This goal of this course is to introduce you to research methods in psychology with a focus on developmental approaches. Our emphasis will be on the applying the scientific method in the design and execution of successful studies in developmental psychology.

**When:** W 7:00-9:50 PM  
**Where:** Judd 113  
**Office hours:** W 4-5, Th 1:05-2:05, and by appointment  
**Office:** Judd Hall 304  
**Email:** mschug@wesleyan.edu

**COURSE READINGS**  
Additional readings will be available on e-Reserve and/or Moodle.

**POLICIES**  
If you are to miss a deadline you must contact me before class time on the due date. The only acceptable excuse for missing deadlines is a medical emergency. If you are unable to provide documentation for serious illness from the Wesleyan Health Services, you will lose 2-5 points for each day an assignment is late.

Plagiarism is unacceptable in any form and will result in a failing grade for the assignment, course, or both. All plagiarism will be reported to the Wesleyan Honor Board and may result in additional academic consequences. In addition to copying ideas and text from published authors, plagiarism includes copying from online sources and classmates. **Cite all authors, even those online, and always use quotes when quoting.**

Write your emails as if you were in a professional context: This class is your job and I am your boss. Emails should start with a formal greeting, end with a formal closing, and ask for only information that is not available elsewhere.

**CLASS STRUCTURE**  
During class we’ll have some lectures in which I discuss methods and describe classic studies in developmental psychology. You will frequently be assigned to work in small groups on in-class exercises. We will always have one break in
which we may choose to have snacks. Once you are working on your research projects, you will have some class time to work with your groups.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

Participation: 40 points: Points will be given for completing assigned readings, and participating in class discussion and activities. Attendance is assumed. You cannot receive an A in this class without attending, participating and reading.

Homework Assignments: 30 points (3 assignments, 10 points each)

Written Assignments: 80 points (2 papers)

Group Presentation: 50 points (25-30 minutes, plus question/answer session)

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND RESEARCH PRESENTATION**

Written Assignment 1: Write a review of the literature on a topic of interest and propose future research based on that review. 50 points.

Written Assignment 2: Write an application for approval from the IRB for the study you will collect data on in your final project (group project). 30 points.

Group Presentation: You will design a questionnaire with your group. You will then collect original data, analyze the data, and present your findings.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services can be found at: [http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html](http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html)

**Student athletes:** If you anticipate a game-related conflict, please communicate with me about it by February 15th.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES**

To succeed in this class you need to attend all sessions and complete all assigned readings. You are responsible for all of the material covered in both lecture and the readings. I will not lecture on every topic that is in the text, and I will lecture on topics not covered in the text.
COURSE TOPICS, READINGS AND SCHEDULE

Below are reading and assignment deadlines, as well as lecture topics. The lecture topics can be somewhat flexible, to accommodate class interests and needs. Deadlines and reading assignments are not flexible.

January 30th
Course Introduction and Understanding Behavior
Read: Chapter 1

February 6th
Getting Started and Survey Research
Read: Chapters 2 and 7

February 12th
Homework 1, Survey Selection, due at 5PM via email

February 13th
Ethics in Research
Read: Chapter 3 and complete on-line ethics training and bring certificate: http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php

February 20th
Studying Behavior and Measurement Concepts
Read: Chapters 4 & 5

February 26th
Homework 2, Observations in Middletown, due at 5PM via email

March 6th
Designing and Conducting Experiments, Guest Speaker
Read: Chapters 8 & 9

March 8th
Written Assignment 1 due at 5PM via email

March 27th
Stimuli Preparation, Coding and Complex Design
Read: Chapter 10

March 28th
Homework 3, Caregiver Interviews, due at 5PM via email
April 3rd
*Unusual Research Approaches & Understanding Results*
Read: Chapters 11, 12 & Dunham, et al., 2011

**April 4th**
**Written Assignment 2 due at 5PM via email**

April 10th
*Writing and Presenting Research Reports*
Read: Appendix A & APA sections

April 17th
*Statistical Tests Interpretation and Generalizing Results*
Read: Chapters 13 & 14

April 24th
*Statistical Analysis and Presentation Design*

May 1st
*Grant Writing and Applying Research, Lab Tour*

May 8th
*Group Presentations and Course Conclusions*