

Psychology 242
Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology

Instructor: Julie J. Chen, Ph.D	Email: jchen10@uic.edu
Office: BSB 1056B	Phone: (312) 996 -2231
Office Hrs: TR11-11:30am	
Lecture: MW 3 – 3:50 pm; Lecture center D1	

Teaching Assistants & TA office hours:

TA	Sections	Office Hours
Krista Miller kmille47@uic.edu	12 pm; ETMSW 2419	F 11pm, BSB 1079
Camill Burden camillb@uic.edu	8am; TH 208 1pm; BSB 281 2pm; BSB 281 3pm; TH 204	W 12 – 1 pm, BSB 1061

Note: ETMSW = Education, Theatre, Music and Social work building, East campus, 1400 W Harrison street

TH = Taft Hall

See a map of UIC for directions: <https://psch.uic.edu/docs/default-source/default-document-library/map---east-campus.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Overview:

This course is designed to provide an overview of the most widely used methods employed by psychologists and other behavioral scientists. You will get a basic understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the various research strategies used by psychologists so that you can become an informed consumer of research both in the behavioral science literature and in the media. In addition, you will begin developing a set of research skills that will prepare you for more advanced study in the behavioral sciences.

Required Text:

Graziano, A. M. & Raulin, M. L. (2013). *Research methods: A process of inquiry* (8th Ed.). Boston, MA: Prentice Hall.

A basic pocket calculator. You should bring this calculator with you to lecture and lab sections.

Any basic calculator will do as long as it can perform addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, as well as compute square roots. Note that you will only be able to use this basic calculator and not cell phone on exams.

Assessments:

Your final grade will be determined by means of the required assignments and exams (see below). Your final grade will be derived from your performance as follows:

Six Homework Assignments (5% * 5 = 25%)

You will have a total of six homework assignments over the course of the semester. Homework will be due on the dates outlined in the syllabus. **The lowest of your six homework grades will be dropped. No late homework is accepted.**

Homework that requires written answers must be typewritten. If your assignment is on multiple pages staple the pages together (do not do the fold the corner and tear the top trick, it does not work). Homework that requires numerical calculations or graphs may be hand written. However, neatness counts. If your work is illegible, crammed together, or so disorganized that it cannot be followed in a logical sequence you will lose credit. Be sure to **show all your work** for each problem that requires written calculations. Do not simply report your final answer. If your final answer is incorrect it may still be possible to earn partial credit if some parts of the problem were done correctly. This is possible, however, only if you have shown all of your intermediate steps

Three exams (21% X3 = 63% points)

The format of the exam will be a combination of multiple choices, short answers and essays.

Discussion section attendance (1% X 12 = 12%)

Attendance will be taken at the start of discussion sections. You must attend the full session to earn your attendance point. If you are late for ANY reason, or if you need to leave early, you must get your TA's permission in order to get your attendance credit. You are required to attend at least 12 discussion sessions. If there are more, you may attend for bonus credit.

Total possible points = 25 + 63 + 12 = 100%

Grades

Your grade will be assigned according to the following scale.

A 90% or above	C 70 – 79%	F 59% or below
B 80 – 89%	D 60 – 69%	

It will be your responsibility to keep track of your scores on Blackboard. Be sure to keep copies of all of your graded assignments in case any discrepancies arise. If you notice that a score has been incorrectly entered into Blackboard, you must show the original paper with the correct grade to your TA by Monday of finals week. If you are unable to produce the graded work, you will receive the grade that appears in Blackboard.

Course Policies:

Attendance

Attendance during **lectures** is not required, but **strongly recommended**.

Weekly discussion sections are designed to give you “hands on” experience with the concepts discussed in class. **Attendance during discussion sections is expected and will count toward your lab section grade.** Attendance will be taken at the start of discussion sections. If you arrive after attendance is taken, you may let your TA know that you were late the first time it occurs, if lateness becomes a chronic problem you will be marked absent in the future. In addition, if you leave early, after attendance has been taken but before you complete that day’s activity, you will be marked absent from the section. If you need to leave early on a particular day, see your TA.

Final Grade rounding

If your final percentage is only 1% away from the cutoff AND you have perfect attendance record, I will round you up.

Makeup exam policy

Makeup exams can be considered when there is a conflict exam, documented medical or family emergency. In case of these situations, you must contact me IN ADVANCE. Make up exams can only be scheduled within a week of the exam, because we will go over exam answers in class a week from the exam day.

Blackboard

We will use Blackboard for course materials/announcements distribution and grade posting, etc..

Office hour and Appointments

During my office hours, you are welcome to walk in (BSB 1056B) without an appointment. If you need to meet me outside of the scheduled office hours, please make an appointment with me in advance.

Email Policy

Please ALWAYS start the subject of your email with "Psyc. 242". This way I'll know it is a course-related issue, not a spam. And please sign your full name in your email if it's not already obvious in your email body.

Religious Holidays:

Religious holidays are respected. If you need accommodations for religious reasons please contact me **in advance**. Arrangements can be made on individual basis.

Student Athletes:

Student athletes are required to provide the list of days that they will miss throughout the semester. Other accommodations such as exams on the road or paper extension may be arranged with the assistance of the Athletic Office.

Special Accommodations:

For students with documented physical or learning disabilities, I'm happy to provide any special accommodation that is needed. Please inform me of your situation within the first two weeks of the semester.

Additional Assistance:

It is my job to help you succeed in this class. It is your job to try. Please take full advantage of me and the TAs' office hours. Never hesitate to bring forward a question. If you feel that you need additional sources of help, you may also consult the:

- Writing center <http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing/>
- Psi Chi Tutoring: Psi Chi (the psychology honor society) students with expertise in various psychology courses hold office hours throughout the week. You can contact the President of UIC's Psi Chi chapter Jennifer Friedman (jfried23@uic.edu) for details.

Academic Integrity

No electronic devices is allowed during exams or quizzes. Usage of them during a test will be considered cheating. It is every student's responsibility to observe academic integrity. Cheating and plagiarism will result in failure of assignments/exams to failure of the course.

Counseling services:

UIC and the Department of Psychology provide a variety of services for students who experience mental or psychological difficulties, if such need occurs, please refer to the following:

- Counseling center: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/counseling/>
- Office of Applied Psychological Services: <http://portal.psych.uic.edu/Clinical/centers.aspx>
- In-touch Crisis Hotline: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/counseling/hotline.shtml/>
- Campus Advocacy Network: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/owa/advocacy.html>

Course Schedule

Note: This is a **tentative schedule** for the lecture materials in this semester. I may need to change the order of the chapters as we move along.

Week	Date	Topic	Chapters	Lab Discussion
1	Jan. 11	Introduction to course		No discussion section
	Jan. 13	Science and Psychology	1	
2	Jan. 18	MLK day, no class		Picking a research topic
	Jan. 20	Research process	2, 3	
3	Jan. 25	Research process	2, 3	Research ethics (HW1)
	Jan. 27	Research ethics	3	
4	Feb. 1	Data and measurement; Reliability and validity	4	Literature review
	Feb. 3			
5	Feb. 8	Reliability and validity	4	Coming up with your own data set (HW2)
	Feb. 10	Numerical Description of Behavior	5	
6	Feb. 15	Numerical Description of Behavior	5	Descriptive statistics; review
	Feb. 17	Review session for Exam 1; Come with questions		

7	Feb. 22	First Exam		Population and sample (HW3)
	Feb. 24	Inferential statistics	5	
8	Feb.29	Inferential statistics	5	Statistical inference
	Mar. 2			
9	Mar. 7	Field research & low constraints methods	6	Observational study (HW4)
	Mar. 9			
10	Mar. 14	Questionnaire research & correlational methods	7	Questionnaire development
	Mar. 16			
	Mar. 21	Spring Break, no class		
	Mar. 23			
11	Mar. 28	Review session for Exam 2, come with questions		No Lab
	Mar. 30	Second Exam		
12	Apr. 4	Hypothesis testing	8	Experimentation: in class demonstration (HW5)
	Apr. 6			
13	Apr. 11	Threats to validity; Controlling threats to validity	8, 9	Looking for confounds
	Apr. 13			
14	Apr. 18	Single Variable, Independent-Group Designs; Within subject design	10, 11	Randomization (HW6)
	Apr. 20			
15	Apr. 25	Factorial Research design	11, 12	Counterbalancing
	Apr. 27	Review session for Final, Wrap up		

Final's WEE K		May.2 (M); 8 – 10am		
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Note: Final exam is in the regular classroom.