



Syllabus

Research Design in Psychology

PSYC 301

Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Maliki Ghossainy

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Office: Jesup 103B

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30-5:30 pm or by appointment

Class Time and Location: W 2:00-4:30 pm in Jesup 107

Course Description

This course will provide students with in-depth training in research design and experimental methods commonly used in psychological science. The goal of this course is to provide students with the conceptual and technical skillset to become *producers*, not just consumers, of psychological knowledge. You will learn to design research that can help to describe, explain, and predict behavior, as well as solve problems related to mental health and wellbeing. Moreover, you will practice writing academic manuscripts of your research question and findings.

Learning Outcomes

- Develop a thorough understanding of the research process
- Become knowledgeable about main research types in a way that allows you to evaluate methodologies employed by others.
- Learn to identify variable types and articulate their roles within different research designs.
- Identify threats to validity and some techniques to mitigate them.
- Design a research study to test hypotheses about a research problem in your area of interest.
- Practice writing academic manuscripts about your research in accordance with APA guidelines.

This course is the first part of the required research sequence for graduate students in psychology.

Required Textbook

Behavioral Research Methods (International Edition) by Mark R. Leary



Recommended Textbook

Statistical Methods for Psychology (International Edition) by David C. Howell



Course Expectations

This course emphasizes an understanding of core research methods and the ability to correctly apply them towards answering a research question. Class time will be a mix of lecture, discussion, and hands-on activities. Attendance is expected, and you are reminded that missing one class is equivalent to missing a whole week's worth of material.

Your active participation and attendance are essential. In order to best help yourselves, it is highly recommended that you read the chapters associated with lecture PRIOR to the start of that lecture. Your preparation will help your understanding of lecture material. **Experts recommend that students allocate 2-3 hours of studying per week for each one hour of class time.** In our case, this would entail roughly 6-7 hours of studying per week outside of class.

Course Etiquette - Reminders on being respectful toward your classmates and professor

Showing up (even 1 minute) late is disrespectful, distracting, and a poor use of your financial investment.

No personal electronic devices are allowed in class (e.g., cell phones, laptops, and tablets).

You should make plans to leave your devices at home, in your car, or anywhere that isn't the classroom. If you bring your devices to class, they must be **TURNT OFF** and left inside your bag or pocket. I reserve the right to expel you from class and/or mark you absent if you violate these device-related regulations.

Important Course Information

Communication

Email: The best way to contact me outside of class is via email. While I do my best to respond swiftly, I reserve the right to take **up to 24 hrs. to respond**. If you anticipate needing to contact me about an exam or assignment (chances are other students are also trying to contact me), please plan accordingly.

Office Hours: My office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus and you are encouraged to utilize those regularly throughout the semester. If you're unable to make it during those times, please see me after class or contact me via email to make alternative arrangements.

Moodle: You are required to check our course's Moodle page everyday. There you will find the syllabus, handouts, assignments, announcements, grades, and other useful resources. I will use Moodle to post time sensitive announcements and it is your responsibility to stay apprised of course-related news. Accommodations will NOT be made just because you didn't check your Moodle page regularly.

Academic Integrity

This is an integral part of the educational process. Scholastic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and any other act designed to give unfair advantage to a student.

Instructors are required to report instances of scholastic dishonesty and students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary penalties. Students who present unoriginal work as their own can expect to receive a failing grade on the assignment.

For more information, please refer to AUB Student Code of Conduct:

<https://website.aub.edu.lb/sao/Documents/Student%20Handbook%202017-2018.pdf>

Students with Disabilities

The University strives to make your learning experience as accessible as possible. Upon request, the University provides appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a visible or invisible disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please notify the University's Accessible Education Office by the first week of the semester. AEO have guidelines in place to help you attain reasonable accommodations, and I will expect to see an official AUB letter of accommodations from AEO.

AEO contact information:

accessibility@aub.edu.lb

+961-1-350000, Ext. 3246

West Hall 314

Non-Discrimination

AUB is committed to facilitating a campus free of all forms of discrimination including sex/gender-based harassment prohibited by Title IX. The University's non-discrimination policy applies to, and protects, all students, faculty, and staff. If you think you have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual misconduct, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. If you speak to a faculty or staff member about an issue such as harassment, sexual violence, or discrimination, the information will be kept as private as possible, however, faculty and designated staff are required to bring it to the attention of the University's Title IX Coordinator. Faculty can refer you to fully confidential resources, and you can find information and contacts at www.aub.edu.lb/titleix. To report an incident, contact the University's Title IX Coordinator (see below). An anonymous report may be submitted online via EthicsPoint at www.aub.ethicspoint.com.

University's Title IX Coordinator:

Trudi Hodges

+961-1-350000, Ext. 2514

titleix@aub.edu.lb

www.aub.ethicspoint.com

Course Requirements

Research Critique (10%)

An integral part of your graduate training in psychology is learning to evaluate the research output of fellow psychological scientists. For this course, you will be required to submit a research critique in which you will summarize a research paper and evaluate the research design employed to test the hypotheses of interest.

Proposal (35%)

Throughout this course, you will work on developing your research proposal, a part of the requirements for your graduate degree. Your proposal will include a literature review, research aims and hypotheses, a methods section, expected results, and a discussion about the implications, limitations, and future directions. You will work on each section separately, receive feedback from me and your peers which you will use to update your work.

By the end you will piece the sections together to create a full draft of your proposal.

Presentation (5%)

Near the end of the semester, each student will be required to present their research proposal to the class. Attendance during student presentations is MANDATORY. You can expect to lose at least 1% off your final grade for each presentation day you miss.

Midterm (25%)

There will be one midterm exam which will consist of multiple choice questions and short-answer questions.

Final Exam (25%)

The final exam is mandatory. It will be similar to the format of the midterm.

Attendance

Attendance will not be taken during each class, but the quality of your work is highly likely to suffer if you miss even a single class. Remember, this class only meets one a week so missing class is the equivalent to missing a week's worth of material. Additionally, exams may test your understanding of concepts that were discussed in class to a different degree than can be found in the textbook.

- Make-up exams will not be offered for students who miss the exam, nor will extra time be given for students who are late to the exam.
- If you have exceptional circumstances or a serious illness, you must notify me before any due dates so that we can discuss your options. My decision to accept late work is based heavily on the responsibility you demonstrate in addressing issues like these.