

PSY 499: Research Project & Seminar in Psychology

Hybrid Format: Wednesdays 1:30 – 2:45

Sam Glenn Complex (SGC) Rm 126

Zoom Recordings Available on Canvas

Professor Contact Information

Professor: Dr. R. Genthos
Office Hrs: Wed 3:00 – 5:00
By appointment.

Office: Spalding Hall (SPH) Room 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 “499 Research Project” 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, 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.

Required Textbooks

Gorvine, B., Rosengren, K., Stein, L., & Biolsi, K. (2018) *Research Methods: From Theory to Practice* New York, NY: Oxford University Press. ISBN: [9780190201821](https://www.oxford.com/9780190201821) → A copy will be available at the LCSC library on reserve. It can be checked out at 3-day intervals.



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

This course provides a capstone experience; each student will design & conduct their own psychological research project. A quantitative or qualitative research poster report and presentation is required. Pre-requisites: PSYC 300 AND PSYC 385.

At the end of this course, you will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Describe and carry out the major elements of the research process in detail.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of methodologies used in psychological research.
 - a. Choose methodologies according to the project proposed.
 - b. Implement chosen design while also being able to articulate its strengths and weaknesses.
3. Design and conduct an ethical and valid quantitative or qualitative research study to test a hypothesis.
4. Prepare a professional research poster.
5. Deliver an oral presentation.

Student Responsibilities & Course Requirements [1005 pts total]

[Introductory Quizzes - 15]

① Quiz: Syllabus [10]

② Schedule Course Introduction [5]

During the first week of class, you will complete two quizzes to demonstrate you understand the basic structure, course policies, and format of the course.

[Weekly Reading Quizzes]

24 Quizzes; 24 extra credit points total

Due on Tuesdays at 11:59 p.m.

For every chapter or reading that is provided, you will be offered the opportunity to complete an open-book comprehension quiz for extra credit. You will be allotted 20 minutes for each quiz. Each quiz can be taken ≤ three times; questions are randomized from a pool. If a quiz is taken more than once, the highest score will be kept for extra credit.

[Research Project Assignments - Points]

18 Assignments → 990 pts total

[1 Virtual Introduction Discussion Post – 25]

An assignment that will create a sense of community for the class and allow me to get you know you & your thoughts about research methods.

[2 Schedule Builder – 30]

College can be stressful. Time management is a great skill to consistently cultivate. Whether or not you're a "planner", this assignment will force you to make a plan of action for the course and consider common obstacles you might encounter when attempting to complete course work & assignments.

[3 Topic & Preliminary Questions Virtual Meeting ☒↔☒ Three References - 50]

To ensure that you on track, you will schedule a 10-15-minute meeting with me during regularly scheduled office hours or at another appointed time to tell me what you plan on researching and why. This is an informal discussion where you will 1) conceptually define your topic(s), 2) mention potential designs, and 3) outline your hypotheses. We will broaden/narrow your topic, tweak your design, and troubleshoot various potential issues in feasibility, validity, etc.

[4 PRIHP Quiz - 10]

To One the biggest "hurdles" in this class in your Proposal for Research Involving Human Participants (PRIHP). This quiz will check to make sure you have reviewed the document and you are mentally prepared for the assignments that will build into your final submission.

[5 IRB Training - 35]

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) in charge of reviewing your PRIHP requires an ethical training before you can submit the proposal (date of completion required on the cover page of the proposal document). This training is available on Canvas and you can self-enroll here if you do not see "IRB Training" underneath your Community tab in Canvas.

[6 Operationalizations & Rationale (5 Articles; Target Articles (3) Annotated) – 50]

For each variable you will be measuring, you will need to submit a copy of an already established measure (e.g. Need for Cognition Scale) or a rough draft questions you have adapted/created yourself. If you are manipulating a variable, you'll need to submit a description of the stimulus, a rough draft of what you will be using, or the exact picture, vignette, or video, etc. Along with your operationalizations, you will also submit a reference list (N = 5) with three of those references annotated (n = 3).

[7 Design Process Presentation - 70]

Your ideas, design, and final research question should show improvement, more detail, and be more polished than your topic approval. During a brief 3-5-minute presentation (PSY 499 – 70 Hybrid) or video (PSY 499 – 60 online), you will cohesively present the progress you've made on your PRIHP. You will submit an APA style reference list (N = 5) with two of those references annotated (250 words).

[8 Proposal for Research Involving Human Participants (PRIHP)– 50]

In order to conduct *and disseminate* research on human participants, you would need to submit a Proposal for Research Involving Human Participants to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Lewis-Clark State College. **Due to the current health climate caused by COVID-19, your PRIHP will be approved by me rather than the IRB.** You will not be disseminating your research beyond those individuals in the classroom, so your research project will fall under the "educational exercise" provision of the IRB that doesn't require approval from board members. For the PRIHP, measures/manipulations are attached/described as an appendix and must be submitted in the exact manner the participant will see them. When possible, you should attempt to find (or alter if necessary) existing measures/manipulations that have been used before. To answer your research question, you may need to create measures/manipulations based on your research methods knowledge and what we review in class. For quantitative proposals, you will first provide an explanation of how you are operationalizing your conceptual variables. For qualitative proposals, you will describe the documents, archives, files or situations you intend on using. A guide to help you navigate the IRB process and PRIHP (in addition to what is available on the website) will be available on Canvas. You must submit the signed cover sheet and the requested elements of the electronic PRIHP via Canvas on the due date by 11:59 pm.

***The entirety of your project and overall success in this class depends on your proposal being approved. As such, it is extremely important that you submit this application in a timely manner. You will be docked 10% (5 pts) each time a revision request is not responded to with appropriate revisions within three (3) days, or 72 hours, as this is a part of the process over which you have direct control. You are only allowed four unsuccessful revision attempts.

[9 Preliminary APA Reference List (+20 Articles; Target Articles (5) Annotated) - 50]

≤ 20 APA style references; 15 must be empirical articles; 2 may be scholarly webpages. DOI #'s included. Five target articles must be annotated. An asterisk * must be placed before the annotations and references you have already submitted.

[10] Signed Plagiarism Certificate – 50]

Your signed completion certificate, available at the end of each training, will be turned in on the due date. It is IMPERATIVE that you complete the tutorials before you take the quizzes. Do NOT simply retake the quizzes over and over until you pass the class; students have done this in the past, not fully understanding the concept of plagiarism. Many ended up plagiarizing & failing assignments or the entire course.

[11] Plagiarism Quiz - 10]

A test of your comprehension of Academic Misconduct, specifically Plagiarism. The plagiarism training (Assignment #10) will help prepare you for this quiz.

[12] Introduction Section (Problem Statement, Background Lit, The Current Study) - 150]

A thorough, concise, and relevant overview of the extant research available on your topic. It should be clear to the reader why/how your research contributes to the knowledge available in the specific field(s) you are investigating. Your introduction should review the literature in the shape of a “funnel” by starting out broadly with a problem statement, then slowly becoming more specific as you tell the reader about the background literature related to your topic(s), and eventually describing 3-5 studies in detail that are very closely related/similar to your project/idea. At the end of your introduction, you will finally tell the reader your hypothesis or hypotheses in a “The Current Study” section. Along with this, you will also turn in your APA style list of **at least 20 citations**. Fifteen of these sources must be empirical, peer reviewed articles and only two of these sources may be webpages. Consistency between in-text citations and your reference section will be checked. **Consult an APA manual about section headers before turning this section in.** Length highly varies depending on topic, but conciseness is one of the defining features of empirical writing.

[13] Mid-Term Check –In Person, Virtual Meeting; - ☒☒☒ Email – 15]

A brief check-in to make sure you feel confident about where you are in your project. We will use this time to answer any questions you have about assignments, grades, and future course work. This check-in can be completed in person, virtually, or via email.

[14] Data Collection/Entry/Proposed Analyses - 30]

If you manually collect data, you will enter all your participants’ data into an Excel file which will then be uploaded into the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). I will conduct your data analysis for you, then debrief you during a virtual meeting (Assignment #15). Regardless of how you collect data, you will be responsible for submitting a proposed analysis section where you describe each analysis that will be described in your results section.

[15] Data Analysis In-Class Attendance, Participation, or Virtual Meeting - 40]

I will debrief you on the analysis conducted for your project & answer any questions you have about writing the Participants, Results, or Discussion sections.

[16] Method, Results, & Discussion; Revised, Final Introduction (on Full Poster) - 125]

Method: A thorough description of everything you did in the study in a step-by-step fashion. Another researcher should be able to read your method section and replicate your study. Many of the analyses you complete (descriptive statistics) will be placed in your Participants section, while your reliabilities for scales will be placed in your Measures section. Length depends on type of study & your procedures. **Results:** A statement about the type of statistical analysis you used to determine whether your hypothesis was supported or not. Class time will be devoted to discussing & conducting your design and statistical analyses. Length depends on type of analysis. **Discussion:** A concise overview of your hypotheses, findings, and how they fit in, and will extend, the relevant literature. You will restate your hypotheses first, whether or not they were supported, and then discuss how these findings fit within the literature (include 3-4 citations with direct connections). You will then include a limitations subsection, where you will provide a critique of your own project. Here you will state potential problems (2 -3) in your project and the reasons they were unavoidable. You must also state *HOW* those limitations may have affected your findings, impact, or implications. You will also include a future research subsection in which you will discuss other potential research that may be encouraged by your project (2-3 ideas), along with a conclusion section that will leave the reader with a take-home message emphasizing the importance of your research and the potential impact your findings may have on the area. You must include real-life potential applications (≥ 2) of your research findings.

[17] Final Poster Presentation (Virtual Presentation) ☒☒☒ – 100]

Final presentation will occur the last two weeks of class during regularly scheduled class time.

[18] Final Poster - 100]

Your final deliverable will be an APA style poster file made using Microsoft Power Point. *Poster file due by 11:59p.m. the night before your presentation via Canvas.

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Course Policies & Procedures

Assignment Submission. Assignments will be submitted via Canvas in the requested file type titled with last name, first initial, 499, assignment number & title (e.g. Taylor_E_499_2_ScheduleBuilder) by 11:59 p.m. 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 website. Papers that are time stamped past 11:59 will automatically receive a 10% deduction. **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.

Late Assignments. Because you must complete one week assignments to move onto the next, I automatically accept late work at a 10% **penalty for each day it is past the deadline/original completion date, with a cap at a 50% deduction.** Other assignment accommodations with no deductions 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. Circumstances automatically considered valid include documented illness, college-sanctioned travel, death of a loved one, or the observance of a religious holy day. I may also deem certain life events as “extenuating”. For those excuses I deem valid, including those listed above or supported by documentation, no deduction of points will be taken. You are expected to make all reasonable efforts to notify me of your documented excuse or reason for an extension request in advance. 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 request or notification. ****You will be allowed one “freebie” during the semester, when an assignment turned in within 3 days of the due date will not receive a late deduction. This freebie will NOT apply to assignment due after 4/25/21. Advance notice of your freebie use is due at least 12 hours ahead of the deadline.**

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%), and , 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). 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. ☺

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.

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

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PSY 499 Research Project and Seminar in Psychology Course Schedule

**Submit to change at discretion of professor

Week	Dates		Content/ Topic [Wednesday Lecture; Zoom (Recordings) Available]	Reading			Assignments & Presentation Due Dates (11:59 p.m. via BB)		
	Start	End		Gorvine et al., (2018)	Pgs.	Additional Provided	Content & Quizzes (Tue)	Poster Research Report (Thu)	
	Mon	Fri							
1	1.18 Tue	1.21	Course Format, Syllabus			☒	① Virtual Introduction Quizzes ① Syllabus & ② Course Intro	② Schedule Builder	
2	1.24	1.28	Research Methods Refresher Topic Selection	1 4		☒	③ Proposed Topic & Preliminary Questions (Virtual Meeting) Three references		
3	1.31	2.04	Research Ethics Proposal for Research Involving Human Participants (PRIHP)	2 3		☐	④ PRIHP Quiz	⑤ IRB (NIH) Training	
4	2.07	2.11	Focusing the Question & Choosing a Design, Operationalization*, Survey & Interview Approaches	5 7		☒		⑥ Operationalizations & Rationale (5 Articles; 3 Annotated)	
5	2.14	2.18	Developing Your Research Protocol (PRIHP) Literature Search	6 (8-10,12)*		☐	⑦ Design Process Presentation (Hybrid) In Class Wed * assigned design chapter - quiz		
6	2.21	2.25	APA Style & Poster Reports Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism)	15 16	373 – 400 400-409	☒		⑧ PRIHP Elements & Materials	
7	2.28	3.4	Writing the Introduction Section (Poster)		384	☒		⑨ Preliminary APA Reference List + 20 Articles; Target Articles (5) Annotated	
8	3.07	3.11	Data Collection & Programming Qualtrics	1 Wilson- Doenges		☒	① ⑩ Signed Plagiarism Certificate	① ① Plagiarism Quiz	
9	3.14	3.18	Writing the Method Section Considering the Implications of Your Research	(8-10,12)*	Varies	☒		① ② Introduction Section Problem Statement, Background Lit, The Current Study	
10	3.21	3.25	Which Analysis Matches Your Design? Research Poster Report	13		☒	① ③ Mid-Term Check –In In –Person, Virtual Meetings, or Email ① ④ Data Collection/Entry		
Spring Break									
11	4.04	4.8	Qualitative or Quantitative (Statistical) Data Analysis Writing Your Results & Discussion	14*		☒	① ⑤ Data Analysis In -Person or Virtual Meetings Throughout the Week *assigned statistical section - quiz		
12	4.11	4.15	Critiquing Research Projects Replication, External Validity			☒		① ⑥ Method, Results, & Discussion (Rough Draft Full Poster)	
13	4.18	4.22	Communicating Your Research to an Audience Preparing & Practicing Your Final Poster Presentation	16	410 – 422	☒	Poster Presentation Practice in Class Wednesday		
14	4.25	4.29	① ③ Poster Due at 11:59 p.m. day before scheduled presentation				① ⑦ Poster Presentations Round A Monday/Wednesday During Class		
15	5.1	5.6					① ⑦ Poster Presentations Round B Monday/Wednesday During Class		