

## **HUSC/PSYC 203**

### **Research Methods in the Behavioral Sciences**

3 Credits

## Community College of Baltimore County Common Course Outline

### **Description**

**HUSC/PSYC 203 – Research Methods in the Behavioral Sciences:** includes an overview of research methodologies in the social and behavioral sciences such as qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research. Students apply the fundamental understanding of research methodology to academic writing and responsible consumption of published research.

**Pre-requisites:** ENGL 101 and MATH 153 or equivalent

### **Overall Course Objectives**

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

1. discuss the ethical and legal responsibilities of researchers in the behavioral sciences;
2. formulate research questions appropriate to solve an identified problem;
3. prepare a literature review on a topic relevant to the behavioral sciences;
4. evaluate the strengths and weaknesses a research study in the behavioral sciences;
5. describe the role of reliability and validity in understanding and interpreting research reports;
6. apply qualitative research methodologies to address a behavioral sciences research question;
7. demonstrate a variety of qualitative and quantitative data collection strategies;
8. explore diversity and equity issues that are relevant within ethical research;
9. design a hypothetical research study; and
10. write a research proposal in American Psychological Association (APA) format.

### **Major Topics**

- I. Research ethics and foundational studies
- II. Participants' rights and researchers' responsibilities
- III. Designing the research study
- IV. Reviewing the literature
- V. Research methodologies: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed
- VI. Evaluating research outcomes (reliability, validity, and generalizability)
- VII. Review of descriptive and inferential statistics
- VIII. Data collection strategies: qualitative and quantitative
- IX. Writing about research
- X. Critiquing research

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.  
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

## **Course Requirements**

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Two written article critiques, minimum 3 pages in length
- Two assignments in which students collect data (one qualitative and one quantitative)
- One research proposal, minimum 5 pages in length
- One research presentation

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

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