

Fundamentals of Psychological Research

Syllabus

Fall 2019 PSYC 209

Instructor: Madeleine Gorges, Ph.D.

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Phone: 425.564.2236

Note: I am very rarely available by phone. E-mail and Canvas messages are the best ways to contact me.

Office location: D100A (first floor of the D tower)

Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 Mondays and Thursdays

Course Information

Welcome to Research Methods! This course is a critical foundation for psychology majors and also extremely valuable for anyone who consumes media reports of research. We will learn to critically evaluate research findings with an emphasis on causality and generalizability. This course covers theories, techniques, and applications of psychological research methodology. Students explore a variety of approaches, ranging from uncontrolled field observation to laboratory experiments. Topics include data analysis, report writing, and factors affecting research results. Prerequisite: PSYC& 100.

Course Outcomes

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Explain the scientific process and the research methods psychologists and behavioral scientists use in the study of human behavior.
- Apply relevant research and statistical terms, concepts, and principles used in the study of human behavior.
- Evaluate and compare various research methods and designs used to guide and develop research investigations.
- Prioritize and apply ethical principles in the conduct of research.

How Outcomes Will be Met

This course will include the following topics: ways of knowing, generating ideas for research, ethics, measures of central tendency and variability, hypothesis testing, manipulating variables, experimental design, quality of methodological control, non-experimental design (e.g. surveys, observation, case studies), and data analysis & summary. Students will explore these topics through daily activities including quizzes, data evaluation, and discussion. They will demonstrate their understanding in exams, written assignments, and presentations. For more specific details please see the course calendar in this syllabus.

Grading

Please see Bellevue College's [Grading Policy](#).

It is your responsibility to check your grade on Canvas regularly and contact the instructor as soon as possible if you have any concerns.

Grades will be assigned on the following standard grading system. I do not round or curve.

Percent	Letter Grade
94-100	A
90-93.99	A-
87-89.99	B+
84-86.99	B
80-83.99	B-
77-79.99	C+
74-76.99	C
70-73.99	C-
67-69.99	D+
64-66.99	D
60-63.99	D-
<=59.99	F

Assignment	Weight
Getting to Know You Presentation	5%
Survey Results Presentation	10%
Daily Activities and/or Quizzes	25%
Article Assignment 1	10%
Article Assignment 2 (online quiz)	10%
Article Assignment 3 (article review paper)	15%
Final Exam	25%
Extra “Application Exercise” from book’s companion website	Up to 2% extra credit each, up to a total of 6% extra credit (3 excercises)

Books and Materials Required

- **Required textbook:** Goldstein, E. B. (2019) Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience, 5th edition. Boston, MA: Cengage.
- **Recommended free online resource:** [Student companion site for the textbook](#)
- Reliable internet access is required
- Software or websites such as Microsoft Excel, Tableau, Qualtrics, or Survey Monkey are recommended to complete the survey assignment

Help with Canvas

Students can find help with Canvas by following the link here: [Student Canvas Help](#)

Classroom Learning Atmosphere

Instructor's Expectations

I will treat you with respect and I expect you to do the same for each other. In the first week we will discuss our expectations for each other in order to make this course a successful experience for all. If you miss the first day of class please contact me or stop by my office hours.

Missed Class and Makeup Work:

- Please notify me as soon as possible in the event of an emergency that impacts your attendance or class work
- If you miss class
 - You are responsible for material covered in class and announcements
 - Contact a class member for additional instructions and/or assignments given in class
 - You may make an appointment with me or come to my office hours for any further clarification
- Makeups in the event of an excused absence
 - Before discussing any make-up work I must approve acceptable documentation of your emergency
 - Makeup exams and/or assignments are different from the originals
 - If you miss the presentation you may schedule a time to present to me and earn back the points
 - I do not offer makeups for the in class quizzes or labs. If your emergency situation impacts three or more class periods please meet with me to discuss options
- Online submissions will receive a two point deduction for every 24 hours late
- I drop the two lowest in-class group quizzes

Accessibility

The online elements of this course are designed to be welcoming to, accessible to, and usable by everyone, including students who are English-language learners, have a variety of learning styles, have disabilities, or are new to online learning. Be sure to let me know immediately if you encounter a required element or resource in the course that is not accessible to you. Also,

let me know of changes I can make to the course so that it is more welcoming to, accessible to, or usable by students who take this course in the future.

Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

[Affirmation of Inclusion](https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/inclusion/) (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/inclusion/>)

Reasons of Faith and Conscience

Reasonable Accommodations for Reasons of Faith and Conscience: Students who will be absent from course activities due to reasons of faith or conscience may seek reasonable accommodations so that grades are not impacted. Such requests must be made within the first two weeks of the course to instructor and the office of the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs (see Bellevue College [Policy 2950](https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id2950/) (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id2950/>)). In the event you feel you are being discriminated against based on faith or conscious, you may refer to the procedures outlined in the college's [Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Policy 1440P](https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-1440p/) (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-1440p/>).

Annual Notice Non-Discrimination

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; creed; color; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates. Bellevue College is prohibited from discriminating in such a manner by college policy and by state and federal law. All college personnel and persons, vendors, and organizations with whom the college does business are required to comply with applicable federal and state statutes and regulations designed to promote affirmative action and equal opportunity.

Reports of gender and sex-based based discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation by a student should be raised with the Title IX office (see 1440P2 for contact information). In cases

where the impacted party is a student and the responding party is a college employee, the Title IX coordinator will direct the matter to the Office of Human Resources (HR). All other reports, including all reports where the impacted party is an employee, should be raised with the HR. If a report is against personnel in the Title IX office or HR, it should be submitted to the president's office for referral to an alternate designee.

[Equal Opportunity](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/equal/) (<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/equal/>)

Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share with the Title IX Coordinator any and all information regarding sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct (e.g. relationship violence, stalking) that may have occurred on campus or that impacts someone on campus. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the BC Counseling Center at (425) 564-2212. The Title IX Office can be contacted at 425-564-2641 and more information can be found at [Title IX](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/titleix/) (<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/titleix/>).

If you have any concerns, you may report to: [Report Concerns](https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/reportconcerns/) (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/reportconcerns/>).

Copyright

All materials used in this course and posted on our Canvas site are for educational purposes only. Do not share any assignments, presentations, or other materials with anyone who is not enrolled in our course. Do not copy and distribute any course content. For more details, please see the [College Copyright Policy](#)

Student Conduct Code and Academic Integrity

Any act of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source), and fabrication, and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Conduct Code of Bellevue College. Examples of disruptive behavior include, but are not limited to, repeatedly talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones to

ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Conduct Code to the Manager of Student Conduct for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Conduct Code at: [Student Code](#)

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty that occurs when students use information or material from outside sources and do not properly cite those sources. This is grounds for disciplinary action. It is your responsibility to understand plagiarism and its consequences. Plagiarism occurs if:

1. You do not cite quotations and/or attribute borrowed ideas as references.
2. You fail to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks.
3. You do not write summaries and paraphrases in his/her own words and/or doesn't document his/her source.
4. You turn in work created by another person.
5. You submit or use your own prior work for a current or past course, or work from one current course in another course without express permission from your professors. This may also be considered academic dishonesty.

If it is determined that you have plagiarized or engaged in other forms of academic dishonesty, you will likely fail the assignment and possibly the course, despite points earned through other work. Acts of academic dishonesty are reviewed for disciplinary action. **I take the Bellevue College's Academic Honesty policy very seriously. You will not receive credit for work that is not your own.** I do not hesitate to report plagiarism to BC's Manager of Student Conduct and he/she will reach out to you if I submit the report. Exams must be completed individually.

[Resources for Avoiding Plagiarism](#)

Please read and keep a copy of this handout: [Avoiding Plagiarism](#).

Bellevue College also recommends a 22-minute video that provides a good overview of how to avoid trouble when using sources: From the college home page select SERVICES, then LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER, then DATABASES, then FILMS ON DEMAND. At their site, search by title for PLAGIARISM 2.0: ETHICS IN THE DIGITAL AGE.

If you are new to writing please come talk to me during office hours and/or visit the Writing Center. Their website is <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/asc/writing/> and they are located in **D204**.

Netiquette and Other Conduct Policies

Inappropriate/disruptive behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: Plagiarizing material from the Internet and posting rude or personal attacks in discussions. When you are in doubt about any behavior, please consult your instructor. In addition, you may wish to review the general applicable rules of cyberspace, such as in the [Core Rules of Netiquette](#). The instructor reserves the right to remove posted messages, and downgrade assessments as a result of these types of behaviors. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services.

http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp

My policy about netiquette is the same as my general classroom expectation: Be respectful. In the words of a colleague, Garth Neufeld, “It is *very* easy to misinterpret written communication. All [...] communications should be phrased in positive, non-confrontational and non-offensive language. Please keep all interaction cordial, business-like, and professional.”

Important Links

See [“Important Links” page online](#) for more information about the E-mail and MyBC, Public Safety, the Academic Calendar, the Academic Success Center, and more.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with disabilities. Common disabilities include physical, neurological (e.g. Autism, ADD/ADHD), and mental health (e.g. depression, anxiety). If you are a student who has a disability or if you think you may need accommodations in order to have equal access in your classes, programs, activities, and any other services, please contact the DRC.

If you require assistance in an emergency, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan for while in class and contact the DRC to develop a safety plan for while you are elsewhere on campus.

The DRC office is located in building B Room 132. You can contact the DRC by stopping by the office at B132, calling our front desk phone number (425) 564-2498, emailing

drc@bellevuecollege.edu. Deaf students can reach us by calling TTY: (425) 564-6189, or by Skype (account name **DRCatBC**). For more information about the services we offer, including our Initial Access Application, visit our website at [Disability Resource Center](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc) (<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc>).

Service Animals are allowed in this classroom. Emotional Support Animals need to be approved through the DRC. All other animals will be asked to leave. If you believe you need your animal with you, please connect with the DRC and refrain from bringing your animal until a decision has been made.

Final Exam Schedule

Final Exam: Friday, December 6th, 7:30 AM – 9:20 AM

[Final Exam Schedule](#)

Course Calendar

Your learning is my primary concern in this course, so I may modify the schedule if we discover we need to spend more time on a certain topic and less on another. I may post short additional readings on Canvas at least two days before the relevant class period.

Date	Topic/Activity	Assignments and Required Reading Before Class
Mon., Sept. 16	Syllabus, introductions, expectations	
Weds., Sept. 18	Scientific Thinking in Psychology: Ways of Knowing	Chapter 1, pages 1-15
Sun., Sept. 22	Getting to Know You assignment due online at 11:59 PM	
Mon., Sept. 23	Scientific Thinking in Psychology: Pseudoscience and the Goals of Psychological Research	Bring Survey Results to Class Chapter 1, pages 15-29 Responses to at least two other Getting to

		Know You posts due at 11:59 PM
Weds., Sept .25	Ethics	Chapter 2
Mon., Sept. 30	Developing Research Questions; Identifying and Reading Research Articles (Use Google Scholar!)	Chapter 3
Weds., Oct. 2	No School (Faculty Development Day)	
Mon., Oct. 7	Sampling and Scales of Measurement	Chapter 4 Appendix A, pages 386-389 Article Assignment 1 due online at 11:59 PM
Weds., Oct. 9	Statistical Analysis and Hypothesis Testing	Chapter 4
Mon., Oct. 14	Variables	Chapter 5
Weds., Oct. 16	Validity and Confounds	Chapter 5
Mon., Oct. 21	Methodological Control	Chapter 6
Weds., Oct. 23	Methodological Control	Chapter 6
Mon., Oct 28	Experimental Design: Single-Factor Designs	Chapter 7
Weds., Oct. 30	Experimental Design: Single-Factor Designs	Chapter 7 Review
Mon., Nov. 4	Exam 1	
Weds., Nov. 6	Experimental Design: Factorial Designs	Chapter 8
Mon., Nov. 11	No School (Veteran's Day)	
Weds., Nov. 13	Experimental Design: Factorial Designs	Chapter 8
Mon., Nov. 18	Non-Experimental Design: Surveys	Chapter 9
Weds., Nov. 20	Non-Experimental Design: Surveys	Bring your own survey questions to class Chapter 9

Mon., Nov. 25	Non-Experimental Design: Observational and Archival Methods	Chapter 10
Weds, Nov. 27	Small N Designs	Chapter 12
Mon., Dec. 2	Small N Designs	Present survey results in class Chapter 12
Weds., Dec. 4	Review	
Fri., Dec. 6	7:30 AM Final Exam	

Additional Information

A note about accessing Canvas from the People's Republic of China: some users have reported that they do not have full access to all Canvas functionality from within the People's Republic of China. This appears to be due to Canvas' parent company, Instructure, not fully committing to Chinese government requirements regarding internet operations within the country. The Chinese government does not inform foreign entities of their policy updates; therefore, Bellevue College cannot anticipate access to Canvas. If you will be in China during the quarter, you should prepare for intermittent and uncertain access to Canvas. Source: [Access to Canvas in China](https://support.canvas.fsu.edu/kb/article/1157-access-to-canvas-in-china/) (https://support.canvas.fsu.edu/kb/article/1157-access-to-canvas-in-china/)