

## **PSYC 502: Research Methods in Psychology**

**CRN:** 10112 | **Sec:** 2

**Meeting:** MW: 12:40-2:00 Location: MCC 110

**Instructor:** Michael A. Mangan, MFA, PhD

**Office:** MCC 430

**Office hours:** M: 11:00-12:00 | R: 5:00-6:00 (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. Submitting any in-class work remotely when attendance is required without prior approval will result in a "0". No exceptions. Class meetings will include lecture as well as discussion and activities. We will not cover everything that you read about in class. At least once per week, students will work independently on an in-class activity and then get together to discuss with fellow students. We will then discuss as a class. Student interaction is expected as it's part of the teaching-learning process of this course. If you miss class, plan to get notes from someone who was there.

### **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 activities.
- Submit your in-class work when asked to do so.
- 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.

**Attendance:** Attendance is expected and required at all scheduled class meetings. When students absent themselves from class to such extent that their own progress or that of the class or group is seriously impaired, they will be reported to the dean of their college. Five or more unexcused absences will be consider excessive and will be reported.

**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. **Taking photos/videos while in class is prohibited.**

**Late Arrival/Early Departure:** Please arrive to class on time. With the exception of an emergency, if you must leave at any time during class, please let me know at the beginning of class.

**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 permission is given by the instructor, cell phone use is not permitted in this class by Faculty Senate rule.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism, cheating, collaborating on work, or other forms of academic dishonesty (e.g., sharing test/exam questions/answers online or F2F) are not acceptable. If I find any evidence of sharing of any assessments in this course, I will report this to the student's college dean and I will recommend punitive action. 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. *As a matter of academic honesty, you are expected to work independently on all assignments. Evidence to the contrary will result in a "0" for that assignment for all involved and will be reported to the students' college dean.* For the UNH complete academic honesty policy, see the current college catalog. Please view the following links - <https://www.unh.edu/student-life/09-academic-honesty> and <https://cola.unh.edu/academics/plagiarism-tutorial>

**Student Support Resources:** UNH provides a number of ways to get academic and technical support with learning. For academic support available to UNH students see this [directory](#) of services and centers. This [article](#) has information to help you get technical support on items like submitting assignments, accessing software, and taking quizzes or exams including contacts for personalized assistance.

**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](http://www.unh.edu/studentaccessibility) or contact SAS at 603.862.2607, 711 (Relay NH), or [sas.office@unh.edu](mailto: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.**

**COVID-19 Safety:** While we are meeting in-person you are responsible for following any UNH mandated safety procedures. UNH currently does not require masks to be worn in classrooms. However, if you want to wear a mask, you are free to do so. If you do wear a mask, make sure that it covers your nose and mouth. If UNH reinstates a mask-wearing policy, everyone will need to wear one. If you do not have a mask then you'll be asked to leave the classroom to get one.

**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:** Taking photos/videos by students while in class is prohibited. Your classroom is equipped with technology that will 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. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

**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 (Donna Marie Sorrentino, [dms@unh.edu](mailto:dms@unh.edu), 603-862-2930/1527 TTY) 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/affirmativeaction/offices-resources-support>. 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.

**Communication:** 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.

## **Evaluation**

**Quests (15%):** 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 must be completed remotely (on Canvas) on pre-scheduled dates (see course schedule below). Each quest will cover one chapter and will be composed of 10 items: five multiple-choice, two true/false, two "fill in the blank," and one (ungraded) short-answer item.

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 30 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 a quest by mistake (for any reason), it will count as an attempt.

Your score will not be immediately available. We will review each quest in class meetings subsequent to each quest due date. At that time your score, questions/answers will be viewable and you can ask any questions you may have. Thereafter your quest questions/answers will no longer be accessible on Canvas. However, you may review any quest with me privately in conference by appointment. This is due to the unfortunate fact that some (not all) students share questions/answers and will post them online. This defeats the purpose of the assignment which is to facilitate learning. To post/share assessment items is a violation of UNH academic honesty policy and also violates the policies of some sites (e.g., Quizlet). Any evidence of sharing assessment questions/answers in this course will be reported (e.g., to the website and to the student's college dean).

**Technology:** 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**.

**Evaluation:** Points possible per quest: 9 (one point per item). There are no makeups. However, **I will drop one lowest score** (for any reason, including excused absence).

**Cumulative Final (20%):** The final will be completed remotely using 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. You will have the full two hours (a bit over one minute per item, which is the "industry standard") to complete the exam. You are expected to start/finish the exam on time. **Technology:** 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**.

**Evaluation:** Points possible: 100 (one point per item).

**Writing Assignment (20%):** This is a writing intensive course. As such, students will complete a major assignment that involves writing a bibliographical 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.

**Workshops (10%):** To help structure and guide your writing efforts, there will be five workshops during the term (see course schedule for dates). Attendance at all workshops is required and completing of workshop activities is expected. **Evaluation:** Grades will be based on attendance/participation in workshops. Workshops cannot be made up. However, **I will drop one missed writing assignment workshop** (for any reason).

**Evaluation:** Grades will be based on attendance/participation in workshops.

**"Lecture Day" Exercises (5%):** During each class meeting, we will review the prior topic's quiz. I will also ask you to complete brief exercises and (time permitting) to share your responses with each other. Exercises will pertain to the topic being covered that week. **Evaluation:** credit/no credit. To receive credit, attendance and in-class completion of each exercise is required. 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. However, **I will drop two lowest scores** (for any reason, including excused absence).

**"Hands-On Day" Activities (10%):** 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** on coming up with written answers to thought-provoking questions. Work will then be submitted via Canvas links provided in each topic module. **Students are then expected to discuss their answers with each other.** Thereafter, we'll discuss as a group. **Evaluation:** credit/no credit. To receive credit, attendance and in-class completion of each activity is required. Written responses to all questions must be provided and submitted via Canvas in class. Answers should reflect an honest attempt to provide complete and thoughtful answers to all questions. Anything short of this may receive partial or no credit. There are no makeups. However, **I will drop two lowest scores** (for any reason, including excused absence).

**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

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.

- **Notification:** For any missed work please notify me in advance (via "Inbox" in Canvas). In the event of documented emergency/severe incapacitating illness that makes advance notice impossible, notification thereafter is expected in a timely fashion (not more than 24 hours). Failure to provide such notification will result in forfeiture of the opportunity to make up work/submit work late.
- I will drop **two lowest** "Lecture Day Exercise" scores (for any reason).
- I will drop **two lowest** "Hands-On Day Activity" scores (for any reason).
- I will drop **one lowest** "quest" (for any reason).
- I will drop **one missed writing assignment workshop** (for any reason).
- **The final must be taken in class as scheduled.** Be sure to plan around this.
- 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

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!

**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 request and if that student is within  $\leq 0.25$  from the next highest grade**, I will review the student's overall class performance (i.e., overall attendance and participation, completion of short-answer items on quests [quality/apparent effort], quality/apparent effort of responses to in-class exercises and activities, 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	15%	A: 100%-94%
Cumulative Final	20%	A-: 90%-93%

Writing Assignment	20%	B+: 87%-89%
Workshops	10%	B: 84%-86%
"Hands On Day" Activities	10%	B-: 80%-83%
"Lecture Day" Exercises	5%	C+: 77%-79%
SPSS Assignments	10%	C: 74%-76%
Lab Participation (SONA)	10%	C-: 70%-73%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	D+: 67%-69%
		D: 64%-66%
		D-: 60%-63%   F: <60%

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Mtg.	Date	Topic	Read	Stuff Due
1	8/29	Syllabus day		
2	8/31	The Science of Psychology	Chpt. 1	Exercise_1
3	9/7			Activity_1/Quest 1
4	9/12	Overview of the Scientific Method	Chpt. 2	Exercise_2
5	9/14			Activity_2/Quest 2
6	9/19	Workshop_1: Finding Ideas/Sources/Content/Structure		Workshop_1
7	9/21	Research Ethics	Chpt. 3	Exercise_3
8	9/26			Activity_3/Quest 3
9	9/28	Psychological Measurement	Chpt. 4	Exercise_4
10	10/3			Activity_4/Quest 4
11	10/5	Workshop_2: Writing/Readability		Workshop_2



12	10/12	Experimental Research	Chpt. 5	Exercise_5
13	10/17			Activity_5/Quest 5
14	10/19	Non-Experimental Research	Chpt. 6	Exercise_6
15	10/24			Activity_6/Quest 6 SPSS_1 Due
16	10/26	Workshop_3: APA Style/ Formatting		Workshop_3
17	10/31	Survey Research	Chpt. 7	Exercise_7 SPSS_2 Due
18	11/2			Activity_7/Quest 7
19	11/7	Quasi-Experimental Research	Chpt. 8	Exercise_8
20	11/9			Activity_8/Quest 8
21	11/14	Workshop_4: Paper Peer Review		Workshop_4
22	11/16	Factorial Designs	Chpt. 9	Exercise_9
23	11/21			Activity_9/Quest 9
24	11/28	Single Subject Research	Chpt. 10	Exercise_10
25	11/30			Activity_10/Quest 10
26	12/5	Presenting Your Research	Chpt. 11	Exercise_11
27	12/7	Workshop_5: Paper Peer Review		Workshop_5
28	12/12	Course Wrap Up		Activity_11 Writing Assignment Final Draft Due
<b>Final Exam</b>		<b>Date: 12/15</b> <b>Time: 10:30 - 12:30</b>		

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