

# PSY 212 Survey of Research Methods

3 Credits, CRN: 62251  
M 11.30 a.m. – 2.15 p.m.

**Instructor:** Lisamarie Bensman, Ph.D.

**Email:** [bensman@hawaii.edu](mailto:bensman@hawaii.edu)

**Office:** Na‘auao 114

**Office Hours:** By email and appointment via Google video chat. Email is an excellent way to get a hold of me; email anytime. I will respond within 24 hours, except on Saturdays.

Office drop-in hours: Monday & Wednesday from 2.15 – 3 p.m.

**Effective Date:** Spring 2024

## WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai‘i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O‘ahu’s Ko‘olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career, and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

## OUR COURSE

Throughout our daily lives, we are constantly bombarded with claims supposedly based in science. In this course, you’ll learn to be a critical consumer of these assertions. In addition to learning how to conduct your own research, you’ll acquire the ability to understand and analyze the research of others. We’ll ground our education in real-world issues and data collected from you so that you discover the relevance of research methods in your daily life.



**Overly Honest Method** @OverlyHonestly · 20 Aug 2014

Replying to @DrMomMTBC

“@DrMomMTBC: @OverlyHonestly We did it this way because it was the only thing the IRB would let us try. #research”



## CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Provides an overview of research design strategies used in psychological research. Topics covered include the scientific method; reviewing literature for hypothesis development; ethical issues in research; the operational definition of variables; observational, self-report and experimental methods; data analysis; inferential hypothesis testing; and the American Psychological Association writing style. The course furnishes students with the fundamentals of research that all psychology majors should be aware of, regardless of whether they plan to pursue a research career. Emphasis is placed on the critical evaluation of psychological research as it is reported in the popular media and research periodicals. DS (3 hours lecture).

Required Preparation: PSY 100 & ENG 100.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to:

1. Describe basic research methods for psychology.
2. Craft a solid research question.
3. Identify appropriate variables for a given research question.
4. Choose the appropriate methodology to answer a research question.
5. Critically analyze the research methodology in scholarly publications and in various other sources.

## WRITING INTENSIVE HALLMARKS

### **1. This course uses writing to promote the learning of course materials.**

We will use formal and informal writing, both in class and out, to increase understanding of course material as well as to improve writing skills.

### **2. This course provides interaction between teacher and students while students do assigned writing.**

In effect, I will act as an expert and you will act as an apprentice in a community of writers. Types of interaction will vary but all will focus on helping you improve in your writing.

*\*\*\*\*At least one student-teacher conference on a writing assignment is required in writing intensive courses.\*\*\*\**

### **3. Writing contributes significantly to each student's course grade. Writing assignments must make up at least 40% of each student's course grade.**

### **4. This course requires students to do a substantial amount of writing—a minimum of 4000 words, or about 16 pages.**

This may include informal writing. In-class drafts are not counted toward the 4000-word minimum.

### **5. To allow for meaningful professor-student interaction on each student's writing, the class is restricted to 20 students.**



**dave's killer dread**  
@hog\_mild

...

Mean Girls implies the existence  
of Median Girls, Mode Girls, and  
Range Girls

8:44 AM · Feb 9, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

## COURSE TASKS.

Both inside and outside our classroom, we have an exciting, engaging, and beneficial semester ahead. You'll do the easier work at home by yourself and the more difficult work in the classroom and/or with guidance, all in formats and pacing designed to make your learning effective and long-lasting (and hopefully pleasant).

To succeed in our course, please be sure to read assigned chapters and complete the class prep assignments BEFORE we begin discussing the chapter in class.

Throughout the semester, we'll use [Laulima](#), WCC's online course management system, which you might have used in previous courses. On Laulima, you will find important class materials, announcements, gradebook, and syllabus. Access to Laulima requires your regular school username and password.

As there are many ways to showcase knowledge acquisition and critical thinking skills, you will have an opportunity to demonstrate what you've learned in this course using a variety of different formats:

Class prep assignments:	10 x 5 points =	50 points
In-class activities:		225 points
Quizzes:	10 x 10 points =	100 points
Research Study:		125 points
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>500 points</b>

The above assignments all work on a mastery system, which allows you to achieve academic success even if you experience initial struggles with the material. Using this system, the key to success rests with you. The more you work with the material, the better you will understand it and the more opportunities you have to improve your grade. For these reasons, I encourage you to complete all the coursework. Additional details are below.



**Overly Honest Method** @OverlyHonestly · Jan 24, 2013

The experiment was carried out from 9am to 5pm because the lab is deserted and creepy after office hours. [#OverlyHonestMethods](#)

### **Class Prep Assignments (5 points per prep assignment, highest 10 scores count, 50 points total):**

WI count (10 assignments at roughly .5 page each = 5 total pages of writing and 10% of overall grade)

You have reached the college level, which means you are capable of reading a college level text and understanding a good deal of its material on your own. I don't intend to waste your time or money by going over this information in class with you (unless you have specific questions on the material). Instead, I will focus our limited class time on the more complicated concepts. In order for these concepts to make sense, you'll need a basic understanding of the material before arriving in class. To encourage you to actually review the material BEFORE class, for each textbook chapter you'll complete a class prep assignment. This assignment is to answer three questions about the chapter:

1. What surprised or interested you the most about the chapter and why?
2. What confused you about the chapter?

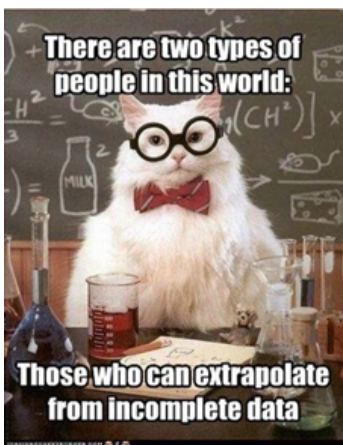
### 3. About what would you like to know more?

Please limit your reply to 2 sentences per question and be specific. For example, in our scientific method chapter, it would be too broad to say that “science interested me the most” but saying that “learning that X method was best to use in situation Y was most interesting because Z” would work. Please make sure to put the information into your own words; don’t merely copy from the textbook.

Class prep assignments can earn up to 5 points apiece (1 point per question for answering each question and 2 points for the quality of the answers), with partial credit available.

There are 13 chapters throughout the semester and I will count your highest 10 scores, so you can skip 3 class prep assignments without any negative impact on your final grade. No need to tell me which prep assignments you’re skipping; just don’t do them.

Prep assignments are due at the beginning of class. If you can’t make class that day, you can submit the assignment via email, just make sure it is submitted on time. For example, the class prep assignment for chapter 2 needs to be submitted by 11.30 a.m. on Monday, 23 January. Late class prep assignments are not accepted.



### **In-Class Activities (Numerous assignments of variable credit, 225 points total):**

WI count (Approximately 20 total pages of writing and 45% of overall grade)

We’ll use our class time for in-depth engagement with our course material by completing various activities. The specifics of this work will fluctuate based on our class needs, along with school requests.

While this work will begin in class (hence the name ‘in-class activities’) these activities may extend outside of class time, as the specific situation requires. I’ll provide feedback on your contributions and you’ll have opportunities to revise this work using classmates’ and my input. As you contribute to these activities, you will earn points, with a max score of 225 points. Late work is not accepted, but I do expect that more than 225 points will be available throughout the semester, thereby allowing students who miss or struggle with some activity components the opportunity to make-up for missed points.

In order to succeed at our in-class activities, I highly recommend coming to class prepared by reading the textbook and completing the class prep assignment. You are welcome to use the textbook during class as well, but the activities will go much easier if you are merely referencing this material instead of looking at it for the first time.

### **Quizzes (10 points per quiz, highest 10 scores count, 100 points total)**

For each chapter, you will complete a quiz through Laulima. The quizzes are open-book, open-notes but should be entirely your own work. **The quizzes work on the mastery system, so you can take them as many times as you would like until the assignment deadline.** The computer will record your highest score, so there's no harm in trying a quiz multiple times (your score can't get lower but can improve). Each quiz is worth 10 points. There are 13 quizzes throughout the semester and your highest 10 scores count, so you can skip three quizzes without any negative impact on your final grade. No need to tell me which quizzes you're skipping; just don't do them. Quizzes may be submitted early (if the chapter is available on Laulima under the 'quizzes' tab, go for it), but not late.



### **Research Study (125 points total):**

WI count (8 total pages of writing and 1 poster for 25% of overall grade)

Throughout the semester, you will work in a group to design and execute a research study. The research question and study methodology are up to you, but must be novel (i.e. you can't recreate a previous study). At the end of the semester, you'll submit an APA style lab report and will present your project to the class via a poster presentation. Sections of your study design and lab report will be submitted throughout the semester for feedback and revision. [An individual conference with me is required in order to submit the lab report and to pass this class.](#) Additional details are available on Laulima.

## **COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE (tentative and subject to change)**

### **Week 1: 8 January**

Topic & Chapter: Welcome to Class & The Science Psychology, chapter 1

Class Prep Due: Tuesday, 16 January

Quiz Due: Tuesday, 16 January

### **Week 2: 22 January**

Topic & Chapter: Overview of the Scientific Method, chapter 2

Class Prep Due: Beginning of class on 22 January

Quiz Due: Thursday, 25 January

Research Study Piece Due: Project Planning Form on Friday, 26 January

**Week 3: 29 January**

Topic & Chapter: Research Ethics, chapter 3

Class Prep Due: Beginning of class on 29 January

Quiz Due: Thursday, 1 February

**Week 4: 5 February**

Topic & Chapter: Psychological Measurement, chapter 4

Class Prep Due: Beginning of class on 5 February

Quiz Due: Thursday, 8 February

Research Study Piece Due: Introduction section draft on Friday, 9 February

**Week 5: 12 February**

Topic & Chapter: Experimental Research, chapter 5

Class Prep Due: Beginning of class on 12 February

Quiz Due: Thursday, 15 February

Research Study Piece Due: Revised Introduction section draft on Friday, 16 February

Method section draft on Friday, 23 February

**Week 6: 26 February**

Topic & Chapter: Non-experimental Research, chapter 6

Class Prep Due: Beginning of class on 26 February

Quiz Due: Thursday, 29 February

Research Study Piece Due: Revised Method section draft on Friday, 1 March

**Week 7: 4 March**

Topic & Chapter: Survey Research, chapter 7

Class Prep Due: Beginning of class on 4 March

Quiz Due: Thursday, 7 March

Research Study Piece Due: Draft IRB paperwork on Friday, 8 March

**Week 8: 11 March**

Topic & Chapter: Quasi-Experimental Research, chapter 8

Class Prep Due: Beginning of class on 11 March

Quiz Due: Thursday, 14 March

Research Study Piece Due: Revised IRB paperwork on Friday, 15 March

**Week 9: 25 March**

Topic & Chapter: Factorial Design, chapter 9

Class Prep Due: Beginning of class on 25 March

Quiz Due: Thursday, 28 March

**Week 10: 1 April**

Topic & Chapter: Presenting Research, chapter 11

Class Prep Due: Beginning of class on 1 April

Quiz Due: Thursday, 4 April

**Week 11: 8 April**

Topic & Chapter: Descriptive Statistics, chapter 12  
Class Prep Due: Beginning of class on 8 April  
Quiz Due: Thursday, 11 April  
Research Study Piece Due: Raw data on Friday, 12 April

**Week 12: 15 April**

Topic & Chapter: Inferential Statistics, chapter 13  
Class Prep Due: Beginning of class on 15 April  
Quiz Due: Thursday, 18 April  
Research Study Piece Due: Results draft on Friday, 19 April

**Week 13: 22 April**

Topic & Chapter: Ch. 10 Single-Subject Research  
Class Prep Due: Beginning of class on 22 April  
Quiz Due: Thursday, 25 April  
Research Study Piece Due: Discussion Draft on Friday, 26 April

**Week 14: 29 April**

Topic: Project Work Day  
Research Study Piece Due: Final Lab Report on Friday, 3 May

**Week 15: 6 May**

Topic: Project Fair  
Research Study Piece Due: Posters Due 6 May

**Time deadlines for assignments:**

- Textbook chapters should be read before the start of class.
- Class Prep assignments are due at the start of class (i.e. 11.30 a.m.).
- Quizzes are due by 11.59 p.m. on the date list.
- Research study pieces (excepting the final poster) are due by 11.59 p.m. on the date list.
- In-Class Activity deadlines are NOT listed on the schedule. These due dates will be announced in class based upon our particular class's pacing and needs.
- Late work is not accepted.



**Overly Honest Method** @OverlyHonestly · Feb 3, 2013

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Subjects kept eyes closed for 8 hours, though some peeked when we had to evacuate bldg due to fire alarm. [#OverlyHonestMethods](#)

**ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING**

You're spending your valuable time, effort, and money on this course, so let's make sure that you are on course for success. Using this grade tracker sheet, you can always be aware of your grade in our course. Simply fill in your scores as you earn them.

**Grade Tracker:**

Class Prep Assignments

Science of Psych = \_\_\_\_\_/5 points

Overview of Sc. Method = \_\_\_\_\_/5 points

Ethics = \_\_\_\_\_/5 points  
Measurement = \_\_\_\_\_/5 points  
Experiments = \_\_\_\_\_/5 points  
Non-experiments = \_\_\_\_\_/5 points  
Surveys = \_\_\_\_\_/5 points  
Quasi-Experiments = \_\_\_\_\_/5 points  
Factorial Designs = \_\_\_\_\_/5 points  
Single-Subject = \_\_\_\_\_/5 points  
Presenting = \_\_\_\_\_/5 points  
Descriptive Stats = \_\_\_\_\_/5 points  
Inferential Stats = \_\_\_\_\_/5 points

**Highest 10 of 13 Scores = \_\_\_\_\_/50 points**

In-Class Activities

Science of Psych = \_\_\_\_\_ points  
Overview of Sc. Method = \_\_\_\_\_ points  
Ethics = \_\_\_\_\_ points  
Measurement = \_\_\_\_\_ points  
Experiments = \_\_\_\_\_ points  
Non-experiments = \_\_\_\_\_ points  
Surveys = \_\_\_\_\_ points  
Quasi-Experiments = \_\_\_\_\_ points  
Factorial Designs = \_\_\_\_\_ points  
Single-Subject = \_\_\_\_\_ points  
Presenting = \_\_\_\_\_ points  
Descriptive Stats = \_\_\_\_\_ points  
Inferential Stats = \_\_\_\_\_ points

**Running total = \_\_\_\_\_/225 points**

Quizzes

Science of Psych = \_\_\_\_\_/10 points  
Overview of Sc. Method = \_\_\_\_\_/10 points  
Ethics = \_\_\_\_\_/10 points  
Measurement = \_\_\_\_\_/10 points  
Experiments = \_\_\_\_\_/10 points  
Non-experiments = \_\_\_\_\_/10 points  
Surveys = \_\_\_\_\_/10 points  
Quasi-Experiments = \_\_\_\_\_/10 points  
Factorial Designs = \_\_\_\_\_/10 points  
Single-Subject = \_\_\_\_\_/10 points  
Presenting = \_\_\_\_\_/10 points  
Descriptive Stats = \_\_\_\_\_/10 points  
Inferential Stats = \_\_\_\_\_/10 points

**Highest 10 of 13 Scores = \_\_\_\_\_/100 points**

Research Project

Lab report = \_\_\_\_\_/100 points  
Poster Presentation = \_\_\_\_\_/25 points

**Project Total = \_\_\_\_\_/125 points**

**Total Points = \_\_\_\_\_/500 points**

**\*Add only the scores in this right, bolded column**



Extra credit earned: \_\_\_\_\_ points

**Your total points + extra credit then determines the final course grade that you have earned for PSY 100:**

A	=	500.0 – 450 points [percentage of 90 – 100%]
B	=	449.9 – 400 points [percentage of 80 – 89.9%]
C	=	399.9 – 350 points [percentage of 70 – 79.9%]
D	=	349.9 – 300 points [percentage of 60 – 69.9%]
F	=	Below 300 points [percentage of 0 – 59.9%]

To figure out your grade at any point during the semester, total up all the points you've earned up until thus far and use this formula:

$$(\text{Points earned} \div \text{Points possible thus far}) \times 100 = \text{Current grade}$$

For example, say it's partway through the semester and you've earned 179 points thus far and there have been 200 points available. You would take  $179 \div 200$ , which equals .895 and then multiply .895 by 100, which equals 89.5%. Using the above grade breakdown, we'd see that a percentage of 89.5 means that your current grade would be a 'B'.



**Overly Honest Method** @OverlyHonestly · Feb 1, 2013

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We forgot to photocopy some of the surveys double-sided so we only had data from odd numbered surveys. #OverlyHonestMethods

## LEARNING RESOURCES

For the semester, we'll be using an OER (Open Education Resource), which means that our textbook is free and available for download:

Cutter, C., Jhangiani, R. S., & Leighton, D. C. (2019). *Research Method in Psychology* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.)

Retrieved from: <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/research-methods-in-psychology-3rd-american-edition>

Click on the link then select your preferred format (online, .pdf download, ebook, etc.)

A .pdf copy of the text is available on Laulima under Resources (if you'd like to print it, I recommend going to TRiO). If you'd like to read the text online, you can use the following link:

<https://kpu.pressbooks.pub/psychmethods4e/>

If you'd prefer a hard, bound copy of the textbook, it is available for PURCHASE on Amazon.com (or again, print it for FREE in TRiO).

Along with our textbook, additional course materials are available on Laulima.

### Recommended Reading Resources:

American Psychological Association. (2002). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington DC: Author. (In Reference Section of WCC Library or at Reference Librarian's desk. Call number: BF76.7.P83 2001)

### Campus Resources:

At WCC, we care deeply about your success. To help you thrive, we have the following:

TRiO: Tutoring and resource center for low-income, first-generation, and/or students with disabilities.

Additional tutoring options: Free online, on-demand [tutoring](#) is also available for all students. Sign in to [MyUH.hawaii.edu](http://MyUH.hawaii.edu) for access to [Tutor.com](http://Tutor.com).

WCC Librarians: Our [librarians](#) are amazing and can help with oh so much.

[Ka Piko](#) is WCC's academic support hub and contains even more tutor help as well as other services.



#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I am here to help you succeed in this course. Please don't hesitate to email me or stop by my office if you have any questions, concerns, or problems. At any point in the semester, if you have concerns about our class that you would prefer not to discuss with me, an alternative contact for any concerns is [wccaa@hawaii.edu](mailto:wccaa@hawaii.edu).

In order to keep class fair for everyone, we will adhere strongly to the following course policies:

1. **Plagiarism/Cheating:** I take both plagiarism and cheating very seriously. If I think you have plagiarized (intentionally or unintentionally) or cheated, you will earn a zero for that assignment, no exceptions. A second instance of either will result in failure of the course (i.e. two instances of plagiarism, two instances of cheating, or one instance of plagiarism and one instance of cheating).
2. **Late work policy:** Beyond the free passes, late assignments are not accepted, except in cases of serious documented emergencies with written verification of the extenuating medical, legal, or other qualifying circumstances. The determination of a qualified emergency is made by me; please contact me as soon as you anticipate or experience a problem.
3. **I strongly uphold the University of Hawai'i's non-discrimination policy in my class. Any discriminatory acts or language on the basis of race, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, or sexual orientation will NOT be tolerated. We will maintain our online classroom as a safe environment for all.**



"The Tortoise And The Hare" is actually a fable about small sample sizes.

## **DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT**

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Jodi Asato, our Disabilities Counselor can be reached at Hale Kako‘o 105, 808-235-7472, [jodiaka@hawaii.edu](mailto:jodiaka@hawaii.edu). Please note that any accommodations for the class will begin once the instructor is contacted by the Disability Specialist and will include the assignments from that point forward, as deemed reasonable and appropriate.

## **SEX DISCRIMINATION & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RESOURCES (TITLE IX)**

Windward Community College is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, WCC has staff and resources to support and assist you. To report an incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence, as well as receive information and support, please contact one of the following:

Leslie Cabingabang, UH System Confidential Advocate  
Phone/Text: (808) 348-0432 or (808) 341-0952  
Email: [advocate@hawaii.edu](mailto:advocate@hawaii.edu)  
Office: Hale Kāko‘o 107 (Wednesdays)

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D., Title IX Coordinator  
Phone: (808) 235-7468  
Email: [mozoa@hawaii.edu](mailto:mozoa@hawaii.edu)  
Office: Hale Kako‘o 109

Desrae Kahale, Mental Health Counselor & Confidential Resource  
Phone: (808) 235-7393  
Email: [dkahale3@hawaii.edu](mailto:dkahale3@hawaii.edu)  
Office: Hale Kāko‘o 101

As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

For more information regarding sex discrimination and gender-based violence, the University's Title IX resources and the University's Policy, Interim EP 1.204, go to [manoa.hawaii.edu/titleix/](http://manoa.hawaii.edu/titleix/)



**Overly Honest Method** @OverlyHonestly · Jan 20, 2013

Our sampling locations happen to match local tropical resort towns because field work doesn't have to be mud and agony  
[#OverlyHonestMethods](#)

#### ALTERNATE CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are unable to contact me or experience any issues with class that you'd prefer not to discuss with me, please contact the Academic Affairs Office:



Location: Alaka'i 121  
Phone: 808-235-7422  
Email: [wccaa@hawaii.edu](mailto:wccaa@hawaii.edu)