

American University of Beirut
Department of Psychology

Fall 2017-2018

Psyc 282: Research Design in Psychology

Section 1: Nicely 325, TTR 9:30-10:45 @ **Section 2:** Nicely 325, TTR 11:00-12:15

You must attend your section. Absolutely no exceptions.

Instructor: Jihane Ghorayeb, M.A, MSc.

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Office: Jesup 108

Office hours: TR 12:15-1:15 or by
appointment

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**Course Description**

This course is the first part of the core research requirements for undergraduates in psychology. It introduces you to the basic concepts in research methods and statistical analyses for psychological research. This course provides you with a solid foundation in the basic research methods and statistical analyses that will be needed for Psyc 284 and Psyc 290. Moreover, this course teaches you how to develop and write a proposal to conduct psychological research, consistent with the Style Manual of the American Psychological Association. This course used to be entitled "Research Methods and Statistical Analyses I" and numbered Psyc 213. Its learning outcomes have not changed, however.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon the successful completion of this course, you will be able to\*:

- a. argue that psychology is an empirical, natural science;
- b. argue that psychology is an empirical science that can be clearly delineated from pseudoscience;
- c. demonstrate critical-thinking behavior and objectivity with psychological knowledge;
- d. demonstrate critical-thinking behavior and objectivity towards authority;
- e. identify the main research designs and approaches in psychological research;
- f. have excellent command of the ethical principles outlined in the APA Code of Ethics;
- g. have developed the skills needed to design simple yet effective experiments to test hypotheses;
- h. have a rigorous understanding of independent and dependent variables;
- i. have a rigorous understanding of threats to validity and techniques that control them;
- j. demonstrate skills in evaluating empirical evidence respectfully and professionally;
- k. have experience in searching the literature, including the use of relevant online data sources such as PsychInfo and the library catalogue and databases;
- l. and have developed some skills in writing effective and rigorous academic research projects, including research proposals.

\*View program learning outcomes on **page 5**.

## Textbooks

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Washington, DC: Author. [Available in the bookstore and the reference section in Jafet]

Christensen, L.B., Johnson, R.B., & Turner, L.A. (2015). *Research methods, design, and analysis* (12<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson. [Available in the bookstore]

## Requirements and Grade Distribution

Please refer to the course plan (on page 4), which lists the chapters and assignments scheduled for each class meeting.

**Exams (60% of the final grade):** There will be two one-hour exams. These exams will not be cumulative. They will consist of short-answer, matching, multiple-choice, and/or true-or-false questions. **The Midterm and Final exams will be each worth 30%.**

**Research Critique (5% of the final grade):** The critique consists of:

- ★ A **summary** of a research study: brief description of the study; its purpose, procedures, findings, and conclusions that were drawn from the results;
- ★ An **evaluation** of the study: considering the purpose and experimental design of the study, you will evaluate the conclusion made by the authors in terms of the internal, external, and construct validity of the study.

**Proposal-Related Assignments (10% of the final grade):** There will be three written assignments designed to lead up to the final proposal. The requirements and particulars of an assignment will be provided two or three days prior to its deadline.

- ★ Assignment 1: Ethics certificate (CITI), proposal topic, and list of references (worth 1%)
- ★ Assignment 2: Literature Review in Progress Part 1 (worth 2%)
- ★ Assignment 3: Literature Review in Progress Part 2 (worth 3%)
- ★ Assignment 4: Draft of the Aims and Hypotheses (worth 2%)
- ★ Assignment 5: Draft of the Method Section (worth 2%)

**Assignments will be scored as follows:**

- ★ Zero for late or poorly completed assignments
- ★ Partial credit for satisfactory completions
- ★ Full credit for excellent completions ← you can easily achieve this if you follow my instructions and work on the assignment well before its deadline

## Requirements and Grade Distribution (continued)

**Research Proposal (20% of the final grade):** One of the primary objectives of this course is to learn to draft a proposal for a research project, which you can later conduct in Psyc 290, if you choose to take it. The proposal consists of an exhaustive review of the literature, a proposed method, and a description of projected results. It has to be written in accordance with the APA Manual.

**More detailed requirements and particulars of these components (research proposal and its related assignments) will be provided later in the course. In addition to printouts, electronic submissions will be required through turnitin (available on Moodle) for the proposal and some assignments. Please note:**

- Plagiarism will earn you a grade of zero and will lead to disciplinary action.
- Please plan to submit your assignment/proposal with all its requirements (printed and turnitin submissions) **on time**.
- Incomplete, emailed, and/or late submissions are penalized (5% per violation per day).
- Assignments/proposals are not accepted and are automatically marked as zero if submitted more than 72 hours after the deadline.

**Participation (5% of the final grade):** There will be several class presentations of research articles and sections of chapters, and discussion-based class meetings during the semester, including Kiva discussions and group presentations. I will announce most of them at least two days in advance. In addition to participating in special discussion-based classes, you are required to contribute to regular class discussions ← you can easily achieve this by coming to class prepared to answer or ask questions relating to the material we will cover.

**Attendance (points deducted for absences):** I take attendance and take note of student participation in every lecture. **You cannot afford to miss any classes in this course.** One point (1%) will be **deducted** from your final grade in the course for every three absences. Arriving late to class is considered a “half absence”. Please come to class on time for every session. **You will be asked to drop the course if you miss six or more sessions in the semester or 3.5 sessions by November 19.**

### **Please take note of the following:**

1. I have no tolerance for corruption. You are expected to be good citizens; i.e., fulfill your responsibilities, most of which are outlined in this syllabus, to the best of your ability.
2. You are urged to attend the lectures and, more importantly, to participate in class discussion. One way to ensure adequate, positive participation would be to come to class prepared to answer or ask questions relating to the material we will cover.
3. Please be in class on time.
4. Attending means you are not only physically present, but also fully engaged in the class, and not your cell phone, iPad, laptop, book for another course, and the like – such non-282 related engagement will be considered an absence.
5. Arriving late to class counts as half an absence.
6. If you miss a lecture, please obtain notes from a classmate. As classmates, please be cooperative with one another. Exchange contact info of at least two classmates. You are responsible for the material and announcements that are made in lectures you have missed.

## Tentative Course Plan

This semester spans from August 30 through December 07.

The last day to withdraw from courses is November 24.

The reading period is December 8-11.

| Week | Date   | Material                                                                   | Assessment         |
|------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1    | Aug 31 | Introduction to the course                                                 |                    |
| 2    | Sep 7  | Chapters 1, 4, additional readings on research ethics                      |                    |
| 3    | Sep 14 | Chs 4, 16, additional material on APA manual, and E-Class in Jafet Library | *Assignment 1a due |
| 4    | Sep 21 | Chapter 2                                                                  |                    |
| 5    | Sep 28 | Chapter 3                                                                  | *Assignment 1b due |
| 6    | Oct 5  | Chapter 5                                                                  |                    |
| 7    | Oct 12 | Chapter 6                                                                  | *Assignment 2 due  |
| 8    | Oct 19 | Chapter 7                                                                  |                    |
| 9    | Oct 26 | Chapter 8                                                                  | <b>**Midterm</b>   |
| 10   | Nov 2  | Chapter 9                                                                  | *Assignment 3 due  |
| 11   | Nov 9  | Chapters 11, 12                                                            |                    |
| 12   | Nov 16 | Chapters 11, 12                                                            | Assignment 4&5     |
| 13   | Nov 23 | Chapter 14                                                                 |                    |
| 14   | Nov 30 | Chapter 15                                                                 |                    |
| 15   | Dec 5  | Q&A before the Final                                                       | *Research Critique |
|      |        | <b>**Final Exam (TBA, during finals week)</b>                              |                    |

## Policies

### Cell phones:

- You **may not** use your cell phones in class, unless for exceptional, special circumstances, in which case you should alert me to that **before class**.

### Missing exams or deadlines:

- Make-up exams and assignment rescheduling will be provided **only if you provide an adequate medical note or excuse letters that are acceptable by the AUB administration**.
- Missing announced and unannounced class discussions would adversely affect your performance and grade in the course, unless properly excused.
- You are responsible for any material that we discuss in class during your absence. Please connect with a classmate to obtain lecture notes as needed.

### Academic dishonesty:

- I will not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, presenting work you did not do, or violating rules of proper academic conduct. Such academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to strict AUB recommendations. If you find yourself having some difficulty with an exam question or an assignment, talk to me about it. There are many ways to solve whatever difficulty you're having. Cheating, in all its forms, should not be one of them.

**E-mails:**

- Regular access to your email is important, as I send readings/announcements by email.
- I send announcements and assignment descriptions by email. Sometimes, I send PowerPoint slideshows by email. It would be necessary for you to take notes in class, regardless of whether I'll be emailing a certain slideshow.

**Psychology Program Learning Outcomes:** Students who complete the Psychology major will be able to:

1. Argue that psychology is an empirical science that seamlessly
  - a) connects with other social sciences
  - b) connects with other natural sciences and
  - c) can be clearly delineated from pseudoscience and pop psychology
2. Demonstrate an attitude of critical thinking, open mindedness, and objectivity
  - a) with psychological knowledge
  - b) in contexts and
  - c) towards authority
3. Demonstrate research skills in
  - a) research design
  - b) data collection
  - c) data analysis
  - d) data interpretation
  - e) research validity and
  - f) research reporting
4. Apply ethical standards in
  - a) acquiring and disseminating knowledge
  - b) research and
  - c) the considerate treatment of all living organisms
5. Explain substantive content in key fields of psychology
  - a) social and personality psychology
  - b) developmental and abnormal psychology
  - c) learning and cognition
  - d) perceptual psychology and neuroscience
6. Effectively and fluently communicate psychological content in
  - a) an oral-presentation format and
  - b) writing (includes use of the Style Manual of the American Psychological Association)

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