

PSCH 242 Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology

3 Credit Hours

Fall 2021

Instructor: Tomas Ståhl	CRN/Course Number: 35658
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<p>TAs:</p> <p>Juan Sevilla Discussion sections: 9am (CRN: 35688) Room: ETMSW 2435 10am (CRN: 35686) Room: ETMSW 2233 Office hours: Th 1-2pm Email: jsevil2@uic.edu</p> <p>Nathan McDowell Discussion sections: 10am (CRN: 35687) Room: ETMSW 2235 12pm (CRN: 35685) Room: BSB 219 Office hours: Tu 2-3pm Email: nmcdow2@uic.edu</p>	<p>Neharika Nair Discussion sections: 4pm (CRN: 35690) Room: ETMSW 2217 5pm (CRN: 35689) Room: ETMSW 2217 Office hours: Th 2-3pm Email: nnair20@uic.edu</p>
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Course Description, Goals, and Objectives

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.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Text

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

New, used, loose-leaf, rental, and digital copies should be available at the UIC book store. You should also be able to find various alternative ways of acquiring this text online.

A basic pocket calculator.

You will also need a calculator. Any basic calculator will do as long as it can perform addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, as well as compute square roots.

Required Technology

Students will need regular access to a personal computer that runs on a broadband Internet connection. Please 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.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND POLICIES

Lectures

Lectures will take place **live online** (using Blackboard collaborate), at 4pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. The lectures will also be recorded and made available on blackboard immediately afterwards, and you will be able watch them as many times as you want. Attending the online lectures live is highly recommended, as it makes for a more active learning experience, and enables you to ask questions. However, attending the lectures live is not required.

Discussion sections

Discussion sections will take place live online on blackboard collaborate, **every Friday**, unless stated otherwise (see schedule at the end of the syllabus). Depending on your TA, you may also be able to attend the discussion section face to face in the classroom (more information on this will follow before the end of Week 1). Discussion sections are designed to give you “hands on” experience with the concepts discussed in class. **Attendance during discussion sections is required and will count toward your grade.**

Missed or Late Work

It is crucial that you turn in assignments on time. Unless stated otherwise, you must upload **an electronic copy of the assignment to Safe Assign on Blackboard before the deadline.**

Late assignments will be penalized **10% for each day** (up to 24 hours) that it is turned in late. The only late work that will be accepted without penalty will be work presented with a **documented excuse** (such as a documented case of illness or death in the family). In this case, you must contact the professor by email (and copy the TA) as soon as possible to document your excuse.

Office hours

The instructor, as well as the TAs, have online office hours every week (see top of syllabus). If you want to see me during office hours, please send me an email in advance. **At the time of my office hours, you will find me in the virtual Course room on Blackboard collaborate.** If you want to see your TA during office hours, let him/her know in advance via email, and then **go to your Discussion section’s virtual Course room for the meeting.**

Electronic Communication

Provided that you ask a reasonable question and articulate yourself clearly in your message, I will respond to e-mails. However, please understand that I receive a lot of e-mails in a given day. Therefore, please expect that it may take up to 48 hours until you receive my response.

Many things I am asked in emails are things that are addressed in this document (e.g., can I drop

an exam?) or things that I have already addressed in class. I will not respond to these emails. If what you ask is a question that is relevant to the rest of the class, I may address your question in class instead of responding to the e-mail.

If you e-mail the instructor or your TA and you would like a response, your message should be well thought out, well written, and include information about who you are and what course you are in (or discussion section for the TA).

Academic Integrity

A student who submits work, at any stage of the writing process, which in whole or part has been written by someone else or which contains passages quoted or paraphrased from another's work without acknowledgment (quotation marks, citation, etc.) has plagiarized. Maintain your integrity when completing assignments and be overzealous to give credit where it is due. If you are ever unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, ask me. Students who are found to have plagiarized work may be subject to various disciplinary actions, including a failing grade on a particular assignment, failure of the entire course, and possible expulsion from the university.

For any case of academic dishonesty, my policy is to file a complaint with the Office of the Dean of Students. For more information about violating academic integrity and its consequences, consult the website of the UIC Office of the Dean of Students at <https://dos.uic.edu/community-standards/academic-integrity>

Respect for Copyright

Please protect the integrity of all course materials and content. By enrolling in this course, you agree to honor this request. Be mindful of the hard work and time that instructors and TAs put into creating course materials such as exam questions, lecture videos, and reading materials. Please do not upload course materials not created by you onto third-party websites or share content with anyone who is not enrolled in our course. I am grateful for your cooperation in honoring this important request.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus Policy States: The faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago shall make every effort to avoid scheduling examinations or 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.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

UIC is committed to full inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of university life. If you face or anticipate disability-related barriers while at UIC, please connect with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at drc.uic.edu, via email at drc@uic.edu, or call (312) 413-2183 to create a plan for reasonable accommodations. In order to receive accommodations, you will need to disclose the disability to the DRC, complete an interactive registration process

with the DRC, and provide me with a Letter of Accommodation (LOA). Upon receipt of a LOA, I will gladly work with you and the DRC to implement approved accommodations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, METHODS OF EVALUATION, & GRADING POLICIES

Exams

There will be four exams offered during the course; three exams during the semester and a final exam. Exams will take place online on blackboard. **The dates and times for exams are indicated in the schedule at the end of the syllabus.**

Your lowest exam grade of the four will be dropped. Exams will make up 80% of your final grade. Exams offered during the semester 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. A cumulative final exam will be offered during the week of finals.

As mentioned above, the lowest of the four exams will be dropped. I will drop your lowest exam for several reasons. The primary reason one exam will be dropped is that it eliminates the need for make-up exams. **Make-up exams will not be given under any circumstances.** 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. A second reason I drop the lowest exam is that 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. 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.

Homework

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. As with exams, there will be no make-up assignments.**

Course Grading

Course grades will be based on exams (80%), homework (16.67%) and attendance during discussion sections (3.33%). As stated above, **you will automatically get full points for attendance this semester**, as we do not want to penalize students who have poor internet connectivity, or any other challenges associated with online learning during the pandemic. 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
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Your current grade (%) will be available on Blackboard throughout the semester, in the column titled “Grade (%)”. **You cannot accurately calculate your grade based on raw points, because the grade is weighted** (points for exams and homework are weighted differently). Only rely on the “Grade %” reported on blackboard to determine your current grade.

It will be your responsibility to keep track of your scores on Blackboard. If you notice that a score has been incorrectly entered into Blackboard, you must report this information to your TA by Monday of finals week. If you fail to do so, you will receive the grade that appears on Blackboard.

CALENDAR OF MAJOR COURSE EVENTS AND DEADLINES

<i>Week/Day/Date</i>	<i>Course Event</i>
Week 3, Friday 10 Sept	Homework 1 Due
Week 5, Monday 20 Sept	EXAM 1
Week 5, Friday 24 Sept	Homework 2 Due
Week 7, Friday 8 Oct	Homework 3 Due
Week 9, Monday 18 Oct	EXAM 2
Week 9, Friday 22 Oct	Homework 4 Due
Week 11, Friday 5 Nov	Homework 5 Due
Week 14, Monday 22 Nov	Homework 6 Due
Week 15, Wednesday 1 Dec	EXAM 3
Week 16, TBD	Final EXAM

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. You can get a referral to the right place, or help on the spot, from concerned advisor in the Undergraduate Success Center (USC) at usc@uic.edu.

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.accc.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. Phone: (312) 413-0031.

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.

Tentative schedule

The following pages contain a listing of topics and assigned readings. All readings will come from the Graziano & Raulin textbook. Students are expected to have read the required readings for the week each topic is covered.

Note: Lectures are recorded, and will be uploaded on Blackboard. You can watch them as many times as you like, at your convenience. **I will record the lectures on Blackboard Collaborate on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4pm. If you want to, you can attend live, as I record the lecture (and ask questions using the chat).** However, you are not expected to attend the lectures live. **You are expected to attend the Discussion sections live.**

Week #	Date	G & R Ch.	Topic
1	M 8/23	CH 1	Introduction
	W 8/25		Science and Psychology
	F 8/27		**No Discussion Section 8/27
2	M 8/30	CH 2, 3	The Research Process
	W 9/1		Developing Research Questions & Hypotheses
	F 9/3		Discussion Section
3	M 9/6	CH 3	**No Class – Labor Day 9/6
	W 9/8		Research Ethics
	F 9/10		Discussion Section: Homework 1 Due
4	M 9/13	CH 4	Data and Measurement
	W 9/15		Data and Measurement

	F 9/17		Discussion section
5	M 9/20		EXAM 1 – Monday, September 20
	W 9/22	CH 5	Numerical Description of Behavior
	F 9/24		Discussion Section: Homework 2 Due
6	M 9/27		Numerical Description of Behavior
	W 9/29	CH 5	Numerical Description of Behavior
	F 10/1		Discussion section
7	M 10/4		Numerical Description of Behavior
	W 10/6	CH 5	Inferential Statistics
	F 10/8		Discussion Section: Homework 3 Due
8	M 10/11		Inferential Statistics
	W 10/13	CH 5	Inferential Statistics
	F 10/15		Discussion Section
9	M 10/18		EXAM 2 – Monday, October 18
	W 10/20	CH 6	Low Constraint Methods
	F 10/22		Discussion Section: Homework 4 Due
10	M 10/25		Correlational and Differential Methods
	W 10/27	CH 7, 8	Hypothesis Testing; Different Kinds of Validity
	F 10/29		Discussion Section
11	M 11/1		Threats to Internal Validity
	W 11/3	8, 9	Controlling Threats to Internal Validity
	F 11/5		Discussion Section: Homework 5 Due
12	M 11/8		Single Variable, Independent-Group Designs
	W 11/10	CH 10, 11	Within and Matched Subjects Designs
	F 11/12		Discussion Section
13	M 11/15		Factorial Research Designs I
	W 11/17	CH 12	Factorial Research Designs II
	F 11/19		Discussion section

14	M 11/22	CH 12, 13	Field Research: Homework 6 Due, 11/22
	W 11/24		**No Lecture 11/24 – Thanksgiving
	F 11/26		** No Discussion section 11/26 -- Thanksgiving
15	M 11/29	---	Final Remarks
	W 12/1		EXAM 3 – Wednesday, December 1
	F 12/3		Discussion Section
Final Exams	TBD	---	FINAL EXAM – TBD