

## PSCH 242 – Introduction to Research in Psychology

Fall, 2021

Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00-12:50pm

Room LC B101

Format: Face-to-face & virtual

Instructor: Andrea Flynn, Ph.D.

Face-to-face office drop-ins: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:45 AM-11:45 AM

Virtual office drop-ins: Please email me so we can find a good time!

Email: [aflynn@uic.edu](mailto:aflynn@uic.edu)

<u>Friday Section</u>	<u>Teaching Assistant</u>	<u>Teaching Assistant contact information</u>
8-8:50 AM (CRN 25033)	Carlos Benitez	Email: <a href="mailto:cbenit4@uic.edu">cbenit4@uic.edu</a> Phone: 331-303-0706
10-10:50 AM (CRN 25034)	Meisa Khairuddin	Email: <a href="mailto:mkhair3@uic.edu">mkhair3@uic.edu</a>
11-11:50 AM (CRN 25035)	Meisa Khairuddin	Email: <a href="mailto:mkhair3@uic.edu">mkhair3@uic.edu</a>
1-1:50 PM (CRN 25037)	Maryna Ridchenko	Email: <a href="mailto:mridch2@uic.edu">mridch2@uic.edu</a>
2-2:50 PM (CRN 25032)	Ana Hernandez	Email: <a href="mailto:ahern28@uic.edu">ahern28@uic.edu</a>
5-5:50 PM (CRN 32986)	Maryna Ridchenko	Email: <a href="mailto:mridch2@uic.edu">mridch2@uic.edu</a>

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**Course summary:** 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.

**Prerequisites:** Students should already have credit for PSCH 100 (Introduction to Psychology). If you have not taken this prerequisite, you will be dropped from the course.

**Course technology requirements:** You will require a personal computer, broadband Internet connection, and Microsoft Word. You may contact ACCC to request and borrow a laptop or be assigned a hotspot for the semester if you do not have the required hardware and internet capabilities. Please reach out to the TA or instructor with any concerns or challenges, and we will do our best to work with you. Please note that data analyses will be conducted in SPSS. You may download a student version of SPSS from the ACCC website. Please reach out to them with any issues or questions, and let your TA or me know if you need further help. Another option is to access SPSS via the UIC Virtual Computer Lab:

<https://acc.uic.edu/services/teaching-learning/learning-environments/virtual-computer-lab/>

Please note that while our environment has been very virtual over the last several months, this class will utilize face-to-face communication and interaction to the fullest extent possible. Numerous research studies suggest that electronic device use negatively impacts our ability to

learn. Please know that I expect you to be attentive and engaged in class. Please put away your electronic devices during class unless they are absolutely necessary.

**Deadlines:** The deadline to add or drop a course without a W and last day to complete late registration is Friday, September 3, 2021. The deadline to withdraw from the course (with a W on your academic record) is Friday, October 29, 2021.

**Late work:** For each day your assignment is late, your grade on the assignment will be dropped by 10%. Please submit your work on time if you would like to earn full credit.

**Diversity statement:** I value the perspectives of individuals from all backgrounds reflecting the diversity of our students. I broadly define diversity to include race, gender identity, national origin, ethnicity, religion, social class, age, sexual orientation, political background, and physical and learning ability. I strive to make this classroom an inclusive space for all students. If you see ways I can improve, please let me know.

**Appropriate behavior:** You are expected to behave maturely and professionally in class. Basic standards for this class include that you must:

- be courteous and respectful to others
- express your own opinions in an appropriate manner
- refrain from discriminatory or hateful speech
- use your computer for course-related purposes only

If you fail to follow these rules, points will be taken from your grade. If your behavior is disruptive to me or others in the class, I may ask you to leave the class.

**Plagiarism:** To plagiarize is “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own” (Plagiarism 101 (n.d.) Plagiarism.org. Retrieved December 1, 2014, from <http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism/>). Plagiarism includes not only direct copying of source documents, but also paraphrasing others’ written or verbal comments without indicating the original source. Plagiarism is not permitted, and we will use SafeAssign to automatically screen for plagiarism in all documents submitted for this course. According to university policy, the consequences of submitting plagiarized work are a) receiving a failing grade on the assignment; b) receiving a failing grade in the course; or c) being expelled from the university. Please do not plagiarize in this class. If you are struggling with an assignment, please talk to me or your course TA. We can help you.

**Academic integrity:** Students must abide by the academic integrity guidelines established by the university, and described at <http://www.uic.edu/ucatalog/GR.shtml#qa>. Failure to maintain behavior according to these guidelines is evaluated in accord with the Student Disciplinary Policy.

**Disability services:** 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](mailto: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.

**Religious holidays:** Campus Policy States: The faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago shall make every effort to avoid requiring that student projects be turned in or completed on 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.

**Incomplete grades:** The University Policy on incomplete grades is as follows: “Course work is incomplete when a student fails to submit all required assignments or is absent from the final examination. Incomplete course work will normally result in a failing grade if it is not completed within the designated time limit. The "I" may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due.” “The instructor must submit an Incomplete report with the final grade roster for the "I" to be recorded. This report is a contract for the student to complete the course work with that instructor or one designated by the department executive officer in the way described and by a time indicated on the report. In resolving the "I," the student may not register for the course a second time, but must follow the procedures detailed on the report.” “An "I" must be removed by the end of the student's first semester or summer session in residence subsequent to the incurrence of the "I" or, if not in residence, no later than one calendar year subsequent to the incurrence. When the student submits the work, the instructor will grade it and change the "I" to the appropriate grade.” “If an undergraduate fails to meet the stated conditions, the instructor will assign an "F" for the final grade.” (From [https://registrar.uic.edu/student\\_records/grading\\_system.html](https://registrar.uic.edu/student_records/grading_system.html))

### **Additional helpful resources:**

**Writing Center:** Students are encouraged to contact the UIC writing center for mentoring and feedback on their writing. Tutors are trained to help with both initial formulation and organization of documents, as well as editing and feedback on written drafts. You can get more information about the services offered at: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing/about/>

**Purdue OWL Website:** In addition to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th edition, Purdue University hosts an incredible website for assisting with APA

formatting, the Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL; [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html)).

**Office Hours:** Use them! These are the most underutilized and most helpful course support for success. If you have a question, are concerned about your performance, or want to connect with one of us about your interest in the field, please make good use of our office hours.

**UIC Counseling Center and Crisis Hotline:** Completing your course work and maintaining your responsibilities outside of school can be challenging, and many students find themselves struggling and overwhelmed. UIC has some excellent resources for students to use to get extra support. Note that all UIC students are eligible to receive free counseling services at the UIC Counseling Center (312-996-3490, <http://www.counseling.uic.edu>). During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Counseling Center is offering remote mental health services via video or phone. If you are experiencing a crisis, please make use of the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or online chat (<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>), or consider the Crisis Text Line (Text HOME to 741741).

**Readings:** Reading assignments for each week are listed in the syllabus. As the course progresses, I may add additional assigned readings to facilitate your success in this course. These required readings will be available in the Blackboard site for this course.

In addition to the assigned readings, you are expected to do a lot of reading based on your own research projects in the class. Thus, YOU will be identifying a lot of the reading that you need to do in order to complete your research projects.

It is required for you to purchase:

Morling, B. (2021). *Research methods in psychology* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). W. W. Norton & Company.

\*Please note: This textbook is available in either paper or electronic format. It is your prerogative which format to use. You may wish to purchase an older version of the textbook. The content of the older texts will likely be very similar, but please know I will be writing the exams and quizzes using the 2021 version of this textbook.

It is recommended that you purchase:

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Beins, B. C., & Beins, A. M. (2021). *Effective writing in psychology: Papers, posters, and presentations* (2nd ed.). Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN-13 9781119722946, ISBN-10 1119722942

**Grading:** As assignments are completed and graded, scores will be entered into the Gradebook on the course Blackboard site. YOU are responsible for reviewing these grades and notifying myself or our TA ASAP with any concerns about grade entry errors. Further, if you are concerned about your performance in the course related to your grades, it is strongly recommended that you attend my and/or the TA's office hours for guidance.

Letter grades will correspond to percentage of points earned as follows: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, and 59% and below = F. Total points in this course: 250.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
Exams	51
Homework assignments	40
Discussion section attendance	9

**Course assignments:**

<u>Assignment name</u>	<u>Assignment summary</u>
Exams	<p>In this course, exams will make up 51% of your final grade. Each exam is worth the same number of points (17). You will complete four exams and your lowest exam grade of the four will be dropped. The first three exams will be non-cumulative with the caveat that each section of the course builds on previous sections. Though I will not explicitly test you on concepts from an earlier unit, you will have to draw on knowledge from previous units on later exams. The fourth exam in the course is cumulative and will be completed during finals week.</p> <p>The exams will occur on Blackboard during the time of our course meeting. You are expected to complete the exams independently and without the use of notes, your book, or the Internet. Please note that all of the course exams are timed and you have exactly 50 minutes to complete them. Thus, you should assume that you will not have time to look up the answers to each question anyway. <u>Please also know that you must take the exams during the time posted in the course schedule or your grade will be a zero (0).</u></p> <p>Your lowest exam score will be dropped at the end of the semester. Thus, your top 3 exam scores count toward your final grade.</p>
Homework assignments	<p>You will complete a series of homework assignments throughout the semester. Each assignment is worth 4 points. At the end of the term, your top 10 assignments will count towards your final grade. Since 13 homework assignments will be assigned, this means your 3 lowest scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.</p> <p>Each homework assignment will be posted on Blackboard. You are expected to do all of the assignment yourself. All university academic integrity/plagiarism standards apply. Please be sure to do your own work to avoid penalties.</p>

	<p>All homework assignments will be due at 11:59 PM on the date listed on the course schedule (below). Late work will be subjected to a point deduction of 10% per day.</p> <p>All homework assignments will be graded by your respective TA. Please see your TA if you have questions or concerns about a grade you receive on a homework assignment.</p>
Attendance	<p>Your attendance at each class meeting, including your discussion section, is vital and required. Attendance will be taken at each discussion section meeting. Your attendance at each discussion is worth 1 point. If you miss a discussion section for <u>any</u> reason, you will receive a 0 for that meeting (there will be no discussion section the week of Thanksgiving). Please note that I have built in absences into your grade because I know issues related to the pandemic and other life emergencies may occur. However, I strongly urge you to attend each class meeting.</p> <p>Your attendance and engagement will have a significant impact on your ability to benefit from the class. If you will not be able to get to class regularly (and on time), I would recommend that you look for a class that meets at a time that is better for your schedule.</p> <p>Please know that if you miss a class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get caught up.</p>

**All homework will be submitted via SafeAssign to screen for plagiarism.**

**Course schedule (subject to change):**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Week 1	8/23/21	Introduction to the course
	8/25/21	Introduction to scientific reasoning Before class: Read chapter 1
Week 2	8/30/21	Introduction to scientific reasoning Chapter 1
	9/1/21	Evaluating sources of information Before class: Read chapter 2
	9/5/21	<b>Homework 1 due (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 3	9/6/21 <b>NO CLASS</b>	Labor Day, no class meeting
	9/8/21	Research Reports in APA style Before class: Read textbook pages 523-541
	9/12/21	<b>Homework 2 due (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 4	9/13/21	Types of claims in psychology Before class: Read chapter 3
	9/15/21	Types of claims in psychology Chapter 3
	9/19/21	<b>Homework 3 due (11:59 PM)</b>

Week 5	9/20/21	<b>Exam 1: Blackboard (12 PM- 12:50 PM)-Chapters 1-3 &amp; all materials covered in class weeks 1-4</b>
	9/22/21	Research ethics Read chapter 4 before class
	9/26/21	<b>Homework 4 due (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 6	9/27/21	Measurement Read chapter 5 before class
	9/29/21	Measurement Chapter 5
	10/3/21	<b>Homework 5 due (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 7	10/4/21	Surveys and observations Read chapter 6 before class
	10/6/21	Surveys and observations Chapter 6
	10/10/21	<b>Homework 6 due (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 8	10/11/21	Sampling Read chapter 7 before class
	10/13/21	Sampling Chapter 7
	10/17/21	<b>Homework 7 due (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 9	10/18/21	<b>Exam 2: Blackboard (12 PM- 12:50 PM) - Chapters 4-7 &amp; all materials covered in class weeks 5-8</b>
	10/20/21	Correlational designs Read chapters 8 & 9 before class
	10/24/21	Homework 8 due (11:59 PM)
Week 10	10/25/21	Correlational designs Chapters 8 & 9
	10/27/21	Correlational designs Chapters 8 & 9
	10/31/21	<b>Homework 9 due (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 11	11/1/21	Simple experiments Read chapter 10 before class
	11/3/21	Simple experiments Chapter 10
	11/7/21	<b>Homework 10 due (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 12	11/8/21	<b>Exam 3: Blackboard (12 PM- 12:50 PM) Chapters 8-10 &amp; all materials covered in class weeks 9-11</b>
	11/10/21	Confounding variables Read chapter 11 before class
	11/14/21	<b>Homework 11 due (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 13	11/15/21	Confounding variables Chapter 11
	11/17/21	Experiments with more than one variable Read chapter 11 before class
	11/21/21	<b>Homework 12 due (11:59 PM)</b>

Week 14	11/22/21	Descriptive statistics Read textbook pages 467-484 before class
	11/24/21	Descriptive statistics Before class: Read textbook pages 467-484
Week 15	11/29/21	Quasi-experiments & small N designs Before class: Read chapter 13
	12/1/21	Quasi-experiments & small N designs; APA writing Chapter 13, textbook pages 523-541
	12/5/21	<b>Homework 13 due (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 16		<b>Exam 4 (final exam), date/time TBD-Chapters 1-13, all assigned reading &amp; course material</b>