

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

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 the science of psychology. This course is an introduction to the basic concepts and tools needed to evaluate and conduct research. By understanding the research process, as well as concepts such as validity and reliability, the student will become a better critical consumer and producer of research.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) 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. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

IV. COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOS)

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

- A. Demonstrate an understanding of reliability and validity.
- B. Create research designs.
- C. Critique research related to behavior and mental processes.

- D. Apply a biblical worldview to research concepts.
- E. Communicate effectively using APA formatting.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (5)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 250 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student will reply to at least 2 classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 100 words. Each thread must be supported by at least 1 appropriate citation in current APA format. Acceptable sources include the course textbooks, the Bible, and scholarly articles. (CLO: A, C, D, E)

- D. APA Assignment

The student will use the APA Publication Manual as a guide in answering specific APA-related questions. The APA Assignment must include a title page, 2–3 pages of content, and a reference page in current APA format. The paper must include both of the course textbooks as references. (CLO: E)

- E. Case Study Paper

The student will write a paper that explains how to conduct a case study. The paper must include a title page, 2–4 pages of content, and a reference page. The paper must be in current APA format. The student will be provided with a set of 4 questions to answer in order to complete the assignment. The paper must include at least 2 references in addition to both of the course textbooks. (CLO: A, B, C, E)

- F. Synthesis Paper

The student will write a research-based paper that includes a personal reflection of what he or she has learned in the course as well as a critique of the course content from a biblical perspective. The paper must include a title page, 4–8 pages of content, and a reference page. The paper must be in current APA format. (CLO: A, B, C, D, E)

- G. Quizzes (7)

There will be 7 open-book/open-notes quizzes in the course. Quizzes will cover content covered in the Reading & Study folders, have 30 multiple-choice questions, and have a time limit of 1 hour. (CLO: A, B, C, E)

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (5 at 60 pts ea)	300
APA Assignment	75
Case Study Paper	75
Synthesis Paper	130
Quizzes (7 at 60 pts ea)	420
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Instructor Feedback and Response Time

Responses to student emails will be provided within 48 hours and assignment feedback will be given within 1 week from the assignment due date.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

E. Quality Matters Seal of Approval

This certification mark recognizes that this course met Quality Matters Review Standards.



Quality Matters (QM) is a non-profit organization committed to quality assurance in Online Education. Courses that have received the QM Seal of Approval have passed rigorous reviews by Quality Matters evaluators and maintain their approval for five years.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PSYC 255

Textbooks: APA, *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (2010).
Crawford, *Introduction to research: Less fright, more insight* (2019).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	APA: ch. 1 Crawford: chs. 1–3 Four presentations 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Quiz 1	10 0 60 60
2	APA: ch. 2 Crawford: chs. 4–5 Five presentations	DB Forum 2 Quiz 2	60 60
3	APA: ch. 3 Crawford: chs. 6–7 Four presentations	APA Assignment Quiz 3	75 60
4	APA: ch. 4 Crawford: chs. 8–9 Two presentations	DB Forum 3 Quiz 4	60 60
5	APA: ch. 5 Crawford: ch. 10 Two presentations	Case Study Paper Quiz 5	75 60
6	APA: ch. 6 Crawford: chs. 11–12 Three presentations	DB Forum 4 Quiz 6	60 60
7	APA: ch. 7 Crawford: ch. 13 One presentation	Synthesis Paper	130
8	APA: ch. 8 Crawford: chs. 14–15, Epilogue Three presentations One website	DB Forum 5 Quiz 7	60 60
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week (except Module/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 module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.