

# PSY4099-3 FA25 - Research In Psychology

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## PSY4099 Research in Psychology

### Department of Psychology

*Fall 2025*

4 Units

### Key Course Information

Course Element	Key Information
Instructors	Alexandra Bitter, PhD Max Butterfield, PhD
Teaching Assistants	Olivia Banuelos Joelle Zabaneh
Contact Information	TA Email: <a href="mailto:obanuelo0023@pointloma.edu">obanuelo0023@pointloma.edu</a> ( <a href="mailto:obanuelo0023@pointloma.edu">mailto:obanuelo0023@pointloma.edu</a> ) TA Email: <a href="mailto:jzabaneh0022@pointloma.edu">jzabaneh0022@pointloma.edu</a> ( <a href="mailto:jzabaneh0022@pointloma.edu">mailto:jzabaneh0022@pointloma.edu</a> ) Instructor Email: <a href="mailto:abitter@pointloma.edu">abitter@pointloma.edu</a> ( <a href="mailto:abitter@pointloma.edu">mailto:abitter@pointloma.edu</a> ) Instructor Email: <a href="mailto:mbutter@pointloma.edu">mbutter@pointloma.edu</a> ( <a href="mailto:smurray0020@pointloma.edu">mailto:smurray0020@pointloma.edu</a> ) Phone: (619) 849 - 3054 (Bitter) Phone: (619) 849 - 2405 (Butterfield)



Office Information	Location: Culbertson 104 (Bitter) and 105 (Butterfield) Please email to schedule an appointment for office hours!
Class Information	Class Meetings: Mondays 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Class Location: Colt 120
Course Reference List	<b>Required Texts: None</b>
Final Exam	<a href="https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/records/traditional-undergraduate-records">Check the final exam calendar here</a> ( <a href="https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/records/traditional-undergraduate-records">https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/records/traditional-undergraduate-records</a> )

## PLNU Mission

### To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

## Course Description

From the catalog: Open to students of proven ability. Designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project.

## Program and Course Learning Outcomes

You will be able to...

- Examine and appraise psychological literature
- Develop original psychological hypothesis in order to test
- Employ a research design, including data collection, for the purpose of testing the hypothesis
- Examine the hypothesis based on the data obtained with statistical methods
- Evaluate the hypothesis based on statistical findings
- Create a proposal and submit proposal to a regional psychological conference for which to potentially findings from the project



# Course Credit Hour Information

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 4 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 150 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes.

## Assessment and Grading

### Grading Scale

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F < 60
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Your final letter grade will be determined by a variety of assessments of your engagement, knowledge, professionalism, and ability to apply what you have learned. These assessments, and the points associated with them, can be found in the assignments tab in Canvas. Although your base grade will be determined by the overall percentage of points at the end of the semester, your final letter grade will also be raised or lowered based on the course's professionalism rubric.

#### **Consummate Professional (letter grade increase)**

- At least 90% attendance for in-person class meetings
- Always prepared for class
- Always familiar with course policies
- Always kind, respectful, and helpful to all people
- Always pays attention and is on-task during class and lecture
- Team player who demonstrably does more than their fair share of work

#### **Professional (maintains letter grade)**

- At least 90% attendance for in-person class meetings
- Nearly always prepared for class
- Nearly always familiar with course policies
- Nearly always kind, respectful, and helpful to all people
- Nearly always pays attention and is on-task during class and lecture
- Team player who does their fair share of work



### **Unprofessional I (loss of one full letter grade)**

- Less than 90% attendance for in-person class meetings
- Sometimes unprepared for class
- Sometimes unfamiliar with course policies
- Sometimes unkind, disrespectful, or unhelpful to others
- Sometimes does not pay attention or work on-task during class or lecture
- Does less than their fair share of work

### **Unprofessional II (loss of two full letter grades)**

- Less than 80% attendance for in-person class meetings
- Repeatedly unprepared for class
- Repeatedly unfamiliar with course policies
- Repeatedly unkind, disrespectful, or unhelpful to others
- Repeatedly does not pay attention or work on-task during class or lecture
- Does significantly less than their fair share of work

## **PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

### **LATE POLICY**

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances. Late work will be assessed a penalty of 10% per day.

### **FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY**

Successful completion of this class requires participating in the final examination on its scheduled day. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

### **STATE AUTHORIZATION**

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state.



It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on State Authorization to view which states allow distance education outside California.

### **PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY**

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

### **PLNU RECORDING NOTIFICATION**

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel. Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

### **PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY**

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) in this course. Any work that utilizes AI-based tools must be clearly identified as such, including the specific tool(s) used. This means you must cite when using AI, following APA style for your citations. If you do not cite your sources, this is considered plagiarism. Additionally, solely copying AI-produced text without significant modification is also considered plagiarism. AI-generated text must be altered to incorporate your own voice, insights, and understanding. The first time a violation occurs, you will receive a warning; subsequent violations will result in a zero on the assignment. Importantly, all group members must be in unanimous agreement over the use of AI tools.

### **PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.



PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

## **LANGUAGE AND BELONGING**

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality. If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources at [www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination).

## **SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND DISCRIMINATION**

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at [pointloma.edu/Title-IX](http://pointloma.edu/Title-IX). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at [counselingservices@pointloma.edu](mailto:counselingservices@pointloma.edu) or find a list of campus pastors at [pointloma.edu/title-ix](http://pointloma.edu/title-ix).

## **CHANGE IN SYLLABUS OR SCHEDULE**

It is possible that we will make modifications to the syllabus or schedule during the semester. If this occurs, we will make an announcement by email, in class, or both.



# Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Sun Sep 7, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 1: Groundwork for Research</a> ( <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226180">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226180</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 14, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 2: Hypothesis Draft</a> ( <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226181">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226181</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 21, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 3: Study Design</a> ( <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226182">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226182</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 28, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 4: IRB Proposal Submission</a> ( <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226183">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226183</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 5, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 5: Data Collection Preparation</a> ( <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226184">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226184</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 12, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 6: Data Collection</a> ( <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226185">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226185</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 19, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 7: Power Analysis and Continued Data Collection</a> ( <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226186">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226186</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 26, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 8: Continued Data Collection 2</a> ( <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226187">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226187</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 2, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 9: Continued Data Collection 3</a>	due by 11:59pm



Date	Details	Due
	<a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226188">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226188</a> 	
Sun Nov 9, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 10: Cleaning Your Data Set and Prepping for Analysis</a> <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226174">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226174</a>	due by 11:59pm
		
Sun Nov 16, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 11: Data Analysis and Documentation</a> <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226175">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226175</a>	due by 11:59pm
		
Sun Nov 23, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 12: Abstract Draft</a> <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226176">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226176</a>	due by 11:59pm
		
Sun Nov 30, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 13: Presenting Your Results</a> <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226177">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226177</a>	due by 11:59pm
		
Sun Dec 7, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 14: Self Evaluation</a> <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226178">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226178</a>	due by 11:59pm
		
Sun Dec 14, 2025	 <a href="#">Week 15: Submitting Your Abstract (Final Exam)</a> <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226179">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226179</a>	due by 11:59pm
		
	 <a href="#">Roll Call Attendance</a> <a href="https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226173">https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/80661/assignments/1226173</a>	
		

