

Psychology 242
Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology
Spring 2021
CRN 14661

Instructor: Dr. Julie J. Chen	Email: jchen10@uic.edu
Student Drop-in hour: W 10 – 11am @ Blackboard online office hour	
Lecture: MW 1 – 1:50pm, synchronously online @ Blackboard Collaborate Ultra Discussion: Friday (time varies, check your registration record)	
Format of class: <p style="text-align: center;">In Spring 2021, Psch 242 (CRN 14661) will be administered synchronously remotely. Both the weekly lectures (twice) led by your professor and the weekly discussion sessions (once) led by your TA will be delivered through live sessions online.</p>	

Teaching Assistants & TA office hours:

TA	Section	Office Hours
Krista Miller kmille47@uic.edu	CRN 31087, 10am Friday @online CRN 14653, 2pm Friday @online	By appointment
Janette Zaragoza-Estrada jzarag7@uic.edu	CRN 14651, 10am Friday @online CRN 14654, 3pm Friday @online	By appointment
Julia Brooks jbrook29@uic.edu	CRN 14652, 12pm Friday @online	By appointment
Hafsah Tauseef hafsah@uic.edu	CRN 14658, 8am Friday @online	By appointment

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 materials:

1. Research Methods in Psychology (10th edition) by Shaughnessy & Zechmeister. Ebook and Connect access.
2. A basic calculator. The last two chapters will involve some simple mathematical calculation. You should prepare a calculator. Any model of calculator is acceptable – anywhere from a \$5 model you can get at a grocery store to a more advanced graphing calculator is acceptable.

Grades breakdown and explanation

1. Weekly Homework assignments (180 total points):

1) *Learn Smart (LS) Assignments on Connect (150 pts)*

Learn Smart assignments can be found on our course site on McGraw Hill Connect. There is one assignment for each chapter. Each assignment is worth 10 – 20 points and takes about 10 – 20 minutes to complete. When you work on a LS assignment, questions will be randomly pulled from a question bank and presented to you. If you correctly answer a question, you will earn 1 point (e.g., for a 10 point LS assignment, you will need to correctly answer 10 questions). If you answer a question incorrectly, you earn no points. There's no point penalty for incorrect answers.

Once you hit the target number of points for an LS assignment, your grade will be recorded on Connect and synchronize to Blackboard within 24 hours. If you complete an assignment partially, partial credits will be recorded AFTER the due date of that assignment.

LS assignments are due in bulks. LS 1-5 are due on 02/16 (the day before Exam 1). LS 6-9 are due on 03/30 (the day before Exam 2). LS 10 is due on 04/30 (last day of class). However, you are encouraged to complete LS assignment on a weekly basis (after a chapter is covered in class, complete the LS assignment of that chapter) to maximize your learning outcome.

The most straightforward way to access LS assignments is through the direct link on blackboard. See the screenshot below:

2) *Written Homework assignment (30 points)*

In the last two chapters, we will cover some simple statistical calculations. You will work on written assignments for these two chapters. One assignment for each chapter. Please **SHOW YOUR WORK** on your written assignments.

There are two ways to submit your written homework. Either method is acceptable

- a. Type it up. Make sure to include all applicable formulae in their correct format. Include your name on the file and submit it on Blackboard.
- b. Write it up, and then photograph (or scan) your written homework and submit it on Blackboard. Please make sure the image of your homework is clearly readable, the orientation of the image is right side up. If there are multiple pages, label the pages in numerical order, and try to append them into one file if you can. Unreadable homework submission will not be accepted.

2. Weekly quizzes (approximately 50 points)

Starting from week 3, I will administer in-class pop quizzes. There will be one quiz approximately every week (per chapter). Each quiz is worth 4 to 6 points. Quizzes will be collected on Blackboard. A quiz will be available from the time it's given in class to the end of the day (11:59pm) the same day.

The quizzes are open notes.

There is no make-up allowed for the pop quizzes.

3. Three exams (200 total points)

Exam 1 covers chapter 1 – 5: 50 points

Exam 2 covers chapter 6 – 9: 50 points

Final exam is cumulative: 100 points

The format of the first two exams will be multiple choices; the format of the Final will be a combination of multiple choices, fill-in-the-blanks, true or false, and short answers.

All exams will be given on Blackboard. It will be available for a window of time (1pm – 11:59pm) on the exam day. You should reserve a 50-minute block for Exam 1 and 2, and a two-hour block for the Final. You do have the flexibility to choose your own exam time within the given window.

For the Final exam, you will need to type up, or photograph, or scan the written portion of the exam on Blackboard.

All exams are closed notes.

4. Discussion section attendance (12 x 6 points = 72 points, plus possible extra credit points)

Every Friday, there is a discussion section led by a TA that you are required to attend. You will have the opportunity to practice what you've learned in lectures in a much smaller setting. You are encouraged to participate in the discussion and exercise your knowledge.

You must attend the full session to earn your attendance point. If you are late or need to leave early for any reason, you must get your TA's permission to get your attendance credit. You are required to attend 12 sessions. There are a total of 15 sessions. This means you can miss two sessions with no questions asked. If you attend more than 12, the additional ones will be counted as extra credits.

Missed discussion sessions cannot be made up unless you have a documented legitimate reason to miss it. In that case, you should communicate with your TA by presenting your documentation.

Total possible points = 180 + 50 + 200 + 72 = 502

Letter grade scale

Your grade will be assigned according to the following scale.

A 450 pts or above	C 350 – 399 pts	F 299 pts or below
B 400 – 449 pts	D 300 – 349 pts	

Note: You can see that the grading scale is based on a 500 points system. However, a total of 502 possible points is offered (plus the possible extra credit from discussion attendance), therefore no additional extra credit opportunity will be offered because there is already plenty built into the system.

Course Policies:

Makeup exam policy

Makeup exams can be considered when there is a documented medical or family emergency. In case of these situations, you must contact me IN ADVANCE.

Blackboard

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

Student Drop-in hour and Appointments

During the hour listed on my syllabus for students to drop in, you are welcome to drop in to my online office hour without an appointment. If there are multiple people in the room, please follow the “first come first serve” rule.

Email Policy

Please ALWAYS include the course information (Psch 242) in your email subject or email body to avoid confusion on my part. 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:

UIC is committed to full inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of university life. Students who face or anticipate disability-related barriers while at UIC should connect with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at drc.uic.edu, drc@uic.edu or at (312) 413-2183 to create a plan for reasonable accommodations. In order to receive accommodations, students must disclose disability to the DRC, complete an interactive registration process with the DRC, and provide their course instructor with a Letter of Accommodation (LOA). Course instructors in receipt of an LOA will work with the student and the DRC to implement approved accommodations.

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/>

Academic Integrity

No electronic devices are allowed during exams except your calculator. 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>
- 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	Chapter	Assignments	Friday Discussion
1	1/11	Introduction to course			Welcome session
	1/13	Science and Psychology	1	LS1	
2	1/18	MLK day, no class			Identifying the

	1/20	Scientific method	2		elements in a research hypothesis
3	1/25	Scientific method	2	LS2	Research ethics
	1/27	Research ethics	3	LS3	
4	2/01	Field research	4		Observational research
	2/03	Field research	4	LS4	
5	2/08	Survey research	5		Survey research
	2/10	Survey research	5	LS5	
6	2/15	Review session for Exam 1, come with questions			Exam 1 Answer review
	2/17	First Exam 1pm – 11:59pm	1 – 5		
7	2/22	Independent groups design	6		Independent groups design
	2/24	Independent groups design	6	LS6	
8	3/01	Repeated measures design	7		Repeated measures design
	3/03	Repeated measures design	7	LS7	
9	3/08	Complex design	8		Complex design
	3/10	Complex design	8	LS8	
10	3/15	Single case research design	9		Case research
	3/17	Single case research design	9	LS9	
	3/22	Spring Break, no class			
	3/24				
11	3/29	Review session for Exam 2, come with questions			Exam 2 Answer review
	3/31	Second Exam 1pm – 11:59pm	6 - 9		

12	4/05	Quasi experimental design	10	LS10	Quasi experiment
	4/07	Quasi experimental design	10		
13	4/12	Numerical description of data	11		Measurement and data presentation
	4/14	Numerical description of data	11	Written HW1	
14	4/19	Statistical analysis	12		Statistical analysis
	4/21	Statistical analysis	12	Written HW2	
15	4/26	Reliability and Validity	12		Experimental confounds
	4/28	Final Review			
Finals' week	05/03 (M)	Cumulative Final Exam 1pm – 11:59pm			

Assignment summary: (150 pts + 30 pts)

LS1_Introduction (10 pts)

LS2_The Scientific method (10 pts)

LS3_Research ethics (15 pts)

LS4_Observation (20 pts)

LS5_Survey research (20 pts)

LS6_Independent groups design (15 pts)

LS7_Repeated measures design (10 pts)

LS8_Complex designs (15 pts)

LS9_Single case research (15 pts)

LS10_Quasi experiment (20 pts)

Written HW1 (15 pts)

Written HW2 (15 pts)