

PSCH 242 Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology
3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: PSCH 100

Spring 2017

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Office location: BSB 1029	Times and days class meets: MW 3-3:50, F 10-10:50
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Course Description, Goals, and Objectives

Welcome! This course is designed to provide you with a better understanding of the different kinds of questions that psychologists seek to answer and the tools that they use to answer them. Even if you do not plan to pursue a career in research, by the end of this course, you should have an appreciation for how psychologists make claims, test them, and interpret data. Most importantly, you should feel empowered to critically evaluate psychological research, both in scholarly articles and in popular media.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts

Morling, B. (2015). *Research methods in psychology: Evaluating a world of information* (2nd ed.). New York, New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

A copy of the textbook will be placed on reserve at the library.

Additional Materials

Announcements, grades, and selected lecture slides and class materials will be available on the Blackboard site.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance Policy

I strongly encourage you to attend both lecture and discussion. There will be quizzes during every class that will count towards your grade in the course. Since this is a small class, I plan on interleaving discussion and lecture through all three times a week that we meet. That means there may be discussion activities as well as lectures on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Policy for Missed or Late Work

You are allowed to drop your lowest exam score so no make-up exams will be given. The reason for the exam dropping policy is that you may be sick or out of town on a particular exam day, or oversleep on the day of the exam. If this were to occur, you would not need to worry

about missing the exam because that exam will be dropped. Also, everyone can have a bad day. If you happened to take an exam on a day you were not prepared and you were not satisfied with your score, you could take the final exam. If the score on your final is better than one of your previous exams, the earlier exam would be dropped from your final grade calculation. However, this can only happen if you take the first three scheduled exams. In addition, if you are happy with your first three exam scores, you are not required to take the final. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day (up to 24 hours) that it is turned in late. If you complete all 5 of the assignments, you will have the option to drop your lowest assignment grade as well.

Electronic Communication

When sending emails, remember to communicate in a professional manner. Your message should be well thought out, well-written, and include information about who you are. Always use your UIC email address for all communication. I have a 24-hour email turnaround policy. This means two things: 1) do not send an email at 1am and expect me to respond by morning and 2) if you do not hear from me after 24 hours, please send me a reminder email. You won't be pestering me, I want to make sure that you get the guidance you need. **Please put PSCH242 as the subject line.**

Revision Policy

During the class after each exam, you will have the opportunity to gain additional points towards your exam grade by explaining the items you answered incorrectly.

Academic Integrity Policy

As an academic community, UIC is committed to providing an environment in which research, learning, and scholarship can flourish and in which all endeavors are guided by academic and professional integrity. All members of the campus community—students, staff, faculty, and administrators—share the responsibility of insuring that these standards are upheld so that such an environment exists. Students who are found to have plagiarized work may be subject to various disciplinary actions, including a failing grade on a particular assignment, and failure of the entire course. Plagiarism means claiming work that is not your own – this includes work from other students (past or present) as well as work from other sources such as websites, articles, etc. This applies to both exams and assignments. Instances of academic misconduct by students will be handled pursuant to the Student Disciplinary Policy:

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/dos/studentconduct.html>

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Students who wish to observe their religious holidays shall notify the faculty member by the tenth day of the semester of the date when they will be absent unless the religious holiday is observed on or before the tenth day of the semester. In such cases, the student shall notify the faculty member at least five days in advance of the date when he/she will be absent. The faculty member shall make every reasonable effort to honor the request, not penalize the student for missing the class, and if an examination or project is due during the absence, give the student an exam or assignment equivalent to the one completed by those students in attendance. If the student feels aggrieved, he/she may request remedy through the campus grievance procedure.

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/oae/docs/ReligiousHolidaysFY20122014.pdf>

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

The University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at UIC. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome, but must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). You may contact DRC at 312-413-2183 (v) or 312-413-0123 (TTY) and consult the following: http://www.uic.edu/depts/oaa/disability_resources/faq/accommodations.html.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, METHODS OF EVALUATION, & GRADING POLICIES

Exams (50%)

There will be four exams offered during the course; three exams during the semester and a cumulative final exam. **Your lowest grade of the four will be dropped.**

Assignments (40%)

You will have a total of 5 assignments over the course of the semester. Assignments will be due on the dates outlined in the syllabus. **If you complete all 5 of the assignments, the lowest of assignment grade will be dropped.**

Attendance Quizzes (10%)

Quiz questions will be incorporated into every class, and the questions from each day will count towards your quiz grade. There will also be a syllabus quiz on the second day of class that will count towards your quiz grade.

Course Grading

Course grades will be based on exams (50%), assignments (40%), and attendance quizzes (10%). Grades will be based on the following scale.

Grade	Percent
A	89.5 – 100
B	79.5 – 89.4
C	69.5- 79.4
D	59.5 – 69.4
E	0 – 59.4

To estimate your grade during the semester, you can use the following formula:

$$(0.5 \times \text{Exam average}) + (0.4 \times \text{Assignment average}) + (0.1 \times \text{Attendance Quiz average})$$

CALENDAR OF MAJOR COURSE EVENTS AND DEADLINES

<i>Week/Day/Date</i>	<i>Course Event</i>
Week 3	Assignment 1 Due
Week 5	EXAM 1
Week 6	Assignment 2 Due
Week 9	Assignment 3 Due
Week 10	EXAM 2
Week 11	Assignment 4 Due
Week 14	Assignment 5 Due
Week 15	EXAM 3
Week 16, TBD	Final EXAM

Tentative schedule

The following pages contain a listing of topics and assigned readings. Students are expected to have read the required readings for the week before each topic is covered in class.

Note: This topic schedule is **tentative**. Sometimes topics may take longer to cover. No assignments will be added though, and deadlines may only be pushed back not forward.

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Week 1			
1/9	Introduction		
1/11	Sources of Knowledge	pp. 23-30	Syllabus Quiz
1/13		pp. 30-38	
Week 2			
1/16	No Class, MLK		
1/18	Psychology as Science	pp. 3-19, Rollercoasters article (on BB)	
1/20	Scholarly Sources	pp. 39-49	
Week 3			
1/23	Types of Psychological Claims	pp. 55-66	
1/25		pp. 66-81	
1/27	How to Do a Lit. Search		Assignment 1 due
Week 4			
1/30	Measurement	pp. 121-128	
2/1		pp. 129-146	
2/3		pp. 147-150	
Week 5			
2/6	Catch-up and review		
2/8	EXAM #1		
2/10	Review Exam 1		

Week 6			
2/13	Descriptive Statistics	pp. 441-446	Assignment 2 due
2/15		pp. 446-450	
2/17			
Week 7			
2/20	Frequency Claims	pp. 157-177	
2/22	Sampling	pp. 181-197	
2/24	Survey Design		
Week 8			
2/27	Association Claims	pp. 203-209	
3/1		pp. 210-230	
3/3			
Week 9			
3/6	Causal Claims	pp. 271-284	Assignment 3 due
3/8	Between vs. Within Designs	pp. 285-302	
3/10	Experimental Design		
Week 10			
3/13	Catch-up and Review		
3/15	EXAM #2		
3/17	Review Exam 2		
Spring Break (3/20-3/24)			
Week 11			
3/27	Confounding Variables	pp. 307-323	Assignment 4 due
3/29	Null Results	pp. 323-338	
3/30	Identifying and Fixing Threats to Validity		
Week 12			
4/3	Complex Designs: Interactions	pp. 343-353	
4/5		pp. 353-373	
4/7			
Week 13			
4/10	Complex Designs: Interactions	pp. 381-408	
4/12	Quasi-Experiments & Small-N		
4/14			
Week 14			
4/17	Replicability, Generalization, & the Real World	pp. 413-437	Assignment 5 due
4/19	Ethics	pp. 89-112	
4/21	Catch-up and Review		
Week 15			
4/24	EXAM #3		
4/26	Review Exam 3		
4/28	Review for Final		

UIC RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, don't hesitate to ask for help! Come to me, or if it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your college advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus.

See also:

The Writing Center, located in Grant Hall 105, offers one-on-one consultation with student writers who need help developing ideas, or need advice, guidance or additional instruction on any aspects of writing in any class. Tutors are prepared to spend fifty minutes per appointment, and there is no limit to the number of tutoring sessions you can have each semester. Make an appointment and be on time! Bring the paper on which you're working, as well as any related drafts or notes, and information about the assignment. For an appointment, call the Writing Center at (312) 413-2206, or stop by room 105 of Grant Hall. Visit the Writing Center website at www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing for more information.

Public Computer Labs are available throughout campus where you may write and/or print out your work. For a list of labs and the hours they're open, go to <www.acc.uic.edu/pclabs>. NOTE: Do not wait until the last minute to print out papers. Sometimes labs have long lines of students waiting for access.

The Academic Center for Excellence can help if you feel you need more individualized instruction in reading and/or writing, study skills, time management, etc. They are located in suite 2900 of the Student Services Building.

Website: <http://studentaffairs.uic.edu/ace/>

Phone: 312-413-0031

E-Mail: uicace@uic.edu

Counseling Services are available for all UIC students. You may seek free and confidential services from the Counseling Center <www.counseling.uic.edu>. The Counseling Center is located in the Student Services Building; you may contact them at (312) 996-3490. In addition to offering counseling services, the Counseling Center also operates the InTouch Crisis Hotline from 6:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. They offer support and referrals to callers, as well as telephone crisis interventions; please call (312) 996-5535.