

ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE  
SYLLABUS

## PSY 290 INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Credit Hours: 4 Lec 4 Lab 1General Education Course: WI (Writing Intensive)  
G (Global Awareness)

PREREQUISITE: ENG 101 or 107 and SOC 101 or PSY 101

PREREQUISITE OR COREQUISITE PSY 230/MAT 270

THIS COURSE IS DESIGNATED AS WRITING INTENSIVE: Arizona Western College believes writing provides a unique opportunity to learn disciplinary content while mastering writing skills. Writing-Intensive (WI) courses at Arizona Western College integrate writing assignments in ways that help students learn both the subject matter of the courses and discipline-specific ways of thinking and writing. Writing Intensive courses help develop students' identities as good writers by linking their writing proficiency with their desire to know more about the field of study, to engage in questions in the discipline, and to become a participant in academic discourse.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to the scientific methods most often used in the social sciences. It includes both lecture and hands-on laboratory experiences. This course requires significant writing and uses the SPSS statistical package.

1. COURSE GOALS

- 1.1 Think critically about the research encountered in everyday life.
- 1.2 Develop research questions and testable hypotheses in order to plan, execute, analyze, and write about social science research.

2. OUTCOMES

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 2.1 develop testable research questions and hypotheses.
- 2.2 find reliable research information about a topic.
- 2.3 demonstrate understanding about which design is best suited to each particular research problem and why by applying their knowledge of design in evaluating a variety of research problems.
- 2.4 critique research methods encountered in the text and in life.
- 2.5 collect data, enter it into a statistical program, choose analyses, interpret results, and create reports.
- 2.6 identify and apply important concepts in research such as ethics, representative sampling, validity, and reliability.
- 2.7 appraise the cultural context of samples, research hypotheses and designs.
- 2.8 demonstrate an awareness of the historical context of social science research by creating and evaluating presentations of unethical experiments
- 2.9 think critically about research ethics and apply their thoughts to real life ethical dilemmas
- 2.10 employ the statistical package.
- 2.11 demonstrate their knowledge of the Belmont and Nuremburg codes by critiquing or analyzing unethical experiments and correctly answering test questions about the codes.

### WI OUTCOMES

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 2.12 Demonstrate critical inquiry through the gathering, interpretation, and evaluation of evidence in writing.
- 2.13 Develop flexible strategies for generating ideas, revising, editing, and proofreading, using instructor and peer feedback on written discourse to guide improvement through revision.
- 2.14 Effectively compose discipline-specific writing, which includes overall organization, analysis, grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and style.
- 2.15 Develop strategies for composing both in class and out of class compositions.
- 2.16 Demonstrate through written discourse a sequence of increasing complexity/skill in knowledge of content as well as discipline specific discourse form.

### 3. AWC GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) OUTCOMES

#### 3.1 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

- Identify and extract relevant data from given mathematical or contextual situations
- Select known models or develop appropriate models that organize the data into: tables or spreadsheets (with or without technology); graphical representations (with or without technology); symbolic/equation format
- Obtain correct mathematical results and state those results with appropriate qualifiers and use the results to: determine whether they are realistic in terms of original data/problem; determine whether the mathematical model/representation of data is appropriate; describe trends in a table, graph, or formula and make predications based on these trends; draw qualitative conclusions in written form; apply them to real world problems

#### 3.2 COMMUNICATION

- Write effectively and intelligently for a range of purposes and audiences in the English language (e.g., informing, persuading, advancing an argument, expressing, creating, etc.)
- Read a wide range of texts across the curriculum, demonstrating comprehension through written and oral summary and analysis
- Utilize proper citations, evaluate critically, and use effectively relevant information for problem-solving and presentation of ideas, issues, and arguments
- Speak effectively to a purpose before an audience
- Demonstrate effective listening skills
- Demonstrate skill in using electronic media generally appropriate to contemporary academic and professional workplaces
- Produce scholarly or creative works that effectively employ the communication conventions and means of the major field
- Provide writing that presents a clear, specific thesis and awareness of audience
- Fully develops examples to support thesis in logical, coherent manner demonstrates original thinking, depth of analysis, and comprehension of material used and that shows high proficiency in standard English grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- Written discourse is embedded into the requirements of the GE course through multiple written assignments.
- Part of the written discourse emphasizes critical inquiry which includes the gathering, interpretation, and evaluation of evidence.
- Instructor evaluates the assignments in written discourse to guide improvement through revision for each assignment.
- Instructor evaluates written discourse for form, which includes overall organization, analysis, grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and style.
- Some assignments are completed in class and some are completed out of class.
- Assignments within each course are arranged in a sequence of increasing complexity/skill, where applicable.

- Total formal writing for the course consists of at least 3000 words, or about 12 pages.
- At least 33% of the student's grade in the course is based on revised written discourse.

4. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- 4.1 Lecture and readings
- 4.2 Instructional technology
- 4.3 Group laboratory experiments
- 4.4 Use of statistical package
- 4.5 Library and internet searches related to research methodology

5. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 Assignments
- 5.2 Lectures
- 5.3 Discussions
- 5.4 Laboratories
- 5.5 Research project and class presentation
- 5.6 Collection, entry and analysis of data using a computer statistical package such as SPSS for Windows.
- 5.7 Computer generated essays and spreadsheets (revised)
- 5.8 Use of computer programs such as Blackboard, SPSS, MS Word, PowerPoint

6. EVALUATIONS

- 6.1 Learning activities
- 6.2 Exams
- 6.3 Assignments

7. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
- 7.2 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course. Students who are not attending as of the 45th day of the course may be withdrawn by the instructor. If the student does not withdraw from the course and fails to complete the requirements of the course, the student will receive a failing grade.
- 7.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.
- 7.4 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty—including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized "crib notes", plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor's signature—will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC's Student Code of Conduct.
- 7.5 Texts and Notebooks: Students are required to obtain the class materials for the course.
- 7.6 Arizona Western College students are expected to attend every class session in which they are enrolled. To comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations (34 CFR 668.21), Arizona Western College (AWC) has established an Attendance Verification process for "No Show" reporting during the first 10 days of each semester.

Students who have enrolled but have never attended class may be issued a “No Show” (NS) grade by the professor or instructor and receive a final grade of “NS” on their official academic record.

An NS grade may result in a student losing their federal financial aid.

For online classes, *student attendance in an online class is defined as the following* (FSA Handbook, 2012, 5-90):

- Submitting an academic assignment
- Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
- Attending a study group that is assigned by the school
- Participating in an online discussion about academic matters
- Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course