will assess learning at most levels of "Bloom's Taxonomy," which is a classification system used to define and distinguish different levels of human cognition (remembering, understanding, applying, analyzing, evaluating, creating). All objectives will not be discussed in lecture. This means you will need to locate information pertaining to objectives in the assigned reading. Quests are open book/notes. If you prepare adequately (e.g., locate and prepare answers to all learning objectives prior to completing a quest) you should do fine.
- You will have 15 minutes to complete each Quest. Finishing within this time frame should not be problematic. Do not begin any Quest until you are prepared to complete it. You must complete a quest once you begin. If you begin by mistake (for any reason), it will count as an attempt.
- **You are expected to work independently.** Not doing your own work defeats the purpose of the assignments, which is to facilitate learning. Collaborating, sharing your work or using someone else's are all forms of cheating and constitute a violation of UNH academic honesty policy. If I suspect any such behavior, I will ask you to re-take the Quest in a proctored space. Any evidence of sharing assessment questions/answers in this course will result in a "zero" for the assessment and will be reported to the student's college dean.
- **Technology:** To complete Quests you will need a reliable laptop, tablet, or mobile device that supports access to the Internet and up-to-date applications compatible with the UNH learning management

system (Canvas). For all uses of Canvas (especially quizzes and tests) UNH CIS recommends using **Firefox or Chrome**.

- **Your score will not be available until the following meeting.** Your score, questions/answers will be viewable and you can look at your work and flag any items you need clarity on. Thereafter your questions/answers will no longer be accessible on Canvas. You may review any Quest item(s) with me privately in conference during office hours or, time-permitting, by appointment. Any appointment must be (ideally) scheduled at least 24 hours in advance.
- **Evaluation:** Points possible per Quest: 10 (one point per item). There are no makeups for Quests. Once they are closed they cannot be taken/re-taken. However, **I will drop one lowest score** (for any reason, including excused absence).

Cumulative Final (20%): The final will be completed in class via Canvas on the date/time listed in the course schedule (below). It will be cumulative and will comprise 100 items from all 10 course topics covered: 50 multiple-choice, 30 true/false, and 20 "fill in the blank" items.

- The final must be taken as scheduled per the date listed in the course schedule (below).
- You'll have 120 minutes to complete the exam.
- You are expected to start/finish the test on time. Anyone starting late will not be able to receive extra time. **Anyone starting more than 10 minutes late will have their final score reduced by 1 point per minute late.**
- You are expected to work independently. Not doing so is considered a breach of UNH academic honesty policies.
- To complete the final you will need a reliable laptop or tablet that supports access to the Internet and up-to-date applications compatible with the UNH learning management system (Canvas). For all uses of Canvas (especially quizzes and tests) UNH CIS recommends using **Firefox or Chrome**.
- To receive credit, when you've answered all items, you'll need to be sure to hit the **"submit quiz"** button on your screen.
- This is a closed book, closed notes exam.
- To prepare, review the materials you used to prepare for Quests (e.g., learning objectives, lecture PDFs/notes, activities/exercises, your text, complete the practice final).
- **Evaluation:** Points possible: 100 (one point per item). Your score will be available as soon as possible after the exam. You'll be able to see questions and answers once after scores are released. If you have questions about your work, you may review the exam with me privately in conference by appointment.

Writing Assignment (20%): This is a writing intensive course. As such, students will complete a major assignment that involves writing a bibliographic essay on a topic of their choice. APA style is expected to be used for citing sources. Complete details of the assignment can be found on Canvas in the "Writing Assignment" module.

Evaluation: Grades will be based on the evaluation of the final draft submitted. Final drafts will be evaluated per the rubric provided for the assignment (see the "Writing Assignment" module). See the course schedule for due date of final draft.

Participation (30%)

- **Workshops:** To help structure and guide your writing efforts, there will be five workshops during the term (see course schedule for dates). For credit, attendance at all workshops, and **in-class completion** of any activities, is required.
- **"Lecture Day" Exercises:** During each class meeting, I will ask you to **do** something (e.g., answer a question and share your responses with a peer). What I ask you to do will pertain to the topic being covered that week and will support your engagement and learning. Peer-to-peer discussion is an important component of each exercise as it enhances learning. To receive credit, attendance and **in-class**

completion of exercises are required. Your responses will be submitted via Canvas using links provided.

- **"Hands-On Day" Activities:** Each week, students will complete an **in-class activity**. The activities are intended to engage you with the material and to reinforce learning of course content. During class, students will work independently and/or together on coming up with written answers to thought-provoking questions. Your responses will be submitted via Canvas using links provided. Your answers are expected to comprise an honest attempt to provide complete and thoughtful answers to prompts. A record of your completed work will be a useful tool that you/we can refer to later, if need be. Peer-to-peer discussion is an important component of each activity as it enhances learning. Each meeting, students will be expected to share/discuss their answers with each other. Thereafter, we'll discuss as a group. To receive credit, **in-class completion** of activities is required.

Participation evaluation: credit/no credit. To receive credit, attendance and **in-class completion and submission** of participation activities are required for credit. **There are no makeups.** If you show up and then leave class (for any reason) prior to completing the activity you will not receive credit. Your presence and participation are necessary to receive credit. However, **I will drop six lowest scores** (for **any reason**, including illness, emergency, scheduled UNH events [athletic and otherwise], and so on).

SPSS Assignments (10%): Students will complete two assignments this semester using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). The assignments will supplement material we're covering in the course and, as required by the UNH psychology department, provide a re-introduction (from PSYC 402) to SPSS statistical analysis software. You are expected to attend class on SPSS days (see course schedule) and to complete and submit your work online by due dates listed in our course schedule. Submission links are provided on Canvas. Assignments as well as the data to be used in completing each assignment will be given to you in class. For details, please thoroughly and carefully review the **"SPSS Assignments"** materials provided in "Modules" on Canvas. **Evaluation:** Each assignment will be evaluated using the rubric posted online.

Laboratory Participation (10%): Students will complete **three credits** of laboratory experience. The lab sign-up procedure is Web based and requires you to register for **Sona Systems**, so please thoroughly and carefully review the **"Research Participation (SONA)"** materials located in "Modules" on Canvas. **Evaluation:** Three credits are possible.

Missed and Late Work/Absence

For the next 15 weeks, my assumption is that you have made a commitment to this course and that you understand your responsibilities. Due dates for all work are provided in the course schedule. To avoid conflicts, please let family members, employers, coaches, etc. (and anyone else) know of your responsibilities for this course. **If you anticipate conflicts, please see me immediately.** In all cases, it's students' responsibility to contact the instructor in a timely fashion should they be unable to complete any work of this course.

- I will drop six participation assignments (for **any reason**, including illness, emergency, scheduled UNH events [athletic and otherwise], and so on).
- I will drop one lowest "Quest" score (for any reason).
- Missed labs (SONA) cannot be made up.
- SPSS assignments submitted more than two days late will not be accepted.
- Final draft of writing assignment submitted more than two days late will not be accepted.

Final Grade Determination

Your success in this class will mainly be determined by your level of effort and motivation.

Your final grade will be assigned based upon a weighted percentage of the various evaluated activities you will complete for this course. The **Total %** you can see in “Grades” in Canvas will fluctuate over the term as scores are entered. In assigning final grades, I will use grades as computed by Canvas, which assigns letter grades to weighted total percentages taken out to the second decimal place (e.g., **89.45%, 89.54%, 89.89%, 89.98% are all assigned a letter grade of B+.**) This means that small amounts count!

After all grades for the course have been entered, the weighted percentage is then finalized. **All "dropped" scores have been dropped computationally. However, they do not disappear from your grade record.**

In anticipation of some students asking me to give their grade a "bump up" to the next highest grade: In fairness to all, I generally do not do this. However, in some cases, and **only upon a student's direct request and if that student is within ≤ 0.25 from the next highest grade (e.g., 93.75%; 93.85%, etc.)** I will review the student's overall class performance (i.e., attendance, participation, quality/apparent effort of responses to in-class exercises and activities, paper peer review ratings). Based on the outcome of the review, a student's grade could possibly be "bumped up" to the next highest grade based on merit.

Evaluation Activity	Weight	Grades
Quests	10%	A: 100%-94%
Cumulative Final	20%	A-: 90%-93%
Writing Assignment	20%	B+: 87%-89%
Participation	30%	B: 84%-86%
SPSS Assignments	10%	B-: 80%-83%
Research Experience (SONA)	10%	C+: 77%-79%
Total	100%	C: 74%-76%
		C-: 70%-73%
		D+: 67%-69%
		D: 64%-66%
		D-: 60%-63% F: <60%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Mtg.	Date	Topic	Read	Stuff Due
1	1/22	Syllabus day		
2	1/27	The Science of Psychology	Chpt. 1	Exercise_1
3	1/29			Activity_1/Quest 1
4	2/3	Overview of the Scientific Method	Chpt. 2	Exercise_2
5	2/5			Activity_2/Quest 2

6	2/10	Workshop_1: Overview/Content/Form & Structure/Finding Ideas & Sources/Evaluation		Workshop_1
7	2/12	Research Ethics	Chpt. 3	Exercise_3
8	2/17			Activity_3/Quest 3
9	2/19	Psychological Measurement	Chpt. 4	Exercise_4
10	2/24			Activity_4/Quest 4
11	2/26	Workshop_2: Paper Peer Review		Workshop_2: Paper draft due
12	3/3	Experimental Research	Chpt. 5	Exercise_5
13	3/5			Activity_5/Quest 5
14	3/10	Non-Experimental Research	Chpt. 6	Exercise_6
15	3/12			Activity_6/Quest 6 SPSS_1 Due
16	3/24	Workshop_3: Paper Peer Review		Workshop_3: Paper draft due
17	3/26	Survey Research	Chpt. 7	Exercise_7 SPSS_2 Due
18	3/31			Activity_7/Quest 7
19	4/2	Quasi-Experimental Research	Chpt. 8	Exercise_8
20	4/7			Activity_8/Quest 8
21	4/9	Factorial Designs	Chpt. 9	Exercise_9
22	4/14			Activity_9/Quest 9
23	4/16	Workshop_4: Paper Peer Review		Workshop_4: Paper draft due
24	4/21	Single Subject Research	Chpt. 10	Exercise_10
25	4/23			Activity_10/Quest 10
26	4/28	Presenting Your Research	Chpt. 11	Exercise_11
27	4/30	Workshop_5: Paper Peer Review		Workshop_5: Paper draft due
28	5/5	Course Wrap Up		Activity_11 Writing Assignment Due
Final Exam		Date: 5/8 Time: 10:30 - 12:30 PM		

Note: The content of the syllabus and course schedule may be changed at instructor's discretion.

