Research Methods

Last Updated: Thu, 08/14/2025

Course prefix: PSYC

Course number: 2015

Section: A

CRN (you may add up to five):
31056

Instructor First Name: Eunbee

Instructor Last Name: Kim

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2025

Course description:

Introduction to methods used in conducting research on human behavior. Experimental research is emphasized, but the course also covers other research methods and some statistics.

This course provides a fundamental understanding of major issues in designing, analyzing, and publishing research. Students will learn about the ethical principles of research, including what is and is not possible in human psychological research, as well as different research approaches.

Prerequisites: PSYC 1101 & Statistics

Course learning outcomes:

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Create testable hypotheses and design a study to address these hypotheses
- Frame the problem with the correct research methodology
- Collect data that accurately addresses the research questions
- Use data to make informed decisions
- Read and critically evaluate empirical research papers as an informed, critical consumer
- Demonstrate writing skills by drafting a research proposal in APA format
- Understand what is necessary for ethical scientific research

- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of a variety of research designs
- Develop abilities to work as part of a research team

Required course materials:

Prerequisites

- PSYC 1101
- Statistics (one of the following):
  - PSYC 2020
  - MATH 3215
  - MATH 3670
  - CEE 3770
  - ISYE 3770
  - ISYE 2028

Textbook and Other Materials

- Lewandowski, G. W., Ciarocco, N. J., & Strohmetz, D. B. (2019). *Discovering the scientist within: Research methods in psychology* (3rd edition). Macmillan Learning.
- [Optional] Jhangiani, R. S., Chiang, I. C. A., Cuttler, C., & Leighton, D. C. (2019). *Research methods in psychology* (4th edition). Kwantlen Polytechnic University.
- Morling, B. (2021). *Research methods in psychology* (4th edition). New York: Norton. ISBN: 978-0-393-89370-0
- Pajo, B. (2022). *Introduction to Research Methods: A Hands-on Approach* (2nd edition). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.
- [Optional] Free online textbooks for statistics:
  - https://onlinestatbook.com/index.html
  - https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/559
  - https://ethanweed.github.io/pythonbook/landingpage.htm

Grading policy:

Assessment of Learning

- **Lecture Attendance**: 100 points (10%)
- **In-Class Activity/Homework**: 100 points (10%)
- **Three Article Quizzes**: 150 points (15%)
  - 50 points each × 3
- **Ed Discussion**: 100 points (10%)
- **Lab Assignments/Project**: 200 points (20%)
- **Exam 1**: 100 points (10%)

- **Exam 2**: 100 points (10%)
- **Final**: 150 points (15%)

Total Points: 1000 points (100%)

For each section, the earned points will be proportionally converted based on the rubric's weighting. For example, if you earn 95 out of 100 possible points for Lab Assignments/Projects, this score will be scaled to 190 out of 200 points according to the rubric.

Attendance policy:

Lecture Attendance

From past experience teaching various courses, we have found a strong statistical relationship between class attendance and overall course performance. To that end, attendance will be counted as a small part of the course grade to help students perform better overall.

Beginning on the second week of class, attendance will be taken at all lecture sessions. To receive points, students are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire class period. Arriving more than five minutes late, leaving class early, or acting in a disruptive manner during class will forfeit the points. Students must attend the lecture for which they are officially registered to earn attendance points.

This attendance policy is designed to promote class participation; therefore, no makeups will be permitted under any circumstances, and no absences will be classified as "excused" without official documentation. However, to accommodate valid reasons for missing class, students can still earn full attendance points even with up to two absences without documentation.

Attendance will be strictly monitored, and points for a session will be annulled for the entire class if the number of respondents exceeds the total number of students present on that day. Please do not have another student sign in for you, and do not sign in for another student.

Class disruptions of **ANY** kind will **NOT** be tolerated and may result in removal from the classroom and/or loss of participation points for that day. Please show courtesy to your fellow classmates and your instructor or teaching assistant by adhering to the following rules:

- Come to class on time and stay for the entire class period.
- Refrain from conversing with your fellow students.
- Put away any reading materials, cellular phones, and other electronic devices unrelated to the course.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Lecture Attendance

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- Put away any reading materials, cell phones, or electronic devices unrelated to the course.

Academic Integrity

All work for this class is to be done individually. You are strongly urged to familiarize yourselves with the GT Student Honor Code.

Specifically, the following is not allowed:

- Copying, with or without modification, someone else's work when this work is not meant to be publicly accessible (e.g., a classmate's program or solution).
- Submitting material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person, without adequate credit (plagiarism).

- Making your projects publicly accessible online. If another student copies your work—even in the future—you may still be held responsible under the honor code.

Zero Tolerance Policy on Cheating and AI Assistance (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini)

We maintain a strict zero-tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty, including the use of ChatGPT and other AI tools. Any student found using AI to complete assignments, quizzes, or exams will be reported immediately, receive a grade of zero for the submission, and risk a final grade of F.

Disability Accommodations

If you require any accommodation due to a disability, please inform the instructor at the beginning of the course to ensure that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

PSYC 2015 Research Methods

This is a **Core IMPACTS** course that is part of the *Social Sciences* area. Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course is designed not only to help students master the content, but also to support their broader academic and career goals.

Orienting Question:
How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Learning Outcome:
Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Career-Ready Competencies Developed:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion