

Course Syllabus

Basic Course Information

	Department of Psychology PSY 4099: Research in Psychology 1-4 Units
Fall 2026 Course meetings will consist of weekly individual and/or small group meetings with Dr. Lorona. Meetings will take place in Dr. Lorona's office or another agreed upon space. Meeting time TBD based on availability of student/faculty Final Exam: Submission of your final assignment, due by 5pm on December 14, 2026	

Basic Professor Information

Instructor: Rosemond T. Lorona, Ph.D.
Phone: 619.849. 3305 Email (preferred): rlorona@pointloma.edu (mailto:rlorona@pointloma.edu) I welcome your questions and would enjoy hearing from you throughout the semester. I will give prompt email replies as I am able during the work day, but there may be times when I am not available for a quick response, such as weekends and evenings.
Office: Culbertson Hall 214



Office Hours are times that students can ask the professor questions, get help on assignments, review past work, or seek advice. You can drop by my office without an appointment during these times.

Mondays 12:30-1:30, 2:30-3:30pm; Fridays 8:30-9:30am

Additional office hours available by appointment. Use my calendar to book a time with me: [Go to calendar.](https://calendar.app.google/R2VyQXbRkq1nwrCz6)
(<https://calendar.app.google/R2VyQXbRkq1nwrCz6>)

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

Open to students of proven ability. Designed for students to undertake a significant self-initiated research project. May be repeated up to a total of twelve units.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Effectively read, evaluate, and respond to high quality peer-reviewed research
2. Communicate research findings in verbal and written form (using APA style)
3. Complete an empirical study and/or literature review that answers a research question of interest

REQUIRED TEXT

Learning Statistics with R, version 0.7. by Danielle Navarro.

Download for free at <https://learningstatisticswithr.com>

RECOMMENDED TEXT

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th Ed.)

ISBN-13: 978-1433832161; ISBN-10: 143383216X

Required Technology

RStudio, newest version (free)

First, download R (base program) on your personal laptop for free at <https://www.r-project.org/> and then download RStudio for free at <https://www.rstudio.com/>



If you are having trouble downloading the necessary technology, please contact IT to discuss options.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

This is a variable-unit course delivered over 15 weeks. Much of this course is independent study and is student directed. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. So, for example, if a student is taking 4 units of this course, students will spend an estimated 150 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. Dedicating adequate time to your learning will help you succeed and produce quality research. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

COURSE OPTIONS

When choosing from the following options, it is critical to consider

- How many semesters you would like the project to take
 - More time/semesters spent on a project will increase its depth. Some types of research will require a longer timeline than others.
- Your interests
 - Because this is an advanced and independent study course, your interests should guide your endeavor and you will have more ownership of the project.
 - My boundaries are that the topic must be somehow related to mental health stigma, prejudice, emotion, and/or religion/spirituality.
- Your goals
 - You may be considering graduate school in psychology, but not all programs are equal in emphasis and competitiveness. Now is the time to tailor your work goals to your specific needs and graduate school application.
 - We will plan to have at least one meeting this semester focused on your professional goals and tailoring a CV.

Option 1: Conference Poster (2+ semesters)

Student will spend one semester developing an idea, completing IRB review, collecting data, and applying to a regional or national conference in psychology. Students will spend the following semester creating a poster and attending the conference. Additionally, students will 1) write an APA-style paper of their study and/or 2) collect data for a follow-up study to include on the poster. This timeline could shift depending on the deadlines of the specific conference.

Option 2: Review Paper (1 semester)



Student will spend one semester reading research on a specific topic for review. The review will be systematic (thorough). The area of review should be something novel and meaningful. The area should not be so underrepresented in the literature that there are no articles to review, but not so thoroughly researched that there are already published systematic reviews and meta-analyses on the topic. The student will write a ~6,000 word paper that synthesizes the research and proposes limitations and areas for future research. If desired, the student can submit the article for publication or use the review as a basis for an empirical study (i.e. combine with option 1).

Combination of above options (2+ semesters)

Student may pursue a combination of the above options. For example, a student may complete a review paper one semester and then propose a new study and collect data the following semester. Student can also work in research partners/teams if topics of interest match up and the work is evenly distributed.

*Students have until **the end of the first week of school** to choose one of the above options and talk to Dr. Lorona in person or via email outlining their basic goals for the semester. Dr. Lorona will work individually with students to set meetings and deadlines based on the option the student has chosen.*

Course Policies and Expectations

- It is expected that you will dedicate adequate time to this course (see credit hour information). We will not have exams, but the quality and publishability of your work will depend on your dedication and depth of knowledge.
- We will have standing weekly meetings, to be determined at the beginning of the semester. I expect your attendance at all meetings because this is considered our class time. If you are unable to meet at the scheduled time, please notify me at least 12 hours in advance.
- Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. Students who miss 15+ minutes of class may be counted absent. If the student is absent for more than 10% of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20%, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade. See Academic Policies in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.
- You are expected to complete coursework on your own unless otherwise specified. Early on, we will establish student partnerships and division of work. The first or primary author may have more responsibilities on a given project.
- I expect that we will be in frequent communication. If you have questions, I expect that you will seek answers from me or other trustworthy sources. If you are struggling with something (analyses



understanding an article, submitting work, etc), please do not hesitate to contact me!

- One freebee – students can exchange their freebee for a one-week extension on one deadline (does not apply to conference deadlines or final end-of-semester deadlines, as those are beyond my control).
- You may submit work early or ahead of scheduled deadlines.
- You are responsible for all content/material that is found on Canvas, including announcements.
- No audio or video recordings of class/meetings are permitted without written consent of the instructor.
- I prefer that you send work to me via email. Work submitted to me should be in .doc or .docx file types only (unless otherwise specified). PDF is not as useful for the purpose of using tracked changes for detailed feedback on writing. If turning in work on Canvas, the student is responsible for making sure Canvas files work and go through Turnitin. Files that do not work or can't go through Turnitin will be considered late until the problem is rectified.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Grade Expectations

Grade Earned	Goals and Deadlines	Professionalism – positive attitude, helps fellow students in the lab as needed, incorporates feedback into revisions, attends meetings and is prepared by having completed applicable readings or assignments
A	100% of semester goals met by (or before) set deadlines	Excellent attitude and teamwork; makes required revisions with each draft of work; attends and is prepared for every meeting (or does not attend/is not prepared for a maximum of 2 scheduled meetings)
A-	100% of semester goals met by (or before) set deadlines	Needs improvement in one area from above
B+	100% of semester goals met by (or before) set deadlines	Needs improvement in multiple areas from above
B	Almost all (85%) of semester goals met by (or before) set deadlines	Excellent attitude and teamwork; makes required revisions with each draft of work; attends and is prepared for every meeting

		(or does not attend/is not prepared for a maximum of 2 scheduled meetings)
B-	Almost all (85%) of semester goals met by (or before) set deadlines	Needs improvement in one area
C+	Almost all (85%) of semester goals met by (or before) set deadlines	Needs improvement in multiple areas
C	Several semester goals (70%) met by (or before) set deadlines	Excellent attitude and teamwork; makes required revisions with each draft of work; attends and is prepared for every meeting (or does not attend/is not prepared for a maximum of 2 scheduled meetings)
C-	Several semester goals (70%) met by (or before) set deadlines	Needs improvement in one or more areas
D	Half of semester goals (50%) met by (or before) set deadlines	Needs improvement in one or more areas
F	Less than half of semester goals met by (or before) set deadlines	Needs improvement in one or more areas

Students will be graded based on whether they succeeded in completing work by the deadlines set in the beginning of the semester. Deadlines may be flexible depending on uncontrollable circumstances or student needs. In such cases, documentation of changed deadlines should be maintained by sending Dr. Lorona an email. Students will also be graded on the extent to which they attend meetings and are prepared for meetings (such as by completing necessary readings or assignments), maintain a positive attitude, help fellow students as needed or requested, and incorporate feedback into revisions. In cases where multiple students are working on one project, students will also assess professionalism of each other.



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.

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 \(https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-educational-effectiveness/disclosures\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-educational-effectiveness/disclosures) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

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. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See Academic Policies (<https://catalog.pointloma.edu/index.php>) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further information.

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) to generate ideas (brainstorming) or as a learning tool, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. In other words, you may not submit work created by AI, as it is not your work. This course is designed to assess your independent critical thinking, writing, and research skills without the assistance of AI technologies. Submitting work created by AI will be treated as academic dishonesty. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

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, by email or phone at 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 approved 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 approved accommodations in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive; as such, 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-related need should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. In accordance with ADA, accommodations cannot constitute a fundamental alteration to course outcomes; therefore, planning ahead is vital in establishing appropriate accommodations for equal access to this course. 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 eligibility 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.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or [the Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/spiritual-development).

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TITLE IX OFFICE

If you or someone you know would like help related to an experience of sexual violence including sexual assault, harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or other type of non-consensual sexual conduct, please contact the Title IX Coordinator at PLNU, Danielle Brown Friberg (619-849-2313). Reporting is also available on the Title IX website. The Title IX office understands the sensitive nature of these situations and can provide information about available on- and off-campus resources. Staff members at the office will also explain your rights and the judicial process options, if you choose to file a complaint. If you or someone you know feels unsafe or may be in imminent danger, please call the PLNU Department of Public Safety (619-849-2525) or local police department (9-1-1) immediately.

STUDENT SUCCESS & WELLNESS

If you or someone you know would like help related to a physical or mental health problem, (e.g., depression, anxiety, difficulty focusing on school or managing daily needs, grief, trauma resolution, sleep or eating changes, etc.), and/or would like academic assistance, please contact the appropriate office using the following information.

- Counseling Services (619) 849-3020; counselingservices@pointloma.edu (<mailto:counselingservices@pointloma.edu>)
- Educational Access Center 619-849-2533; eac@pointloma.edu (<mailto:eac@pointloma.edu>)
- Medical Services 619-849-2280; sdwellnesscenter@pointloma.edu (<mailto:sdwellnesscenter@pointloma.edu>)
- Tutorial Services 619-849-2953; tutorialservices@pointloma.edu (<mailto:tutorialservices@pointloma.edu>)
- [Loma Writing Center](https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center) (<https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center>): first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221; writingcenter@pointloma.edu (<mailto:writingcenter@pointloma.edu>)



ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

Individual students will need to keep track of their individual course plan and deadlines. These will be communicated during our weekly meetings.

