
SU PSYCHOLOGY: CHOOSING A RESEARCH METHODS OPTION FOR 16-17

For 2016-17, the psychology department is offering students two options to satisfy the research methods requirement: (1) the *Survey of Research Methods in Psychology* course (without a lab) or (2) the *Inquiry-Based Research Methods* course (with a lab). In order to help students select the course that is most appropriate for them, differences are outlined below.

Survey of Research Methods in Psychology (Psy 33-204)	Inquiry-Based Research Methods (Psy 33-214) & Lab (Psy 33-211)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-semester course (usually Fall) • Class meets 2x/week (1hr 15m each) • <u>No lab</u> • Covers observational, correlational, and experimental design (using Leary text) • Teaches statistical skills & SPSS • Prepares students for upper level courses in psychology • <u>Less intensive project work (e.g., 1 project)</u> • <u>Introduces students to discipline specific writing</u> (i.e., APA style) • Prepares students to read and evaluate empirical research in psychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-semester course (usually Fall) • Class meets 2x/week (1hr 15m each) • <u>2.5 hr lab per week (same instructor as course)</u> • Covers observational, correlational, and experimental design (using Leary text) • Teaches statistical skills & SPSS • Prepares students for upper level courses in psychology • <u>Involves intensive project work</u> (2-3 projects) • <u>Involves extensive discipline specific writing</u> (i.e., APA style) • Prepares students to read, evaluate and <u>conduct</u> empirical research in psychology

STUDENTS FOR WHOM **INQUIRY-BASED RESEARCH METHODS** IS MOST APPROPRIATE:

- The inquiry-based course is required for *animal behavior majors*
- The inquiry-based course is required for *students who want to complete a research capstone* in psychology (students opting for internships may prefer the survey course)
- For students considering graduate school in psychology, we *strongly recommend* the inquiry-based research methods course, as most graduate school programs (especially Ph.D programs) in psychology (and some master-levels programs) require students to conduct research.
- Students who are well organized, who don't procrastinate, and who enjoy research, statistics, and writing are most likely to appreciate this course.

STUDENTS FOR WHOM **SURVEY OF RESEARCH METHODS** IS MOST APPROPRIATE:

- Psychology minors
- Majors who are interested in pursuing non-psychology graduate programs (such as law school or medical school or social work), non-psychology careers, or careers that require only a BA/BS in psychology
- Transfer students who are having a difficult time completing their psychology course work in a timely manner (if you took RM elsewhere, you can get credit for this course)
- Students who like psychology but don't enjoy research, writing, and statistics (and won't pursue a graduate degree requiring extensive research) would likely prefer this course.

PLEASE SEE THE BACK OF THIS FORM FOR COURSE DESCRIPTIONS AND SIGN-UP INSTRUCTIONS.

If you are unsure which option to take, please ask any Research Methods instructor or contact the Department Chair (Dr. Traci Giuliano, giuliant@southwestern.edu).

CATALOG DESCRIPTIONS

33-204 **Survey of Research Methods.** This course is designed to introduce students to the wide variety of research methods in contemporary psychology, including both experimental and non-experimental designs. Topics include literature review, hypothesis formation, psychological measurement, sampling, survey research, experimental design, statistical analysis using SPSS, ethics in conducting research, and scientific writing and APA style. This course (which does not contain a lab) covers the basic methodological background necessary for upper-level psychology courses but not involve as much project-based original research as does Inquiry-Based Research Methods (33-214). As such, it is recommended for (a) psychology majors/double-majors who are interested in pursuing non-psychology careers (e.g., law, social work, medicine, nursing, human resources) and/or who prefer an internship-based capstone rather than a research-based capstone, (b) psychology minors, (c) non-psychology majors preparing to take the MCAT, and (d) transfer students who want credit for a methods course taken elsewhere. Prerequisites: Psychology 33-104 and MAT 52-114 (both with a C, not C-, or better). (Fall) (ScS)

33-214 **Inquiry-Based Research Methods.** This course is design to give students in-depth experience with the research methods used in contemporary psychology, including both experimental and non-experimental designs. Topics include literature review, hypothesis formation, psychological measurement, sampling, survey research, experimental design, statistical analysis using SPSS, ethics in conducting research, and scientific writing and APA style. This course (which contains a required 1-credit lab; 33-211) involves more intensive experience conducting original research, and thus serves as good preparation for later independent research, such as capstone research or graduate school. As such, this course is recommended for (a) psychology majors who prefer a research-based capstone over an internship-based capstone, and (b) students considering applying to graduate school in psychology. *NOTE: Students MUST sign up for the required 1-credit lab with the same professor and same section number as this course* (e.g., a student who signs up for the 33-214-01 class section must sign up for the 33-211-01 lab section). Also Animal Behavior 09-214. Prerequisites: Psychology 33-104 and MAT 52-114 (both with a C, not C-, or better). (Fall) (WA) (ScS)

33-211 **Lab for Inquiry-Based Research Methods.** This 1-credit lab is designed to give students practical, hands-on experience in designing, conducting, analyzing, and writing up original research. *This lab is required for Inquiry-Based Research Methods, and must be taken concurrently with the same professor and section number as 33-214* (e.g., a student who signs up for the 33-214-02 class section must sign up for the 33-211-02 lab section). Also Animal Behavior 09-211. (Fall)