



15800 Calvary Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64147

Syllabus

Course: PSY410 Intro to Research Methods in Psychology
Credit: 3 credit hours
Semester: Spring 2025 Session 1 (January 13th-March 9th)
Time: Tuesday & Thursday (8:00am-9:20am)
Room: East Education # 105
Professor: **Dr. Luther Smith** MRS, MACP, Psy.D
Email: luther.smith.@calvary.edu

I. DESCRIPTION

This course guides the student in basic research vocabulary and various research strategies used in the discipline of psychology. Students will also be instructed in the Biblical worldview concerning the purpose of research and why it is important to the discipline (**Prerequisites: General Psychology**).

This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Know the basic terminology regarding research methods in psychology (PLO 4, 5, 6).
2. Distinguish the basic differences in methodological techniques (PLO 4, 5, 6).
3. Know the purpose of a research journal (PLO 4, 5, 6).
4. Explain the Biblical worldview that undergirds research methodologies (PLO 1, 4, 5, 6).
5. Be academically prepared for graduate level study (PLO 6).

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Know the steps of the scientific method (PLO 4, 5, 6).
2. Identify the sections of a professional research journal and its contents (PLO 4, 5, 6).

Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the Church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview"

3. Learn the difference between validity and reliability in research methods (PLO 4, 5, 6).
4. Learn how to explain research from a biblical worldview (PLO 2, 4, 5, 6).
5. Differentiate research from the perspective of a secular humanistic worldview and a Biblical worldview (PLO 1, 2, 5, 6).

III. REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments

Reading Journals: (two full pages each) the student will give the main points of the chapters read and reaction/reflection of the reading. The student will also share his/her own thoughts or opinions about the subject of the material. The student will also share how this information might be used in his/her own life (or not), and why. The personal reflection section may be written in the first person. There will be a total of **six (6)** journals. **Each journal will be worth 25 points** (GC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; SC 1, 2, 3).

B. Written Assignments

Critical Thinking Class Discussion: **Note: You must have a webcam in order to complete this assignment.** The student will examine a topic on the lifespan each week that will be given by the instructor, which they must comment and offer insight on posting a 5-10 minute video on. Each student will respond to at least 2 classmates with a 3-5 minute video reply. There will be a total of **seven (7)** Canvas discussions. **Each discussion is worth 30 points** (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

Key Term Assignment: The student will read, write down and submit the key terms that are relevant to the chapter they are reading. There will be **seven (7)** key term assignments. **Each assignment will be worth 20 points** (GC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; SC 1, 2, 3).

Academic Journal Assignment: (one-to-two-page (1-2) maximum): The student will read academic journals in which they will identify the variables, the hypothesis, describe the experiment and the type of experiment, and the some of the points in the discussion. There will be **seven (7)** academic journal assignments. **This assignment will be worth 20 points** (GC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; SC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

C. Quizzes

The quizzes will cover information from the lectures from the previous week and will be taken on Canvas. They will consist of true/false multiple choice and fill in the blank. There will be **seven (7)** quizzes. **Each quiz is worth 10 points each** (GC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; SC 1, 2, 3).

Final Exam: The final exam will consist of 60 questions and will cover information presented and discussed in class. The exam questions will not be taken from the textbook unless the information was also covered in class. The final will include true/false; fill in the blank and multiple choice (or guess). **The final exam will be worth 120 points** (GC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; SC 1, 2, 3).

D. Class Participation and Behavior

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the professor, prompt and excellent attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity. Students are to refrain from using cell phones and handheld devices during class. Playing games, browsing the internet, using email, instant messaging, or text messaging, etc. are considered unacceptable when class is in session. In addition, the student will be expected to contribute to class discussions in a positive manner which shows respect for the views of others. Failure to maintain this standard may result in a **full letter grade deduction from their overall grade.**

IV. METHODS

A. Teaching

1. Lectures by the instructor
2. Large group discussion
3. Research and writing
4. Projects and presentations

B. Grading

1. Weight given to each assignment		
6 Journal Summaries of reading <i>25pts each</i>	150pts	15%
6 Critical Thinking Class Discussion <i>30pts each</i>	180pts	18%
7 Key Term Assignment <i>20pts each</i>	140pts	14%
Class Participation <i>25pts each</i>	200pts	20%
7 Academic Journal Assignment <i>20pts each</i>	140pts	14%
7 Quizzes <i>10pts each</i>	70pts	7%
Final Exam	120pts	12%

Grading Scale
Grade Value Grade Point Value
Per Semester Hour

A	100-93	4.0
A-	92-90	3.7
B+	89-87	3.3
B	86-83	3.0
B-	82-80	2.7
C+	79-77	2.3
C	76-73	2.0
C-	72-70	1.7
D+	69-67	1.3
D	66-63	1.0
D-	62-60	0.7
F	59-0	0.0

V. MATERIALS

A. Bible

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

B. Required Textbooks

Cramer D. & Howitt, D. 2016. *Research Methods in Psychology*. Fourth Edition. Trans-Atlantic Publications. ISBN-13: 978-0273775058. Retail price: \$25.11. Kindle edition not available.

Note: It is your responsibility as a student at Calvary University to have your textbooks *before* class begins so that you can complete all the readings assigned. Please make sure that you have all your assigned textbooks prior to the start of class. Failure to have your assigned textbooks at the start of the class will result in receiving a zero for every assignment that must be completed.

C. Selected journal articles, which will be distributed on Canvas.

VI. CLASS POLICIES

Attendance

Campus/Livestream Students: Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of courses for which they are registered (as this also counts for class participation). If a student begins a course and is unable to attend a class, he/she will not receive the points allotted for this course. There are eight (8) class sessions, which correspond to the eight-week cycle. **Each class participation session is worth 25 points.**

Online Students: The online student is to watch the recording and answer the questions provided by his/her professor (as these counts for class participation). They are to be completed and uploaded on Canvas before the next class session. If a student fails to complete this assignment within the due date, he/she will not receive the points allotted for this course. There are eight (8) class sessions, which correspond to the eight-week cycle. **Each class participation session is worth 25 points.**

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.

A Secondary Statement Regarding Using AI For All Reports/Projects

Artificial intelligence (AI) in academic use could be beneficial for you as the student. However, when misused it may limit your ability to think critically. As the professor *I cannot catch nor stop you in the act of using AI for your papers and research.* However, it is my expectation that you as the student will do your best by your ability and skill as a human being in the subject(s) that you desire to study. Below is the percentage threshold concerning the effort you put in your paper and the presence of AI within your paper.

0-10 percent of AI*	No points deducted from your paper/project.
11-20 percent of AI*	A third of your overall points are deducted from your paper/project.
21-30 percent of AI*	75% of your overall points will be deducted from your paper/project.
30+ Percent of AI	You will receive no points for the paper/project.

***Keep in mind this deduction is *added* to the points that you would lose due to other things (Improper writing style, grammar, etc.).**

Writing Style

All class papers must follow the APA style according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th edition*. You can find APA resources under the **Getting Started Checklist** located in the *Introduction to Biblical Counseling* Course on Canvas.

Late Work

Papers, projects, etc. are due the day before the class period meets. Unless under extreme circumstances, which will be determined at the discretion of the instructor, **no late work will be accepted.**

Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

Learning Center

The Clark Academic Center located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

VII. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Week/Date	Class Topics	Assignments
Week 1	Introduction to Course Overview of Syllabus Lecture #1: Research Methods and the Biblical worldview.	Read <i>Intro To Research Methods</i> (Chap. 1) DUE Journal Reading #1 DUE Critical Thinking Canvas Discussion #1 DUE Key Terms assignment #1 DUE
Week 2	Review Academic Journal Lecture #2: The process of research and the Biblical worldview.	Read <i>Intro To Research Methods</i> (Chap. 2-3) DUE Journal Reading #2 DUE Critical Thinking Canvas Discussion #2 DUE Key Terms assignment #2 DUE Academic Journal Assignment #1 DUE Quiz #1 DUE
Week 3	Review Academic Journal Lecture #3: Statistics and the elements of a Research Report.	Read <i>Intro To Research Methods</i> (Chap. 4-5) DUE Journal Reading #3 DUE Critical Thinking Canvas Discussion #3 DUE Key Terms assignment #3 DUE Academic Journal Assignment # 2 DUE Quiz #2 DUE
Week 4	Review Academic Journal Library Visit for Research Lecture #4: Research Ethics and a Biblical worldview.	Read <i>Intro to Research Methods</i> (Chap. 8) DUE Journal Reading #4 DUE Critical Thinking Canvas Discussion #4 DUE Key Terms assignment #4 DUE Academic Journal Assignment #3 DUE Quiz #3 DUE
Week 5	Review Academic Journal Lecture #5: Experimental design and variables. Reliability and validity	Read <i>Intro to Research Methods</i> (Chap. 9-11) DUE Journal Reading #5 DUE Critical Thinking Canvas Discussion #5 DUE Key Terms assignment #5 DUE Academic Journal Assignment #4 DUE Quiz #4 DUE
Week 6	Review Academic Journals Lecture #6: Psychological Tests (Strengths and limitations)	Read <i>Intro To Research Methods</i> (Chap. 14-15) DUE Journal Reading #6 DUE Critical Thinking Canvas Discussion #6 DUE Key Terms assignment #6 DUE Academic Journal Assignment # 5 DUE Quiz #5 DUE
Week 7	Review Academic Journals Lecture #7: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods.	Read <i>Intro To Research Methods</i> (Chap. 17-18) DUE Key Terms assignment #7 DUE Academic Journal Assignment #6 DUE Quiz #6 DUE FINAL EXAM IS NEXT WEEK!
Week 8	Review Academic Journals Lecture #8: Developing ideas for Research Paper	Read <i>Intro To Research Methods</i> (Chap 26) DUE Academic Journal Assignment # 7 DUE Quiz #7 DUE Final Exam DUE

