

PSYC1000: Introductory Research Methods in Psychology

Callaghan and Ourimbah
Semester 2 - 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description

Understanding research methodology, data, and how to bring methodology and data together is essential for undertaking research in psychology. This course introduces understanding the psychology approach to research, experimental design, interpretation of data, research reporting and issues in research ethics. Fortnightly practical classes are designed to support the weekly lecture topics and will provide students with hands-on skills.

This course forms part of an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accredited sequence.

Assumed Knowledge Contact Hours

PSYC1010

Lecture

Online

2 hour(s) per Week for Full Term

Practical

Face to Face on Campus

2 hour(s) per Week for 6 Weeks

See course outline for practical schedule.

Unit Weighting Workload

10

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10-unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Callaghan and Ourimbah Prof Scott Brown Scott.Brown@newcastle.edu.au (02) 4921 5760
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	School of Psychological Sciences W210 Behavioural Sciences Building Callaghan psyc-admin@newcastle.edu.au +61 2 4921 5505 School of Psychological Sciences Room HO 143 - Humanities Building Ourimbah asu-ourimbah@newcastle.edu.au +61 2 4349 4934

SYLLABUS

Course Content	Lectures and practicals will cover broad areas in scientific psychology such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the scientific method and problem identification- experimental, non-experimental, and correlational research- validity and reliability in experimental research- experimental design, setting up research experiments, and control techniques- human and animal research ethics- hypothesis formation and testing- data collection and interpretation- research report reading and writing
Course Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apply the key principles of research methods in psychology.2. Recognise the fundamental considerations of psychological experimental design.3. Formulate assessable scientific questions within the framework of psychology and design suitable research paradigms to test these questions.4. Select appropriate experimental designs to suit different research questions.5. Identify research ethics issues.6. Create basic psychological experiments using dedicated software.7. Collect, manipulate, and analyse data.8. Interpret data and create graphical representations of data.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Readings	Assessment Due
1	17 Jul	How to pass this course! Also, scientific literacy, and why are we even here?	Chapter 1 (of the required textbook)	None.
2	24 Jul	How can you know if a claim is valid?	Chapters 2 & 3	In-class lab quiz (10%)
3	31 Jul	How can you accurately measure something you can't see or touch, like an emotion or an ability?	Chapters 3 & 5	None.
4	7 Aug	How to run a simple experiment.	Chapter 10	In-class lab quiz (10%)
5	14 Aug	What makes a good experiment?	Chapter 11	None.
6	21 Aug	More complicated experiments and factorial designs.	Chapter 12	In-class lab quiz (10%)
7	28 Aug	Research Ethics, and how not to be evil (even accidentally).	Chapter 4. Also, Guillemin, M., et al. (2016). "We're checking them out" Intl. Jnl. for Equity in Health, 15(1), 1-10. PDF: https://equityhealthj.biomedcentral.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s12939-016-0301-4.pdf	None.
8	4 Sep	How to compromise for a more realistic experiment (small N, and quasi-experimental designs)	Chapter 13	In-class lab quiz (10%)
9	11 Sep	Not all surveys measure what they hope to measure! How to know when one is good.	Chapters 6 & 7	None.
10	18 Sep	Correlations: when two things change together, what can we learn?	Chapters 8 & 9	In-class lab quiz (10%)
Mid Term Break				
Mid Term Break				
11	9 Oct	Which science is really trustworthy? How can we know?	Chapter 14	None.
12	16 Oct	Statistics (you really need these - it will pay off later!).	None.	In-class lab quiz (10%)
13	23 Oct	None.	None.	Lab Report (40%) Sunday October 30, 11:59pm.
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 2 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Class Tests (Practical)	In your enrolled lab classes.	Individual	60%	1, 4
2	Written Assignment	Sunday October 29th, 2023, at 11:59pm	Individual	40%	2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Class Tests (Practical)

Assessment Type	In Term Test
Purpose	To test knowledge of the lecture material.
Description	Each lab class will have an online quiz administered through Canvas. Each quiz will be worth 10% of your final grade, so the six quizzes altogether will be worth 60% of your final grade.
Weighting	60%
Length	15 minutes (in each of 6 classes)
Due Date	In your enrolled lab classes.
Submission Method	Online
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 2 - Written Assessment

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	To develop and test your understanding of scientific method and report-writing.
Description	A lab report written in scientific style, with elements demonstrating understanding of the style and the material.
Weighting	40%
Length	1000 words. Word limits include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does not include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. The word limit will allow a tolerance of 10% and any work after the maximum word limit will not be included within the allocation of marks. In other words, the marker will STOP reading at 1100 words.
Due Date	Sunday October 29th, 2023, at 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	The rubric and assessment details will be provided during semester, in lab classes.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - within 3 weeks.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all

	(FF)	compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.
Attendance	<p>*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s). Attendance/participation will be recorded in the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practical (Method of recording: Submission of the in-lab quizzes during each lab class.) 	
Communication Methods	<p>Communication methods used in this course include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site. - Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account. <p>Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face-to-face meetings or supervision.</p>	
Course Evaluation	<p>Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.</p>	
Oral Interviews (Vivas)	<p>As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure. In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule.</p>	
Academic Misconduct	<p>All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students at the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35.</p>	
Adverse Circumstances	<p>The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or 2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item, and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system. 3. you are requesting a change of placement; or 4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement. <p>Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</p>	
Reasonable Adjustment Plan (RAP)	<p>If you are registered with Accessibility and have been provided with a Reasonable Adjustment Plan (RAP), please ensure that you provide your Course Coordinator with a copy as soon you can or let your Course Coordinator know that you are still waiting for your RAP.</p>	
Important Policy Information	<p>The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.</p>	

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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