**PSCH 242: Introduction to Research in Psychology (Spring, 2017)**

**Lecture: Mondays & Wednesdays, 2-2:50pm, Location: 2TH 207**

**Discussion Section: Fridays, 9-9:50am, Location: 2ETMSW 2417**

**Instructor:** Marie Chesaniuk, MA

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Office Hours: Fridays, 10am-12noon

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**WELCOME TO INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH IN PSYCHOLOGY!!!**

I want to take this opportunity to express my excitement about working with you this semester. For psychology majors, this class is a requirement. For me, it was my top choice of classes to teach. I love teaching research methods because understanding research brings new meaning to the world we live in. I believe that learning about research methods, learning new ways to observe and interpret the world we share, helps us grow as people. This class is the most fun and the most work I will do all semester. I’m glad you’re here for the ride.

**Texts and Materials:**

1. Morling, B. (2012). *Research methods in psychology: Evaluating a world of information*. (2nd edition.) New York: Norton.

\*A copy of the textbook is also freely available on library course reserve. Just give them the Call Number BF76.5 .M667 2015 and show your UIC ID.

Electronic versions of this textbook are also available at some websites, including:

* <http://books.wwnorton.com/bookswebad.aspx?id=4294990345>
* <https://www.vitalsource.com/products/research-methods-in-psychology-evaluating-a-world-beth-morling-v9780393269437>
* <http://www.amazon.com/Research-Methods-Psychology-Evaluating-Information-ebook/dp/B00SLB5NWU/ref=mt_kindle> (includes free preview of the first 30pages.)

2. Additional readings will be made available as needed.

**Prerequisites:** In order to have the background to be successful in this class, PSCH 100 (Intro to Psychology) is required.

**Registration:** Successfully registering for PSCH 242 means enrolling in one Discussion/Recitation (for us, that’s the Friday discussion section from 9am-9:50am) and one Lecture (for us, that’s Mondays and Wednesdays from 2pm-2:50pm.) You should register for a total of 3 hours for both lecture and discussion section. If you’ve done all this, you’re now prepared to participate in PSCH 242! If you have any questions or problems registering, I am happy to assist with this process.

**Course Description:** The goal of this course is to gain a foundation in consuming and conducting research in psychology (although a lot of these methods extend to other topics that might interest you!) You will engage in critical thinking about research questions, participate in research, and ultimately be able to formulate your own research questions and design studies to answer them. By the end of this course you will be able to read research with a critical eye, formulate your own research questions, develop a plan for how you might answer your question, and report on your findings.

**Grading:** Grades in this course will be based on exams (35%) (best 2 out of 3 regular exams, only the final is cumulative and required), papers (30%), homework assignments (25%), participation (10%), and you can add up to 50pts worth of Extra Credit to your Total Points Earned.

**Assignment** **Maximum Points** **Number of Points Earned**

Exam 1, 2, & 3 Exam # \_\_ 100 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Top 2 Scores Exam # \_\_ 100 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Final Exam 150 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Paper 1 100 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Paper 2 200 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

HW 1 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

HW 2 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

HW 3 15 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

HW 4 15 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

HW 5 25 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

HW 6 25 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

HW 7 25 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

HW 8 25 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

HW 9 25 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

HW 10 25 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

HW 11 25 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

HW 12 25 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class Participation 50 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Discussion Section 50 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Participation

Extra Credit +50 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total = 990 points Total: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Divide by 990 for percentage)

**Grade Percent Points Needed**

A 89.5-100% 891-990

B 79.5-89.4% 792-890

C 69.5-79.4% 693-791

D 59.5-69.4% 594-692

F below 59.4% below 593

**Exams:** Three, non-cumulative exams will be offered over the course of the semester. Your top two exam grades will be used toward your final grade and your lowest exam score will be dropped. This alleviates the need for make-up exams: your missed exam automatically becomes your lowest grade (i.e., 0) and you can take the other two exams as scheduled. The final exam cannot be dropped. Cheating on an exam will result in a grade of 0 and disciplinary action. (For more information on cheating, see the academic honesty and student disciplinary policy here: <http://dos.uic.edu/conductforstudents.shtml>.)

**Course Website:** Blackboard (<https://uic.blackboard.com/)> contains important course information and documents (e.g., lecture slides, reading materials, paper and assignment instructions) and will be used for electronic submission of assignments.

**Expectations:**Be prepared for each class by completing the reading(s) before class, arriving on time, and staying for the full session. Be respectful. Your class is your research community for the semester. Support your community by using technology only for educational purposes and contributing to lecture and discussion sessions through your respectful and constructive participation. Research shows that multitasking during class impairs learning and performance. You will be accountable for submitting assignments, reading course emails, and communicating any conflicts with your instructor if needed. The sooner we can address a problem, the better we can address the problem.

**Attendance:** 10% of your grade is from participation, which you can’t do unless you’re present. Understanding research takes practice and collaboration. Being in class will maximize opportunities to practice research skills and collaborate with your classmates.

Attending every class is very important. Students who miss a class are responsible for obtaining all notes, announcements, and handouts. All work is due by the date indicated below unless you have an emergency that you tell us about. If necessary, however, you may hand in one assignment up to two days late with no questions asked (except in-class presentations). Incompletes will be given only in unavoidable circumstances (e.g., severe illness or injury). All attendance issues pertaining to Discussion Section are subject to the same requirements as lecture.

In Lecture, we focus on introducing the topics of the week, expanding on reading, and connecting reading to real world examples. In Discussion Section, we apply what we learned from homework and lecture to problems and activities that we actively work through sometimes individually and sometimes with collaborators. Research is a practice and actively doing research activities is essential to learning research methods. Practice also happens to be a great way to get better at something you may have never done before. Participating in both Lecture and Discussion Section will help you learn more than if you didn’t get the practice doing this work.

If the class meeting time conflicts with major religious holidays that will require your

absence, email me and/or speak to me during the first two weeks of class. I can accommodate this.

**Academic Honesty & Plagiarism:** You are always allowed and encouraged to seek feedback on your writing. Submitting assignments via SafeAssign will automatically screen for potentially plagiarized material. Plagiarism is representing others’ words and ideas as your own without giving them appropriate credit as the source of those words and ideas. This includes copying and paraphrasing from books, the internet, and other students. No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Students who break the university’s code of academic integrity will receive an automatic “E” (fail) for the course and they will be the subject of formal judicial charges (see UIC Student Disciplinary Handbook for details). For more information, you can find the academic honesty and student disciplinary policy here: <http://dos.uic.edu/conductforstudents.shtml>. You can find tips and advice about avoiding plagiarism here: http://edelberg.people.uic.edu/crediting\_others/index.htm.

**Disability Services:** The University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that individuals with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at UIC. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for full access and participation need to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC): (312) 413-2183 (voice) or (312) 413- 0123 (TDD). If you are already registered with the DRC and you receive accommodations, bring your Letter(s) of Accommodation to your instructor ASAP in the first two weeks of class OR within one week of new documentation. I am happy to work with you.

**Additional Resources**

**Writing Center:** Tutors at the writing Center can help you to organize and edit your writing. All students are welcome and encouraged to use this resource to develop their writing while drafting a written assignment. More information is available at their webpage: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing/about/>.

**APA Style:** Papers in psychology follow APA (American Psychological Association) guidelines and format, which will be used in our written assignments in this course. The Publication Manual of the APA is the official resource on everything APA style. However, one of the best resources for APA Style is Purdue’s Online Writing Lab (OWL), which is a free online reference for APA style available at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>.

**Psi Chi Tutoring:** Students in UIC’s Psi Chi chapter with expertise in various psychology courses hold office hours throughout the week in BSB 2048. The tutoring schedule is posted a few weeks into each semester on the door of the tutoring office in BSB 2048.