
RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY in Fall 2020 (PY2020)

Course Code	PY2020	Professor(s)	Maria Medved
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	PL201
Class Schedule	M: 14:30-16:05 in SD-4 R: 10:50-12:25 in PL-4	Office Hours	Thursdays 12:30 to 13:30 or by appointment
Credits	4	Email	mmedved@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2020	Office Tel. Ext.	829

Course Description

In this course, you will learn the critical skills needed to evaluate research and conduct your own research in psychology. As such, this course aims to help students improve their research skills from two different perspectives:

1. User of Research: Although only a few of you may pursue a career as a research psychologist, all of you are users of research – from psychology to other social science disciplines. Therefore, the primary goal of this course is to develop your capacity to critically evaluate empirical evidence that is communicated in academic journals, the popular press, and other outlets.
2. Producer of Research: Another goal of this course is to sharpen your ability to produce original research in psychology. This includes skills in designing and conducting research studies, and drawing appropriate conclusions. Even if you do not plan to go on further in psychology or another related field, many of you will enter fields where your skills as a researcher will be a huge asset, and you may very well find yourself drawing on the material from this course to produce original research as part of your job.

We will focus on both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. More broadly, this course also serves to introduce students to the practice of research psychology, exploring how to develop study ideas, submit to psychology journals, and observe how scholarship in psychology is verbally presented.

Course Learning Outcomes

Assess the strengths and weaknesses of different research methodologies.
Compare and contrast quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.
Articulate ethical guidelines for human participant research.

Learn fundamental APA research style conventions.

General Education

Course Outline

CLASS SCHEDULE:

September

Week I – 23rd – 25th

Topic: Why Methods & Design?

Reading: Replication Crises Replication Crisis McBride, Chapt 2 McBride, Chapt 2

Week II – 28th – 2nd

Topic: What do I predict? Hypothesis Development

Reading: McBride, Chapt 2

McBride, Chapt 2

September 30th – last day to drop/add courses online

October

Week III – 5th – 9th

Topic: How can I measure it? Variables and Measurement

Reading: McBride, Chapt 5

Week IV – 12th – 16th

Topic: Who should be in my study? Sampling

Reading: McBride, Chapt 6

Week V – 19th – 23rd

Topic: How do I conduct an experiment? One Factor Designs

Reading: McBride, Chapt 12

Topic: Correlational Research

Reading: McBride, Chapt 12

Week VI – 26th – 30th

Topic: How can I protect my participants? Ethics

Reading: McBride, Chapt 3

Controversial Psychology Studies

Test

November

Week VII – 2nd – 6th

Test One – Nov 2

Topic: Can I give them questionnaires? Survey Research (nov 5)

Reading: McBride, Chapt 10

Week VIII – 9th- 13th

Topic: Research Study

November 11th to 13th, fall break (no classes)

Week VIII – 16th- 20th

Topic: Other Specialized Designs

Reading: McBride, Chapt 14

Topic: Quasi-Experiment

Reading: McBride, Chapt 15

Week IX – 23rd – 27th

Topic: History of Research Methods (field trip, if possible)

Week X - 30th – 4th

Topic: Qualitative Research

Reading: Qualitative research

December

Week XI – 7th – 11th

Topic: The Practice of Research & Reporting

Reading: Walking in two Worlds

McBride, Chapt 8

Topic: Overview

December 11th, last day of classes,

December 12th - 15th, reading days

Final Exam December 17 at 17:30

Modifications to the syllabus may be made depending on class need.

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
The Process of Research in Psychology (4th edition)	Dawn McBride	Sage	9781544323497	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Two Tests (2 x 25%)	= 50%
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Research Activities	= 50%
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Other
