

Lassen Community College Course Outline

PSYC 5 Introduction to Research Methods

3.0 Units

I. Catalog Description

This course surveys various social/behavioral research methods with an emphasis on research design, experimental procedures, descriptive methods, instrumentation, and the collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of research data. Research design and methodology will be examined through a review of research in a variety of the sub-disciplines of psychology. This course has been approved for online, hybrid and correspondence delivery.

Diversity Statement

Our commitment to diversity requires that we strive to eliminate barriers to equity and that we act deliberately to create a safe and inclusive environment where individual and group differences are valued and leveraged for the growth and understanding as an educational community.

Prerequisite(s):

PSYC C1000 Introduction to Psychology or SOC 1 introduction to Sociology; STAT C1000 Introduction to Statistics

Recommended Preparation:

Successful completion of Introduction to College Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking or equivalent multiple measures placement.

Additional Course Information

Transfer Status:

- Transfer to CSU/UC
- General Education Area: 4
- CalGETC Area 4
- C-ID PSY 200, SOCI 120

Total Number of Hours by Instructional Method:

- 51 hours Lecture, 102 Expected Outside Class Hours, 153 Total Student Learning Hours

Scheduled:

- Spring

II. Coding Information

Repeatability: Not Repeatable

Grading Option: Graded or pass/no pass

Credit Type: Credit - Degree Applicable

TOP Code: 200100

III. Course Objectives

A. Course Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of general research designs, experimental and non-experimental methods, and standard research practices.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of ways to critically evaluate published research.
3. Demonstrating competence in developing a research paper to include APA style writing.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical principles from psychological science.

B. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Explain the basic principles of the scientific method.
2. Explain how to Synthesize a body of research findings.
3. Discuss methods used to Develop and test hypotheses.
4. Select appropriate research designs to test hypotheses.
5. Explain the ethical treatment of human and animal participants in research and the institutional requirements for conducting research.
6. Assess the generalizability of study results.

IV. Course Content

A. Introduction

1. Scientific and nonscientific approaches to knowledge
2. Dependent and independent variables
3. Validity and reliability
4. Scientific method and its goals
5. Causal and correlational relationships
6. Samples and sampling methods
7. Theoretical and operational definitions
8. Selection of appropriate statistical tests (chi-square, correlation, t-tests, ANOVA)
9. Evaluating peer-reviewed literature
10. APA format

B. Ethical Issues in the Conduct of Social/Behavioral Research

1. APA ethical standards
2. Risk/benefit ratio of research
3. Use of deception in research
4. Human and animal subject use

C. Descriptive Methods — Observation and Survey Research

1. Observational techniques and rationale
2. Reactivity, demand characteristics, observer bias, expectancy effects, and other biases
3. Theories, research questions, hypotheses
4. Interpretation and limits of correlational data
5. Levels of measurement

- D. Unobtrusive Measures of Behavior (physical trace methods, archival research methods, content analysis)
- E. Experimental Methods —
 - 1. Independent Group Designs
 - 2. Repeated Measures Designs
 - 3. Reasons to use and limitations of experimental methods
 - 4. Counterbalancing and practice effects
 - 5. Main effects and interaction effects using both table and graph methods
- F. Other Research Designs —
 - 1. Single-Case Research Design
 - 2. Quasi-Experimental Designs
- G. Program Evaluation
 - 1. Characteristics of true experiments and quasi-experiments

V. Assignments

- A. Appropriate Readings
 - 1. From text and Social/Behavioral Journals. Review of current research in the field.
- B. Writing Assignments
 - 1. Write pilot study with standards for publication in a social/behavioral journal; evaluate current research in the field of psychology to determine if the study is well written, well conducted, and well documented, and if results support the hypothesis (critical thinking).
- C. Expected Outside Assignments
 - 1. Design and conduct pilot study in the area appropriate to social/behavioral research.
- D. Specific Assignments that Demonstrate Critical Thinking
 - 1. Evaluate current research in the field to determine if it meets standard of practice. Design a pilot study that meets current standard of practice. Determine if reasons why the results would or would not support the original hypothesis.

VI. Methods of Evaluation

Traditional Evaluation

In-class quizzes using mixed format, objective multiple choice taken from the reading assignments, written assignments in APA format (required), and class participation/discussion of current research practices.

Correspondence Evaluation

Same as face to face with the exception of the desired use of proctored exams and exclusion of participation in classroom activities. Students will be expected to complete assignments and activities equivalent to in-class assignments and activities. Written correspondence and a minimum of six opportunities for feedback will be utilized to maintain effective communication between instructor and student.

Hybrid Evaluation

A combination of traditional classroom and online evaluations will be used to include traditional objective and essay exams taken from the text and other reading assignments, written assignments in APA format (paper appropriate for publication) and in class and online discussions.

Online Evaluation

A variety of methods will be used to include research papers, synchronous and asynchronous discussion, online quizzes developed from text and other reading assignments and written assignments in APA format (paper appropriate for publication).

VII. Methods of Delivery

Check those delivery methods for which this course has been separately approved by the Curriculum/Academic Standards Committee.

- Traditional Classroom Delivery
- Correspondence Delivery
- Hybrid Delivery
- Online Delivery

Traditional Classroom Delivery

Lecture, class discussion, selected multimedia presentations

Correspondence Delivery

Assigned readings, instructor-generated typed handouts, typed lecture materials, exercises and assignments equal to face to face instructional delivery. Written correspondence and a minimum of six opportunities for feedback will be utilized to maintain effective communication between instructor and student.

Hybrid Delivery

A combination of traditional classroom and online instruction will be utilized. Each semester 34 lecture hrs will be taught face-to face by the instructor and 17 lecture hours will be instructed online through the technology platform adopted by the District. Traditional class instruction will consist of lectures, visual aids, and group presentations. Online delivery will consist of participation in forum-based discussions and posts, web links, email communications, lecture posts, and online lectures.

Online Delivery

Online written lectures, participation in forum based discussion, online exercises/assignments contained on website. Discussion papers, email communications, postings to forums, and web-links will comprise the method of instruction.

VIII. Representative Texts and Supplies

- A. Cuttler, Carrie. Research methods in psychology, 4th ed. 2019, ISBN 13: 9781999198107
<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/75>

IX. Course Status

1. Current Status: Active
2. Original Approval Date: 02/19/2013
3. Course Originator:
4. Board Approval Date: 03/12/2013
5. Chancellor's Office Approval Date: 04/11/2013
6. Revised By: Tom Karek
7. Curriculum/Academic Standards Committee Revision Date: 11/05/2024