Psychology 3402-90
Research Methods
Online
Bemidji State University, Spring 2019

Instructor: Dr. Kathryn Klement, aka Dr. K
Hours and Office: By appointment, virtual office hours Thursdays 11am-12pm
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Content Note: I have a feminist perspective on the world, and that perspective will influence how I choose to teach this class. What does that mean? That means that our discussions of the science, methods, and interpretation of psychological research will include examinations of power dynamics, such as gender and racial inequalities. Power dynamics will also influence discussions of other research-relevant topics, such as ethical practices and choosing measures and methods. Some of the topics we will discuss may challenge your worldview and your values. This is a safe space, where we will recognize everyone's opinions. *However, statements that are disrespectful to another's opinions will not be tolerated.*

BSU Course Description
Survey of research methods, concepts, issues, and strategies. Topics will include experimental and non-experimental methods; designing, conducting, and analyzing different types of studies; critiquing research; and writing research reports. Prerequisites: PSY 1100 and PSY 3401. 4 credits.

Actual Course Description
This course is going to cover how psychologists design, conduct, and interpret research. This is fun stuff! How do we know that opposites attract? What is the best way to measure job satisfaction? Can we predict who succeeds in graduate school? What parts of the brain are implicated in mental disorders? Can people really be brainwashed? These are just some of the questions psychological research can answer, and this semester, we'll be learning about the tools used to answer them.

This course is also about how psychologists think, what they actually do, and what the results of their research actually mean. I hope to make you critical thinkers, so that when you see a Huffington Post article about how smelling farts will help to prevent cancer, you're motivated to find the actual research and learn that there's more to the story. Like how the actual study was about introducing small amounts of hydrogen

sulfide into mitochondria, and the practical implications of what happened. It is also my hope that you are able to learn more about yourself, and find real-world applications for the topics we discuss. Humanity is ripe for scientific study, so I expect everyone to relate to at least something in this class.

Learning Outcomes
After completing this course, students should be able to:
1. Identify and describe the various methods used in conducting psychological research.
2. Think more critically about research cited in various media.
3. Read, interpret, and describe research in scholarly journals.
4. Develop a relevant research question and design an appropriate study to answer that question.
5. Describe how conducting and interpreting research is influenced by sociocultural factors.
6. Describe the basic components of technical research reports.
7. Use APA style to write a technical report describing empirical research.
8. Follow the APA Ethics Code in the treatment of human and nonhuman participants in the design, data collection, interpretation, and reporting of psychological research.
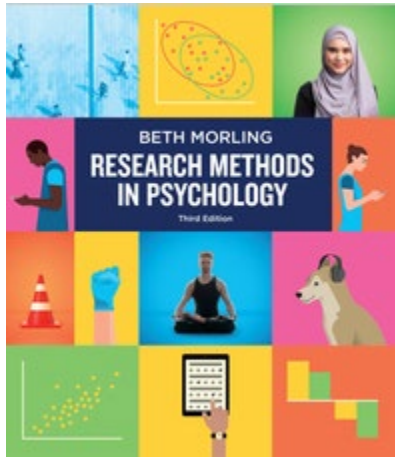
Required Materials
Morling, B. (2018). *Research methods in psychology*. (3rd ed.). New York: W.W. Norton.

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Policies

General class format: You will be able to access the course modules after you complete the Syllabus Quiz with 100%, which you can find in the Start Here module. In general, all assignments are due on Sundays at 11:59PM at the end of their module.

Upon request this document can be made available in alternate formats. Please contact Dr. K or Accessibility Services (755-3883).

Meetings and communication: If you have questions or concerns about the class, or psychology in general, please feel free to contact me. As a first step, please post in the Muddiest Point discussion forum, unless your question is personal or sensitive. If you would like to talk with me about a personal issue, please use the Instant Message option in D2L (you can find this at the top right of the page when you're in D2L). I will try to respond to all messages, either in the Muddiest Point forum or Instant Messages within 48 hours.

As a last resort, you can send me an email (*Kathryn.klement@bemidjistate.edu*) and I will try to respond within 48 hours. If you're using email, please keep in mind the following email etiquette guidelines: (1) check the syllabus or D2L before asking questions, (2) indicate the course in the subject line and topic (e.g. PSY 3402 Assignment Question), (3) use proper grammar/punctuation, and (4) use a salutation (that's the "Hello… or "Dear…" part) and sign your name.

Learning communities: There is no formal group project in this course. However, you have all been put into small groups and each group has its own discussion thread. These groups are designed to help you with studying, getting feedback, assignment accountability, and peer review. You can communicate with your group members as often as you like (or never). I strongly encourage you to take advantage of your group members, though, if you have questions about an assignment or want feedback on your work. Psychological research is highly collaborative and working together with other researchers is common feature in being able to be successful.

Expectations of feedback: As I mentioned above, I will respond to questions on D2L or email within 48 hours. For the homework assignments that require grading, I will provide feedback and grades within 1 week of the deadline. There is no midterm exam, but at the midpoint, I will give you an update of how your grade is doing.

Attendance policy: Since this is an online class, you don't have to worry about synchronous attendance! Study and complete assignments when and wherever, dressed however you like!

If you run into any issue maintaining the pace of the course or completing assignments, please contact me as soon as you can! I am happy to work around personal emergencies, but I need to know about them quickly, so we can make alternate arrangements. <u>I won't be able to accommodate you if you contact me after the beginning of the last week of the course (12/3)</u>.

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Synchronous check-ins: Twice throughout the course, I'll be hosting chats on Zoom. The purpose of these chats is to check folks' progress with the material, answer specific course questions, and any assignment-related questions. I will have doodle polls for picking a specific time, but they will happen during Week 5 (2/11 – 2/17) and Week 14 (4/15 – 4/21). These chats are not required but may be good for you to connect with me and other students. I will give 5 bonus points for attending each meeting.

Reading the textbook/taking notes: You should be reading the textbook. It is full of research methods awesomeness. It's important for you to read the textbook because the point of this class is to learn about how psychologists conduct research. You should also be taking notes during lecture; each module has a set of handouts to help with note-taking during the lectures.

Submitting assignments: All assignments and anything that you are turning into me should be turned in via D2L. And again, everything's due on Sundays at 11:59PM.

Late assignments: I will accept late assignments. However, each day the assignment is late, 10% is deducted from the highest score you can earn (so, turning in a paper 2 days late = the highest you could earn was an 80%). This also means that assignments turned in 10 days late are effectively 0s. The only exception to this is if you have made arrangements with me <u>at least 24 hours prior to the due date</u>.

Redo assignment passes: Over the semester, there are 13 module assignments that you will complete, each worth 10 points. The assignments are practical ways for you to apply the skills you're learning about. Some of them are difficult than others and I also recognize that there are a lot of moving pieces in this course. Thus, <u>everyone has 3 redo assignment passes for these assignments. If you score below a 50% on an assignment, you may use a pass to redo it.</u>

This is how it works: Say you weren't really sure about how to select statistical tests for research questions, so you don't do very well on M4A2 – you get a 2 out of 10. After you receive your score, <u>you have 1 week to redo the assignment for the full points</u>. Keep in mind that you can only do this for 3 assignments. Whatever excuse you have for not getting more than 50% (even if you didn't submit it in the first place), you have 3 chances to redo assignments, no questions asked. I will keep track of your passes, but you need to indicate either on the assignment itself or the comment space on D2L when you resubmit, that you are using one of your passes.

Academic integrity: Do not cheat or plagiarize. There aren't any exams or quizzes in this course, and you can work with fellow classmates on the module assignments, so this should not be an issue. If you're not sure what counts as plagiarism, please ask. If you're not sure whether or how to cite something, ask me! (As a quick tip, copying and pasting something you find on the internet into a paper you then submit without citing that source is plagiarism.) There is more information about using APA to cite sources in the Resources module. More officially:

> **Bemidji State University Statement of Academic Integrity:** You are expected to practice the highest standards of ethics, honesty, and integrity in all of your academic work. Any form of dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation) will result in disciplinary action. Possible disciplinary actions may include failure for part or all of a course, as well as suspension from the university.

What happens if I determine that your work is plagiarism? I will give you a chance to redo it – that counts as a redo assignment pass. If your resubmission is still plagiarized, then you will get a 0 on the assignment. If this happens twice, I will fail you in the course. Ethical research practices are paramount in psychology and that should be true in learning research methods as well.

Expectations of students: I expect that all students treat each other with respect and conduct academic work in a spirit of cooperation. All assignments should be typed (12-point font, double-spaced) and follow APA format (within reason – not everything requires a title page and a references page; I'll let you know if/when I expect that). ****For every submission that requires an upload, please submit only a .doc/.docx or .pdf format.****

Accommodations for disabilities: I am happy to provide special accommodations for students with documentation of a disability. BSU/NTC is committed to making all educational programs, course materials, services and activities sponsored by the College/University accessible to individuals with disabilities. Students requesting accommodations due to a disability or other need for access should contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible. Accessibility Services is located at Decker Hall 202. Call them at (218) 755-3883 or email at disabilityservices@bemidjistate.edu. This information is also available through Minnesota Relay Services at (800) 627-3529.

If you do not have a documented disability, but you do have a life situation that can make school difficult for you (e.g., chronic pain, caregiving responsibilities), please talk

to me so that we can make any needed arrangements. You only need to disclose as much as you want. My purpose as a professor is to facilitate your learning about psychological research methods, not to audit your life.

Mental health and counseling: Students may experience mental health concerns or stressful events that may lead to diminished academic performance. If that's you, you are not alone! The Student Center for Health & Counseling is available to assist you with concerns and can include stress relief services. They can be reached in Cedar Hall, First Floor and their number is (218) 755-2053.

It's unlikely we'll have many conversations about sensitive topics in this course. However, I will always try to give a heads-up if I will be discussing content like sexual violence, suicide, or other potentially triggering subjects. Please take care of yourself and determine whether you need to excuse yourself for those topics.

BSU Psychology Department diversity statement: The Department of Psychology at Bemidji State University is dedicated to preparing students who will apply their psychological knowledge in an increasingly diverse world. We strive to create and sustain a welcoming, supportive and inclusive environment for students, faculty and staff of all races and ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, abilities, and religions.

Accomplishing this mission requires a broad range of perspectives and backgrounds. Diversity enriches both our department, and the science of psychology, and our local and global communities. We strive to cultivate an inclusive community that values diverse questions, viewpoints, approaches, and participants to foster ingenuity, challenge biases, and promote intellectual growth.

Withdrawal: After the fifth day of class (**1/18**), withdrawing will lead to a *W* on your transcript. Please check your eServices course schedule page for the last date to withdraw. You can also contact Records and Registration with questions about withdrawing from the course or check out their page on withdrawing and dropping.

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Assignments and Grading Criteria

Total points:

There are four different ways to earn points in this class. The point distribution is listed below:

130 points	InQuizitive Chapters
160 points	Discussion Questions
140 points	Module Assignments
120 points	Grant Proposal Project
550 points	**Total possible points for course (minimum)**

Extra credit: There will also be opportunities for extra credit that will arise throughout the course. <u>However, do not count on using extra credit to make up for not doing your best on the rest of the class assignments.</u>

Grading Scale by Percentage (and Points):

A = 90-100 (540-600)   B = 80-89 (480-539)
C = 70-79 (420-479)   D = 55-69 (330-419)
F = <54 (<329)

InQuizitive
InQuizitive is a web-based application created by the textbook publisher that helps to reinforce concepts we're learning in class. Please note that you need to purchase a license to complete InQuizitive. You can purchase an individual license for $20 or purchase a textbook with an InQuizitive license included. There are links within each module to the IQ questions, but make sure that you are working in **Student Set 134330** – that will ensure that your grades get reported correctly.

For each chapter, you must complete a minimum of correct answers to a variety of question types (fill-in-the-blank, matching, etc.), but you can keep working until you hit 100%. Each IQ chapter is worth 10 points.
InQuizitive is worth 130 points in total.

Discussion Questions
Each week, I will post a discussion question designed to complement the course material and stimulate conversation about various issues in psychological research. There will be 16 discussion questions and each response will receive up to 10 points.

There are two parts to the questions: your initial response to the prompt and your response to another classmate's post. Thus, there are two deadlines associated with the discussion questions, in order to make sure that everyone has time to respond to someone else. Initial posts are due on Friday nights at 11:59pm, and response posts are due Sundays at 11:59pm. Each of these posts are worth 5 points; you can check out the rubric attached to each post to see my expectations.
Discussion Questions are worth 160 points in total.

Module Assignments
Because we won't be able to have "in-class" assignments and demonstrations, there will be 14 assignments spread across the 5 modules, worth 10 points each, to give you opportunities to apply what you're learning. While everyone needs to hand in their own assignments, you may work on these assignments together, so feel free to ask questions of those in your learning communities. Make sure to keep an eye on the due dates; some assignments are due before the end of the module (particularly with Module 3, which has two parts).

Below is the list of assignments:

1. M1A1 – Creating an APA Template (due 1/20)
2. M1A2 – Evaluating the Ethics of Studies (due 2/3)
3. M2A1 – Identifying Claims and Variables (due 2/24)
4. M2A2 – PsycINFO Scavenger Hunt (due 2/24)
5. M3A1 – Understanding Research in Popular Press (due 3/24)
6. M3A2 – Online Polls (due 3/24)
7. M3A3 – Creating Scatterplots (due 3/24)
8. M3A4 – Interpreting Multiple Regression Analyses (due 3/24)
9. M3A5 – Issues in Experiments (due 4/7)
10. M3A6 – Factorial Design (due 4/7)
11. M4A1 – Correlation Interpretation (due 4/21)
12. M4A2 – Hypothesis Test Decisions (due 4/21)
13. M5A1 – Generalization (due 5/5)

Module Assignments are worth 140 points in total.

Grant Proposal Project
The major project of the course is a grant proposal. One of the current realities of the field of psychology is that researchers often need to provide their own funding for their projects, usually by applying for (and receiving) grant monies from another

organization. Thus, you will be writing a research proposal that aims to secure funding for your project. Throughout the semester, you'll be turning in pieces of this project (for which I'll provide feedback), and at the end, you'll put them together for the final full project. This is not a group project, however, you should absolutely feel free and encouraged to rely on your learning community for feedback on your project.

As it will take the whole semester, there are several components to this project. During Module 1, you'll be asked to select your proposal topic in DQ2. I and your classmates will be able to give you feedback and ideas about your topic, potential variables, and design. In Modules 2 and 3A, you'll be searching literature to support your study idea. In Module 3B, you'll be writing the method section and the budget for your proposal. Then in Module 4, you'll be writing a plan for data analysis and submitting your rough draft. Finally in Module 5, you'll be reviewing another classmate's proposal and they'll be reviewing yours to help provide feedback to strengthen your proposals, and submitting your final draft.

There are also several assignments:

1. Literature search and references list (10 points, due 2/24)
2. Literature review (15 points, due 3/10)
3. Method section (15 points, due 3/31)
4. Budget (10 points, due 4/7)
5. Planned data analysis and discussion (15 points, due 4/14)
6. Rough draft (15 points, due 4/21)
7. Peer review comments (10 points, due 4/28)
8. Final draft (30 points, due 5/8)

You can find a lot more information about the grant proposal project on D2L, in the Resources module and the content modules.

The Grant Proposal Project is worth 120 points in total.

The following is a brief schedule of modules in the course.

Module	Dates	Content
1	Weeks 1-3 1/14 – 2/3	Preparing to Do Research (Ch 1, 4) Due: Syllabus Quiz; Ch 1 & 4 IQ; DQ 1-3; M1A1 (1/20); M1A2 (2/3)
2	Weeks 4-6 2/4 – 2/24	Reviewing Prior Research (Ch 2-3) Due: Ch 2-3 IQ; DQ 4-6; M2A1-2 (2/24); Literature search and references list (2/24)
3A	Weeks 7-10 2/25 – 3/17	Designing Research Studies, Pt. 1 (Ch 5-9) Due: Ch 5-9 IQ; DQ 7-10; M3A1-4 (3/24); Literature review (3/10)
3B	Weeks 11-12 3/18 – 4/7	Designing Research Studies, Pt. 2 (Ch 10-12) Due: Ch 10-12 IQ; DQ 11-12; M3A5-6 (4/7); Method section (3/31); Budget (4/7)
4	Weeks 13-14 4/8 – 4/21	Analyzing Research Data (SR 1, 2) Due: DQ 13-14; M4A1-2 (4/21); Planned data analysis and discussion (4/14); Rough draft (4/21)
5	Weeks 15-16 4/22 – 5/5	Drawing Conclusions from Research (Ch 14) Due: Ch 14 IQ; DQ 15-16; M5A1 (5/5); Peer review comments (4/28); Final draft (5/8)

*Please note that we will not be covering Ch 13 content.

IQ = InQuizitive

M1A1 = Module 1 Assignment 1

DQ = Discussion Question