

RESEARCH METHODS

"WE MAKE OUR WORLD SIGNIFICANT BY THE COURAGE OF OUR QUESTIONS AND THE DEPTH OF OUR ANSWERS" *CARL SAGAN*

PSY3213L

3 CREDIT HOURS

SPRING 2026

** ONLINE

INSTRUCTOR: *Marina A. Klimenko, Ph.D., M.P.A.*

INSTRUCTOR'S VIRTUAL OFFICE HOUR VIA ZOOM IN CANVAS: TBA

GTA (GRADUATE TA):

(UNDERGRADUATE TAS):

Meybelyn Bauza
Sofia Sacco

COURSE WEBSITE:

<https://ufl.instructure.com>

STRUCTURE OF COURSE IN E-LEARNING: This course uses E-Learning in Canvas. Students will have to complete weekly readings, quizzes, and a final assignment (exam or research project).

The course is divided into 12 modules, roughly corresponding to the major themes and steps of a typical research process.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS: All communication will be done in Canvas—sending messages, discussions, and making announcements.

REQUIRED TEXT: Klimenko, M. A. (2025). *Research methods in the social sciences*. Sentia Publishing.

You can purchase it via UF All Access, UF bookstore, or by going directly to the publisher,

https://sentiapublishing.com/search.php?Search=&search_query=Klimenko

You can also purchase it as a paperback and Kindle on Amazon (at a higher price): <https://www.amazon.com/dp/173593402X>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: none

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS: Some *knowledge of SPSS will be helpful but not required*.

PURPOSE OF COURSE: Psychology is a discipline dedicated to the scientific understanding of behavior and mental processes. This course will provide students an opportunity to learn about the scientific methods psychologists and other social scientists apply to study psychological and other related questions. The learning will be accomplished, in part, through course readings and lectures, and in part through conducting a small research project.

COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES: *By the end of this course, you will:*

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the general process of research in psychology by defining the scientific method, distinguishing between a hypothesis and a research question, identifying the limitations and strengths of the major categories of research design, explaining the rationale for random sampling, and so forth.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking and scientific reasoning by testing claims using appropriate psychological research methods.
3. Evaluate the quality of evidence in published psychological research.
4. Practice doing research in psychology by formulating hypotheses, collecting small data, analyzing data, and communicating results.
5. Apply APA guidelines for writing style and formatting to their own academic writing.

6. Distinguish science from pseudoscience by identifying the norms and characteristics of each.

MODULE TIMELINE

Module will begin on a Monday morning (7am) and will end on a Saturday night (11:59pm) (check schedule for exceptions). All graded assignments will be due on Saturday, at 11:59pm. We will respond to your emails Monday-Friday (Occasionally we may be able to respond on weekends; if you have a question about an upcoming assignments you should plan to email them during the week days as we most likely will not respond to your question before the assignment is due).

All modules will be unlocked at the beginning of the semester (unless one is being revised or updated). However, all assignments have specific due dates.

MODULE QUIZZES (20%)

There will be a multiple-choice quiz for each chapter or major topic covered in this course—12 quizzes in total. Each quiz consists of 10 questions, with each item worth 1 point, for a total of 10 points per quiz. The quizzes are designed to be manageable, and most students perform well, with average scores typically ranging between 85 and 90.

Quiz questions are randomly selected from a larger pool, so each student will receive a unique version of the quiz. While the quizzes are chapter-based, they are cumulative in nature. This means that concepts introduced in earlier chapters often reappear in later ones, sometimes in new contexts or with added depth—similar to how algebra builds on foundational terms and operations. Therefore, it's important to retain and understand material from each chapter as you progress through the course.

To prepare effectively for each quiz, students should review all materials in the corresponding module, including textbook chapters, lecture slides, notes, videos, and any supplemental resources. It's also helpful to connect new content to previous modules, as many ideas are interrelated.

All quizzes will remain open until the end of the semester, giving you flexibility to complete them at your own pace (see the syllabus calendar for specific deadlines). While you may take the quizzes in any order, it's strongly recommended to begin with Chapters 1, 2, and 3, as they lay the foundation for understanding research design and will support your comprehension of later topics.

*IMPORTANT: You are responsible for your internet strength and reliability, and for using a reliable computer. If you lose internet connection due to issues with **your** computer or internet, you will not be allowed to retake the quiz. If the interruption in connection is caused by issues in Canvas, contact e-learning help desk and get verification. The decision to allow retaking a quiz will be determined on an individual basis and will be based on the cause of the issue. Since the chances of experiencing technical issues more than once in a semester are very small, no one will be allowed to retake more than one quiz.*

PROCTORED MID-TERM COVERING MODULES 1-6 (15%)

There will be mid-term covering modules 1-6. This is a multiple-choice, closed book/notes exam proctored by Honorlock. The questions will come from the quizzes' test bank. So, you can study by reviewing all quizzes from modules 1 through 6.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENT (RESEARCH PAPER OR FINAL EXAM) (50%)

You will have the option to either complete a research project or take the final exam. Only one will count towards your final grade. If you complete both assignments (you can 😊) only the highest grade will be counted towards your final grade. Please see more details below about both assignments.

RESEARCH PAPER AND TWO RELATED ASSIGNMENTS

You are not allowed to choose your own topic. If you do, you will receive a 0 on the research paper. The topics and all instructions will be posted on the Research Project page on Canvas.

There will be 3 interrelated assignments for the research project, each building on the preceding one. Instructions and details about the Research Project can be found on Canvas under Research Project Overview tab on the Home page. Only one, the *Research Paper*, will count for 38% of your final grade. The first two assignments, *Research proposal* and *Research Analysis/Collected Data* will not be graded. However, if you complete them, you will receive our feedback and it will help you with the research paper.

In addition to the research paper, you will have to submit the data that you will collect, and based on which you will write your research paper.

Do not hesitate to seek help and ask questions when you don't have a clear sense of what you should do next or have questions about the assignments and the project in general. It will be your responsibility to contact your instructor or TA with any follow up questions. If we don't receive questions from you, we will assume that you understand what you are doing.

Research Related Activities & Due Dates:

Research Proposal (Assignment 1), see *due date*

Data & Analysis Proposal (Assignment 2), see *due date*

Research Paper (Assignment 3), see *due date*

FINAL EXAM

Instead of completing a research project, you can take the final exam. Only one of the two assignments will count towards the final grade. You can choose to do both, and I will count the highest graded assignment. The exam will be conducted online, via Honorlock. It will be multiple-choice questions and cumulative, based on my lectures and the assigned readings. Please do not assume that because it is a multiple-choice exam it will be easy. I will make it hard but fair 😊

GROUP DISCUSSIONS (8%)

There will be 5 group discussions that you will have to complete by specific days. Most every discussion will pose a question, or a set of questions, and you will be asked to give your informed opinion. Most all posts are due on a Saturday, 11:59pm. See syllabus for exceptions.

To receive full credit for your original post, (1) it must be posted on time, (2) the length of your posts should be at least two paragraphs (unless otherwise specified above), (3) be substantive (i.e., contain meaningful ideas and based on some information from our course material when necessary), (3) no errors in terms of understanding the material under discussion, (4) should address the issue/question fully, and (3) be respectful.

No replies are required however you are able and encouraged to reply if you wish to.

- (Module 1) Group Discussion #1: Study Variables
- (Module 2) Group Discussion #2: Truth or Fable
- (Module 3) Group Discussion #3: Experimental Research
- (Module 13) Group Discussion #4: The Milgram Study
- (Module 14) Group Discussion #5: Research Sharing

INTRODUCTION FIRST DRAFT/LITERATURE SUMMARY AND PEER-REVIEW (5%)

The purpose of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to receive feedback on your academic writing. **All students must complete this assignment and both parts.**

PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH EXPERIENCE THROUGH SONA (2%)

There are two options to choose from, participate in research (15 credits or 7.5 hours) or write a critical analysis paper. The details will be posted on Canvas course website.

EXTRA CREDITS

There will be two extra credit opportunities. I offer it to boost everyone's final grade (without giving any favors); and this works especially well for those who are close to the next letter grade at the end of the semester. Please consider taking this opportunity (don't miss the due dates if given) as this will be the only opportunities to get a "bump" in your final grade.

- **Extra Credit Survey (or Article Summary) 2% extra credit**
- **Possible end of semester survey (0.5%): tba**

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Taking a course online can be a lot of fun! Here are some tips that will help you get the most out of this course while taking full advantage of the online format:

* Schedule "class times" for yourself. It is important to do the coursework on time each week. You will receive a reduction in points for work that is turned in late!

* Read ALL of the material contained on this site. There is a lot of helpful information that can save you time and help you meet the course's objectives.

* Print out the Course Summary located in the Syllabus and check things off as you go.

* Take full advantage of the online discussion boards. Ask for help or clarification of the material if you need it.

* Do not wait to ask questions! Waiting to ask a question might cause you to miss a due date.

* Do your work well before the due dates. Sometimes things happen. If your computer goes down when you are trying to submit an assignment, you'll need time to troubleshoot the problem.

* To be extra safe, back up your work to an external hard drive, thumb drive, or through a cloud service.

I will make every effort to have each assignment graded and feedback posted within one week of the due date.

Academic Integrity @ UF



Every University of Florida student is subject to the following Honor Pledge:

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Student Honor Code.

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

CLASS SCHEDULE

In the first two weeks, you will learn the basics of a scientific process, which you will need to start developing a research plan (should you decide to do a research project).

Week 1 : Module 1: Begin Understanding the Roots of Modern Science (Chapter 1 & 2)

- Take course orientation quiz to unlock all modules (not graded)
- Chapter 1 Quiz recommended it to be completed by the end of this week.
- Chapter 2 Quiz recommended it to be completed by the end of this week.
- Extra Credit Survey is released (to be completed by August 30)

Week 2: Module 2: Begin Thinking Like a Scientist (Chapter 3).

- Chapter 3 Quiz recommended it to be completed by the end of this week.
- Extra Credit Survey to be completed by August 30
- Group Discussion #1 (Study Variables), due August 30, 11:59pm.
- *Start thinking about the final assignment (exam or research?); choose your topic (from the options I gave you in Assignment 1 instructions) if you want to do a research project.*

Week 3: Module 3: Begin to Content Analyze Like a Scientist (Chapter 4)

- Take Chapter 4 Quiz, recommended to be completed by the end of this week.
- Group Discussion #2: Truth or Fable,

Week 4 : Module 4: Begin Making Systematic Observations & Surveys Like a Scientist (Chapter 5)

- Take Chapter 5 Quiz, recommended to be completed by end of this week.
- If you choose to do the research project, please submit Assignment 1 by 11:59pm (to receive our feedback only)
 - i. *General feedback will be posted immediately on on Home page, under the 'Research Project'.*

Week 5 : Module 5: Begin to Experiment Like a Scientist (Chapter 6)

- Take Chapter 6 Quiz, recommended to be completed by end of this week.
- Group Discussion #3: Experimental Research, due , 11:59pm.

Week 6 : Module 6: Begin Describing Your Data Like a Scientist (Chapter 9)

- Take Chapter 9 (chapter 9 and lecture), recommended to be completed by end of this week.

Week 7 : Module 7: Begin Testing Hypotheses Like a Scientist (Chapter 10)

- *No Quiz this week.*
- **Mid-term** [includes modules 1-6 information], due 11:59pm.

Week 8 : Module 7: Continue Testing Hypotheses Like a Scientist (Chapter 10)

- Take Chapter 10 (chapter 10, readings and lectures), recommended to be completed by the end of this week.
- *If you are working on a research project, complete Assignment 2, Data Analysis Proposal and Collected Data to receive our feedback, due , 11:59pm.*
 - i. *General feedback will be posted immediately on on Home page, under the 'Research Project'.*

Week 9: Module 8: Begin Writing Like a Scientist (Chapter 11)

- *No Quiz*
- Everyone must complete the Introduction (Literature Summary) Draft part 1, due , 11:59pm.

Week 10 : Module 8: Continue Writing Like a Scientist (Chapter 11)

- Everyone must complete the Introduction/Literature Summary Draft part 2, due , 11:59pm.
- Take Chapter 11 Quiz (chapter 11 and all other module materials), recommended to be completed by end of this week.

Week 11 : Module 9: Begin to Quasi-Experiment Like a Scientist (Chapter 7)

- Take Chapter 7 Quiz (chapter 7 and all required material), recommended to be completed by end of this week.

- Research Paper, Revised Data, and SPSS output assignments due by 11:59pm (grades will be posted by or earlier).

Week 12 : Module 10: Begin Mixing Up Research Methods Like a Scientist (Chapter 8)

- Take Chapter 8 Quiz, completed by the end of this week.
- Contribute to Group Discussion #4 (The Milgram Study), due , 11:59pm.

Week 13 : Module 11: Become a Critical Thinker (Chapter 12)

- Take Chapter 12 Quiz, completed by the end of this week.
- Contribute to Group Discussion #5, due 11:59pm.
- The extra credit article summary is due 11:59pm.

Week 14: Module 12: Begin Preparing for the Final Exam as a Critical Thinker

- All Quizzes must be completed by , 11:59pm.
- Research Paper Grades posted by the end of this week.

Week 15 []: Final Exam & Make-Ups

- Critical Analysis paper (alternative to SONA), due.
- **Final Exam on. All inquiries about final exam grades must be emailed to the instructor by December 5th.**

POLICY FOR DISPUTING GRADES

You will have **one week (exception is the last quiz and the final exam for which your inquiries should be emailed to instructor within two days of their completion)**, including weekends and holidays, after the release of the grade to dispute it (disputes are defined as questions about the material on quiz or assignments), and will NOT be accepted after that date.

If you want to dispute a grade you will need to write a paragraph explaining the dispute (write out the question on the quiz or explain the part of the assignment in detail). Quiz disputes must be sent to my Canvas mail (your instructor). Disputes about your research paper or group work should be sent to your graduate TA via Canvas mail.

COURSE POLICIES & GUIDELINES

1. All communication will be done in Canvas.

If you have any questions/comments:

- a. Post your question in **Course Questions Forum** discussion board.
- b. If you do not receive an answer* from the Course Questions Forum discussion boards within 24 hours, contact instructor or TA by Canvas mail.

* Discussion boards will not be monitored on Saturdays and Sundays.

If you have a question about:

- a. A quiz, email instructor via Canvas mail.
- b. Research Project, email instructor or your TA.
- c. If you have concerns/need help, email me instructor or your TA.

Do **not** post questions or information about your grade on the discussion boards.

- **YOU CANNOT CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR OR GTA WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT ASSIGNMENTS 8 HRS BEFORE THEY ARE DUE!!!**

- c. In the case of a serious medical condition, a family emergency or other situation that will keep you out of class a week or more, email instructor (mklimenko@ufl.edu).

2. Netiquette:

It is important to recognize that the online classroom is, in fact, a classroom, and certain behaviors are expected when you communicate with both your peers and your instructors. You are expected to follow the [Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#) when interacting with your instructor and other students in this course.

3. Extension of deadlines may be requested ONLY for university excused absences with adequate documentation. Requests for an extension must be based on university approved reasons and must include proper documentation as per University guidelines. Requests for extensions must be made before the deadline, if possible, or within 24 hours of the deadline for unexpected emergencies.
4. Minimum Technology Requirements:

The University of Florida expects students entering an online program to acquire computer hardware and software appropriate to their degree program. Most computers can meet the following general requirements. A student's computer configuration should include:

- * Webcam

- * Microphone

- * Broadband connection to the internet and related equipment (cable/DSL modem)

- * Microsoft Office Suite installed (provided by the university)

5. Technical Help:

For help with technical issues or difficulties with Canvas, please contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at: 352-392-HELP (4357)

Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for make-ups (assignments, exams, etc.) due to technical issues should be accompanied by the ticket number received from the UF Computing Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You should message your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

7. Minimum Technical Skills/Minimum Digital Literacy Skills to complete your tasks in this course, you will need a basic understanding of:

- * Operating a computer and using word processing software
- * Using the learning management system
- * Using email with attachments
- * Creating and submitting files in commonly used word processing program formats
- * Downloading and installing software
- * Using spreadsheet programs
- * Using presentation and graphics programs
- * Using apps on digital devices
- * Using web conferencing tools and software

Furthermore, you should be able to:

- * Use online libraries and databases to locate and gather appropriate information. The UF library's catalog, UF Library Primo, can be used to locate items.
- * Use computer networks to locate and store files or data
- * Use online search tools for specific academic purposes, including the ability to use search criteria, keywords, and filters
- * Analyze digital information for credibility, currency, and bias (e.g., disinformation, misinformation)
- * Properly cite information sources
- * Prepare a presentation of research findings

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>.)

10. For information about the privacy policies of the tools used in this course, see the links below:

- Instructure (Canvas)
 - [Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Accessibility](#)
- Sonic Foundry (Mediasite Streaming Video Player)
 - [Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Accessibility](#)
- Vimeo
 - [Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Accessibility](#)
- PlayPosit
 - [Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Accessibility](#)
- Zoom
 - [Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Accessibility](#)
- YouTube (Google)
 - [Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Accessibility](#)
- Microsoft
 - [Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Accessibility](#)
- Adobe
 - [Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Accessibility](#)
- Honorlock
 - [Honorlock Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Honorlock Accessibility](#)

GRADING

How CANVAS will calculate your final grade:

Assignment Groups	Percentage Estimation of your grade
11 (out of 12) quizzes (A1)	20%
Mid-Term (Modules 1-6 only)(A2)	15%
Group Discussions (5) (A3)	8%
Research Proposal	0%
Data Analysis Proposal	0%
Introduction Draft + Peer-Review (A4)	5%
Research Paper or Final Exam (A5)	50%
SONA participation (A6)	2%
Total	100%

$(\text{Percentage score you earned for A1} \times .20) + (\text{percentage score you earned for A2} \times .15) + (\text{percentage score you earned for A3} \times .09) + (\text{percentage score you earned for A4} \times .05) + (\text{percentage score you earned for A5} \times .50) + (\text{percentage score you earned for A6} \times .01) = \text{your grade}$

If you earned any extra credits, simply add the extra credit percentage points to the final grade. For example, if you received 79% and you also earned 2% extra points, then CANVAS will add 2 to 79, and your final grade is 81% or a B-.

IMPORTANT: "Canvas is always working to calculate two grades, the current grade and the total grade, for students. The current grade is calculated by adding up the graded assignments according to their weight in the course grading scheme. This grade is calculated with the **Calculate based only on graded assignments** checkbox selected in the sidebar. The total grade is calculated by adding up all the assignments according to their weight in the course grading scheme. If a course is

using weighted assignment groups, students can also see how each assignment is weighted in the course.

To view the total grade in the course, students can deselect the **Calculate based only on graded assignments** checkbox."

<https://guides.instructure.com/s/2204/m/67952/l/55015-what-are-what-if-grades>)

The good news is – these grades are firm – there is no curve. Everybody in the class can get an A grade and I hope you do.

The bad news is – these grades are firm – there is no curve. If you score just a quarter of a point below the cutoff then you will receive the lower grade.

GRADING SCALE

Grade	%
A	95% - 100%
A-	90% & up
B+	87% & up
B	83% & up
B-	80% & up
C+	77% & up
C	73% & up
C-	70% & up
D+	67% & up
D	63% & up
D-	60% & up
E	<60%