

Professor Contact Information

Professor: Dr. R. Genthos

Office Hrs: M 1:30 – 2:30; W 10:30 – 11:45
By appointment.

Office: Spalding Hall (SPH) Rm 209

Office Phone: 208-792-2631

Email: rigenthos@lcmail.lcsc.edu

Voice Mail: Please include: 1. Your full name 2. The class in question 3. A *detailed* explanation for why you are calling.



Email: Please use a relevant subject, with “**SS/PSY 385 Research Methods**” in the subject line, & 1) include a salutation to Dr. Genthos, 2) use descriptive, detailed content about why you are emailing in the body, and 3) sign your name. **Please do not assume that I will view an email outside of Monday – Friday; 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Plan ahead when sending requests, notifications, or other information. Example: If you have an assignment that is due on a Thursday, do not expect a speedy response if you email me Wednesday night at 8:00 p.m. Allow two full business days before sending me a friendly reminder.

A note on information reconnaissance and communication processes in the age of technology:

All communication with me and your classmates must be professional, which I define as “an approach and demeanor that both reserves and holds the space for respectful, ethical, productive, and efficient interactions”.

Check 5 to Thrive: I am here to guide and support you, and welcome your questions or inquiries.

Before you decide to contact me, if you have a question about course content, an assignment, etc. Please check....

1. The syllabus
2. The information on Canvas (assignment portal, general directions, links)
3. The (video) instructions
4. The guide or rubric to the assignment in question
5. The course Q & A

* Please wait to get in touch with me with questions, comments, concerns, or notifications after you have gone through this process. In a time crunch, if your question can easily be answered by one of these aspects, I will prioritize other requests.

Course Material: Textbooks

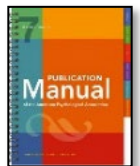
1. Dixon et al. (2018). *The Process of Social Research* (1st Ed.) Stanford, CT: Oxford University Press.

ISBN [9780190876654](https://www.oxfordup.com/9780190876654) ****Required****



2. American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th).

Washington, DC: Author. ISBN (7th): 9781433832161 → Free online material could substitute (e.g. OWL Purdue)



Course Description & Objectives

Develops students' ability to design an empirical study within the ethical constraints of human research and to understand the results of research in professional journals. Specific research designs covered include archival research, correlation, experimental designs, naturalistic observation, participant observation, quasi-experimental designs, single subject designs, and survey research. Integrates (1) analytical and evaluative thinking, (2) descriptive, explanatory, and critical writing, & (3) basic knowledge of the theory and application of qualitative and quantitative research design. Pre-requisite: [ENGL-102](#) or [ENGL-109](#), and a total of 24 credit hours in the General Education Core, or instructor permission.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Define and describe the major elements of the research process.
2. Develop a research question in reference to specific topic areas.
3. Take into consideration ethical concerns when evaluating research and constructing research designs.
4. Differentiate major research designs & evaluate their appropriateness for investigating certain research questions.
5. Evaluate the reliability & validity of various measures.
6. Understand how methods of surveying and sampling alter a research project's impact.
7. Write critically about relevant research via an annotated reference list.

Student Responsibilities & Course Requirements

Course Preparatory Assignments (30/800)

1. Syllabus Quiz (15/800). To continue on with the rest of the class, you will need to pass a brief quiz on the syllabus content on the first day of the semester.

Quiz Submitted on Canvas

2. Get to Know You Discussion Post (10/800). You will choose from several answer prompts and then post those answers with a picture on the Canvas discussion portal. This assignment will help create a sense of community for the class and allow me to get you know you and your thoughts about research methods.

Discussion Post Submitted on Canvas; Picture Must Be Embedded

Application Assignments (225/800).

3. Media & Primary Resource Comparison (25/800). You will find a media news source that has reported on an empirical article, then track down the primary, original source. After reading the two articles, you will submit a synopsis of how well you think the secondary source represented the primary, original article.

Example File name: Jones_L_385_3_MediaResource

4. Ethical Case Analysis (25/800). You will be assigned an ethical case study and then submit a critical assessment of the characters' behaviors and the ethical standards that were violated.

Example File name: Jones_L_385_4_EthicalCaseAnalysis

5. Empirical Article Analysis (25/800). You will choose an empirical article from a pool of choices that interests you and analyze it for various elements. This assignment will prepare you to critically think about the 10 articles you will choose and synthesize for your annotated bibliography and research introduction.

Quiz Submitted on Canvas

6. Preliminary Reference List (25/800). An APA style list of **at least 5 empirical sources** related to the same overarching research topic. This list will turn into your final submission, the annotated reference list (after reading all of the articles, you will choose five articles and annotate them).

Example File name: Jones_L_385_6_RefList

7. Survey Creation (25/800). An exercise of creating good survey and interview questions.

Example File name: Jones_L_385_7_SurveyCreation

8. Operationalization Assignment (25/800). Practice at identifying conceptual variables and potential operationalizations depending on different kinds of designs.

Example File name: Jones_L_385_8_Operationalization

9. Design Identification (25/800). A final exercise that provides practice on reading through study descriptions and identifying the design that was employed, as well as the potential strength and weaknesses of the design choice.

Example File name: Jones_L_385_9_DesignID

10. Annotated Reference List & Design Statement (125/800). An APA style annotated reference list (N = 10) with a 200 - 250 word notation that contains a summary, assessment, and evaluation of each five of the sources. You will also submit a design statement for potential studies that you could conduct, along with a potential title for each one. Your annotated reference list will help you think about a potential PSY 499 Research Project topic. Only two of these initial sources may be webpages, seven (4) must be empirical articles. *Consult an APA manual before submission. Length: typically ~ 4 - 5 pgs. Although many of the articles on your preliminary reference list will remain the same, as you find your remaining five sources you may realize that some of them are not as relevant as you originally assumed. As such, you may need to find different sources.

Example File Name: Jones_L_385_10_AnnRefList

PSYC/SS 385 -70: Research Methods M/W 3:00 – 4:15 Sam Glenn Complex (SGC) 121

Exams (3 Exams, 100 pts each; Final Retake Opportunity; 300/800). Exams will be consist of multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions and cover material from the assigned readings, videos, and class activities. To earn an A, you must be able to demonstrate a deep understanding of the concepts and an ability to apply the concepts; being able to recognize and/or reiterate definitions will not suffice. In general, exams will include only new material covered since the previous exam; however, previous topics may come up again on later exams (e.g., to answer an exam question about internal validity, you will need to be able to understand the elements of an experiment). The 4th (final) exam will be an optional retake option (Exam 1, 2, or 3). **All exams will be proctored at an approved location (LC State Testing Center; NIC Testing Center) or scheduled with an approved proctor.**

Grading Scale Breakdown		
A	93	100%
A-	89.45	92.45
B+	86.45	89.44
B	82.45	86.44
B-	79.45	82.44
C+	76.45	79.44
C	72.45	76.44
C-	69.45	72.44
D+	66.45	69.44
D	59.45	66.44
F		59.44

Course Policies

Assignment Submission

Writing assignments will be submitted via Canvas in the form of a Word compatible file (.doc, .docx, .pdf; unless otherwise noted) titled with last name, first initial, 385 & assignment number and title (e.g. Taylor_J_385_PS_Ref) by 11:59 pm on the relevant due date. It is critical that you factor in the amount of time that it will take you to upload your assignment using the Canvas portal. Papers that are time stamped past 11:59 will automatically receive a 5% deduction. You may only submit assignments up to 5 (five) days late and 5% will be deducted for each day it is late. All writing submissions will be APA style and in a Word compatible file. If you submit a corrupted file, you will automatically be given a 0. It is your responsibility to check that your file has been uploaded correctly. Corrupted files will be given a automatic 0; broken links to Google documents will be given relevant deductions based on when I receive the corret file type. Relevant deductions will be taken for submissions that do not follow directions, fit within the parameters outlined by the rubric, or that substantially fall short or exceed the word count or page limit provided. If the link to submit the assignment is not available on Canvas, I will not accept the assignment. All submissions will be APA style (double-spaced with one-inch margins, etc.; see relevant guides and your APA manual).

Note on Course Format and Extra Credit

You will notice from this syllabus and the content on Canvas that there are no “fluff” points in this course (busy work). I do not provide discussion posts for a variety of reasons, mostly due to the nature of the content in the course, but also because many students do not fully engage in meaningful discussion posts and replies, and those that do are left disappointed. Additionally, the anonymity of the virtual discussion allows far too much unprofessional behavior and superficial contributions (as we are all aware of from social media). As such, the points in the course are based on your assignments, writing submissions, and exams. Extra credit will be offered in the following ways: 1) Completing the optional comprehension quizzes available at the end of each unit, allowing you to earn up to 1-point extra credit (.1 earned per question answered correctly), 2) Getting feedback from my research assistants or in the writing center for your writing assignments (+ 5%), 3) Attending certain LCSC events (virtual events allowed; up to 5 events at 3 points each; 1.5 points for summary; 1.5 pts for applying research methods concepts),), 4) completing a research appointment with a librarian (+5 pts; confirmation directly from your librarian via email is required), and 5) communicating with me about any mistakes, glitches, or issues you have with the course shell on Canvas (+.5 each instance) . I will not create extra credit specifically for individual students, and thus it is in your best interest to be attentive to your grade at the beginning of the semester.

Make-up/Late Assignment and Exam Policy

You are allowed a retake attempt as your final exam, thus no make – up exams will be offered. I accept writing assignments up to three (3) days late with no questions asked. Other accommodations will only be made under certain, extenuating circumstances (documentation may be requested) if the reason for your absence is made known to me **within two (2) days of the absence/due date**. These valid circumstances include documented illness, college-sanctioned travel, the observance of a religious holy day, or a life event that I deem excusatory. For those excuses I deem valid, including those listed above or supported by documentation, no deduction of points will be taken. Other excuses will result in a **10% penalty for each day the exam is past the deadline/original completion** date. Students are expected to make all reasonable efforts to notify me of their absence in advance. It would be in your best interest to tell me as soon as possible when you expect to be absent or after you have missed an exam or due date. I know that life happens and appreciate honesty. The important thing is that you communicate with me. Please do not waste your time, or mine, making up excuses. I will always consider the date you sent the email or called, NOT what day I received your communication.

Online Behavior

Please review the following guidelines for online course [netiquette](#)

Statement about Academic Dishonesty, Misconduct and Consequences

Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating and plagiarism, is not tolerated at LCSC. Individual faculty members will impose their own policies and sanctions regarding academic dishonesty. Students who are accused of being academically dishonest may be referred to the VP for Student Affairs for official disciplinary action. It is the aim of the faculty of Lewis-Clark State College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work that they have not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension or expulsion. **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. “Academic exercise” includes all forms of work submitted for credit hours.

Fabrication: Intentional and/or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or the source of any information in an academic exercise. **Collusion facilitating academic dishonesty:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of Academic Dishonesty. **Plagiarism:** the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, or statement of another person as one’s own without proper acknowledgement (includes self-plagiarism).

If you are suspected of cheating, fabrication, collusion or plagiarism. You will first have a meeting with me about the academic exercise in question (exam, writing assignment). Evidence of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade for that assignment for any student(s) involved. You will then be interviewed by Dr. Andrew Hanson, Vice President for Student Affairs, about the incident, which will be kept on file and may provide stand-alone or supportive evidence for expulsion or suspension.

PSYC/SS 385 -70: Research Methods
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SS/PSYC 385 Course Schedule

(**Subject to Change at Discretion of Professor)

Week Module	Date	Reading	Topic	Assignments Due W 11:59 p.m.
1	1/18	Syllabus 1	Syllabus/Course Format Philosophy of Science	1. Syllabus Quiz 2. Get to Know You Post
2	1/23	1	Introduction <i>Why Care About Research Methods?</i>	
	1/25			
3	1/30	2	Science & Social Research <i>From Theory to Data & Back</i>	3. Media & Primary Resource Comparison
	2/1			
4	2/6	3	The Ethics & Politics of Research <i>Doing What's Right</i>	
	2/8			
5	2/13	4	Research Designs <i>It Depends on the Question</i>	4. Ethical Case Analysis
	2/15			
6	2/20	President's Day, No Class		
	2/22	1 - 4	Exam 1 *proctored at LC State Testing Center	Open Tuesday, Feb 21 st 7:30 a.m. Closes Thursday, Feb 23 rd 8:00 p.m.
7	2/27	5	Measurement <i>Linking Theory to Research</i>	5. Empirical Article Analysis
	3/1			
8	3/6	6	Sampling <i>Case Selection as a Basis for Inference</i>	6. Measurement Assignment
	3/8			
9	3/13	8	Surveys <i>Questioning & Sampling</i>	
	3/15			
10	3/20	9	Field Research & In-Depth Interviews <i>Systematic People Watching & Listening</i>	7. Question & Survey Creation
	3/22			
🌸 Spring Break 🌷				
11	4/3	5, 6, 8, 9	Exam 2 *proctored at LC State Testing Center	Open Monday, April 3 rd 7:30 a.m. Closes Tuesday, April 4 th 8:00 p.m.
	4/5	8* Morling	Correlations <i>The Link Between Two Variables</i>	
12	4/10			
	4/12	7	Experiments <i>What Causes What?</i>	8. Reference List (N = 5)
13	4/17			
	4/19			
14	4/24	11	Multiple Methods <i>Two or More Approaches</i>	9. Design Identification
	4/26			
15	5/1	8*, 7, 11	Exam 3 *proctored at LC State Testing Center	Open Monday, May 1 st 7:30 a.m. Closes Tuesday, May 2 nd 8:00 p.m.
				10. Annotated Reference List
16	5/10		Final Exam (Optional Retake Exam 1, 2, or 3)	Open Monday, May 8 th 7:30 a.m. Closes Wednesday, May 10 th 8:00 p.m.