Introduction to Research Methods Section 05

PSYC 18

Fall 2024   3 Unit(s)   08/21/2024 to 12/09/2024   Modified 08/26/2024

👤 Contact Information

Professor Desiree Ryan

Email (Best way to contact me): desiree.ryan@sjsu.edu

Office/Visiting Hours: Tuesdays, 10:30 am - 11:30 am & 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm, or by appointment

Office Location: DMH 316

🕐 Course Information

Course Meeting Day/Time: Tues/Thurs 3:00pm – 4:15pm

Location: DMH 347

💻 Course Description and Requisites

Psychological research methods and design (experimental, quasi-experimental [correlational], and descriptive investigations) covering observation, instrumentation, and the collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of research data as illustrated through a review of original research in a variety of the subdisciplines of psychology.

Prerequisite: PSYC 001, and STAT 95.

Letter Graded

✱ Classroom Protocols

Inclusivity and Engagement Principles: We will co-create a classroom environment that is inclusive and welcoming to everyone. I expect each of you to regard each other with the utmost respect while we all put ourselves "out there" to answer or ask questions and discuss ideas. If you feel I or your peers are not meeting these principles, please let me know immediately.

Accessibility: I aim to make our learning community as accessible as possible. This means that I will provide accessible materials and create opportunities for different kinds of classroom engagement. If course materials are inaccessible, or you experience a barrier to participating in class, please bring this to my attention, and I will gladly work with you to ensure accessibility. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access to this course, please visit the [Accessible Education Center (https://www.sjsu.edu/aec/)](https://www.sjsu.edu/aec/). Additionally, please get in touch with me privately during my office hours or by appointment, preferably during the first few weeks of the semester, so I can ensure your needs are being met.

Academic Integrity: All submitted work must be your own original work and produced exclusively for this course. Academic integrity includes following exam and paper rules, using only permitted materials during an exam, keeping what you know about an exam to yourself, incorporating proper citation of all sources of information, and only submitting your own original work. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented.

The use of AI (e.g., ChatGPT) at any stage of course assessments is prohibited. For example, students may not use AI to generate ideas, guide paper writing, or construct sentences, paragraphs, or full papers. Violations will taken seriously and may result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or the course. I cannot guide you in developing your critical thinking and writing skills if you use AI during this course.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, disclosing exam content during or after you have taken an exam, accessing exam materials without permission, copying/purchasing any material from another student, or from another source, that is submitted for grading as your own, and plagiarism such as using internet material without proper citation.

To review the consequences of academic misconduct, please refer to: https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct. Again, violations will be taken seriously and may result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or the course. If you have any questions, please talk with me before completing an assignment.

Distribution of Lecture Notes and Other Course Materials: All materials in this course are the intellectual property of their creators. As a student, you have access to many of the materials in the course for the purpose of learning, engaging with your classmates, and completing assignments. You have a moral and legal obligation to respect the rights of others by only using course materials for purposes associated with the course. You are not permitted to share, upload, stream, sell, republish, share the login information for, or otherwise disseminate any of the course materials, including video and audio files, assignment prompts, slides, notes, syllabus, simulations, datasets, discussion threads.

Please note that teaching and learning is an iterative process, and as such, the course schedule and other syllabus content (e.g., exam question format) may shift as we progress through the semester.

Program Information

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the Psychology BA degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs. The PLOs for the Psychology BA degree are:

1. Knowledge Base of Psychology. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
2. Research Methods in Psychology. Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.
3. Critical Thinking Skills. Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.
4. Applications of Psychology. Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.
   Values in Psychology. Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

CLO #1: Distinguish between empirical and non-empirical research.

CLO #2: Describe the different psychological research methods, understand when to apply each, and discuss the pros and cons of each.

CLO #3: Apply course concepts to current social issues.

CLO #4: Build the skills to navigate PsycINFO and collect relevant literature.

CLO #5: Write a research proposal in APA style.

Course Materials

Course Textbook: We will be using the following textbook for this course:

Morling, B. (2020). *Research methods in psychology: Evaluating a world of information.* W. Norton & Company. 4th Edition.

If the textbook price is inaccessible to you, please utilize one of the two copies I have put on reserve at the library.

Course Website: Course information and materials will be posted on the course Canvas page.

Course Requirements and Assignments

- **Midterm and Final (45 points in total):** There will be one midterm (20 points) and one final (25 points). Each exam will include multiple-choice, true-false, and short-answer essay questions. Concepts covered in the exam will include lecture, textbook, and group activity material.

- **Research Proposal (20 points):** You will write one 3-4 page research proposal worth 20 points answering a research question of your choice. Your proposal must include a research method discussed in this course. Proposals will include the following sections: Title Page, Abstract, short literature review, current study, research question and hypothesis, and methodology. More details, including a grading rubric, will be given in class.

- **Three Quizzes (15 points):** Three quizzes will be given to keep you on track and assess mastery of the course material (please see the Course Schedule for quiz dates). Each quiz will be worth 5 points (3 quizzes x 5 points each = 15 points).

- **Group Activities/Participation (10 points):** Throughout the semester, I will have you break into groups and work on an activity that will apply course concepts. These activities will total 10 points.

✔ Grading Information

Grading Breakdown:

93-100% A	87-89% B+	80-82% B-	70-76% C
90-92% A-	83-86% B	77-79% C+	60-69%

Late Policy: To ensure you are current with course information and content, it is crucial to submit assignments on time. If you need to miss a quiz, exam, or group activity, please email me or see me during office hours to discuss options and late penalties. Late papers will be accepted up to one week after the original deadline for partial credit. If you submit a late paper, please email me to let me know.

🏛 University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (PDF) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance,

counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

📅 Course Schedule

I. Introduction to Scientific Reasoning			
Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Due Date
Week 1	Thurs, 8/22	Welcome & Overview of the Course	No Reading
Week 2	Tues, 8/27	Psychological Ways of Thinking	Chapter 1
	Thurs, 8/29	Sources of Information	Chapter 2
Week 3	Tues, 9/3	Three Claims, Four Validities	Chapter 3
	Thurs, 9/5	Three Claims, Four Validities Cont'd	Chapter 3 Cont'd
II. Research Foundations for Any Claim			
Week 4	Tues, 9/10	Ethical Guidelines for Psychological Research	No Reading Quiz #1
	Thurs, 9/12	Identifying Good Measurement	Chapter 5

Week 5	Tues, 9/17	Identifying Good Measurement Con't	Chapter 5 Con't Last Day to Drop Courses without an Entry on Student's Permanent Record; Last Day to Add Courses & Register Late
	III. & IV. Tools for Evaluating Frequency & Association Claims		
	Thurs, 9/19	Survey and Observations	Chapter 6
Week 6	Tues, 9/24	Sampling	Chapter 7
	Thurs, 9/26	Library visit	No Reading
Week 7	Tues, 10/1	Bivariate Correlational Research	Chapter 8
	Thurs,10/3	Bivariate Correlational Research	Chapter 8 Cont'd Quiz #2
Week 8	Tues,10/8	Multivariate Correlational Research	Chapter 9
	Thurs, 10/10	Multivariate Correlational Research	Chapter 9
	V. Tools for Evaluating Causal Claims		
Week 9	Tues, 10/15	Midterm	Midterm
	Thurs, 10/17	Simple Experiments	Ch. 10

Week 10	Tues, 10/22	Simple Experiments Con't	Ch. 10 Cont'd
	Thurs, 10/24	Simple Experiments Con't	Ch. 10 Cont'd
Week 11	Tues, 10/29	Experiments: Confounding and Obscuring Variables	Ch. 11
	Thurs, 10/31	Experiments: Confounding and Obscuring Variables Con't	Ch. 11 Cont'd
Week 12	Tues, 11/5	Experiments: Confounding and Obscuring Variables Con't	Ch. 11 Cont'd
	Thurs, 11/7	Experiments with Multiple IVs	Ch. 12 Quiz #3
Week 13	Tues, 11/12	Experiments with Multiple IVs Cont'd	Ch. 12 Cont'd
	Thurs, 11/14	Experiments with Multiple IVs Cont'd	Ch. 12 Cont'd
VI. Balancing Research Priorities			
Week 14	Tues, 11/19	Quasi-Experiments	Ch. 13
	Thurs, 11/21	Small-*N* Designs	Ch. 13 Con't
Week 15	Tues, 11/26	Paper Peer Review Assignment	

	Thurs, 11/28 Holiday	No Class	No Class
Week 16	Tues, 12/3	Qualitative Research Methods	Paper Due
	Thurs, 12/5	Applications and Real World Implications; Course Wrap-Up	Ch. 14
Finals Week	Mon, 12/16 7:15am - 9:30am	Final	Final