

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **PSYC 255**

#### **INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introduction to psychological research techniques and methodology designed to improve students' understanding of the basic issues in the scientific methods of the social sciences. The goals of the course are: to improve students' understanding of the concepts related to research methodology; to improve the students' ability to communicate ideas about science, including a significant amount of writing; and survey of both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

#### **RATIONALE**

Research is integral to knowledge production, regardless of the discipline. Social science and psychological research offer students an opportunity to examine human behavior with the intent to help people cope with the many problems they face in life. By exposing the student to far-reaching possibilities of doing research, the student will attain a better understanding of the complexities of human existence.

#### **I. PREREQUISITES**

PSYC 101, 210, or permission of the instructor

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES**

Click the following link to view the required resources for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word  
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to LU students.)
- D. Adobe Reader 7.0 or later
- E. *The Holy Bible*

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Discuss the fundamental considerations that must precede research.
- B. Develop research designs.
- C. Conduct research.

- D. Draw conclusions and make generalizations from research studies.
- E. Identify the ethical issues facing researchers.
- F. Communicate research findings to others.
- G. Examine, discuss, and integrate all issues, theories, assumptions, and materials presented in this course through the lens of Scripture.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings, Bible readings, and lecture presentations
- B. Discussion Board Forums (3)

In Modules/Weeks 1, 2, and 4, the student will participate in a Discussion Board forum by 1) posting a 250-word original thread in response to the stated prompt, and 2) posting two 100-word replies to each of two classmates. Threads are due by the end of Thursday of the week assigned and replies are due by the end of Monday of the same week. Forums will be graded based on the substance of the posts and compliance with the stated guidelines.

- C. APA Assignments

Throughout the course, the student will complete four APA assignments that are specifically designed to help improve his/her understanding of research methods, writing styles, revision techniques, and APA formatting. Each assignment requires the student to revise some aspect of a Sample APA Paper that is provided in the course. Each of the four revision assignments is described below:

1. Title Page and Reference Page

The student is required to revise the incorrect reference and title pages that are provided in the Sample APA Paper. These revisions will require the student to obtain the articles via the LU Library Research Portal and interlibrary loan. This assignment is due by the end of Module/Week 2.

2. Outline

The student is required to reorganize the body of the Sample APA Paper by creating a logical topical outline of the body. The student does not have to rewrite the whole body of the paper for this assignment. Instead, the student should reconceptualize the content of the paper in outline format. Creating this outline may require the student to supply additional information using the sources he/she obtained for the reference list. This assignment is due by the end of Module/Week 5.

3. Topical Revision

The student is required to rewrite part of the body of the Sample APA Paper by focusing on one of the following topics: 1) Motivation, 2) Demographics, or 3) Products. The student should read through the paper, gather the information that is pertinent to his/her chosen topic, reorganize the information into a logical format, and rewrite incorrect or out-of-place

portions of the section. The result of this revision should be a 1–2-page focused and synthesized section of the paper. This assignment is due by the end of Module/Week 7.

4. Method

The student is required to rewrite the Research Methods section of the Sample APA Paper. This assignment will require the student to do a significant amount of original writing because the Method section in the Sample Paper is severely underdeveloped. Additionally, the student is required to create—but *not* conduct—a survey that attempts to answer the research question for the Method section. This assignment is due by the end of Module/Week 8.

D. Exams (2)

The student will complete an exam in Modules/Weeks 3 and 6. Each exam contains forty multiple-choice questions based on textbook readings and instructional materials. The exams are open-book and open-notes with one hour time limits.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Discussion Board Forums (3 at 50 ea)	150
APA Assignments	
APA Topical Revision	100
APA Title Page and Reference Page	150
APA Outline	100
APA Paper: Method	200
Exam 1 (Modules 1–3)	150
Exam 2 (Modules 4–6)	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

B. Scale

A = 900–1000 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Late Submission Policy

No assignments will be accepted after the stated due dates and times.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact LU Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations.

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **PSYC 255**

Textbooks: APA, *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.  
Shaughnessy et al., *Research Methods in Psychology* (2012).

<b>WEEK/ MODULE</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Shaughnessy et al.: chs. 1–2 APA: chs. 1–3 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist DB Forum 1	0 50
<b>2</b>	Shaughnessy et al.: ch. 3 & ch. 4 (Only pp. 92-106) APA: chs. 6–7 2 presentations	DB Forum 2 APA Assignment: Title Page & Reference Page	50 150
<b>3</b>	Shaughnessy et al.: ch. 4 & 5 (Only pp. 106-136) 3 presentations	Exam 1	150
<b>4</b>	Shaughnessy et al.: chs. 6–7 2 presentations	DB Forum 3	50
<b>5</b>	Shaughnessy et al.: chs. 9–10 APA: ch. 2 1 presentation	APA Assignment: Outline	100
<b>6</b>	Shaughnessy et al.: ch. 13 1 presentation	Exam 2	150
<b>7</b>	APA: chs. 4–5 1 presentation	APA Assignment: Topical Revision	100
<b>8</b>	1 presentation	APA Assignment: Method	200
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1000</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.