

PSYC 201 (A02) – CRN 22827
Research Methods in Psychology
Spring (aka Winter) 2023

Instructor: Ronald Porter, PhD (he/him/his)

Telephone: 250.721.5087

Classroom: Elliot 062

Office Hours: Th 09:00-12:00

or by appointment

Email: ronaldporter@uvic.ca

Office: Cornett A214

Class Time: M, W & Th 14:30 – 15:20

Prerequisites: PSYC 100A & 100B

Lecture and Lab TA: Shauna Nedelec, shaunanedelec@uvic.ca

Territorial Acknowledgement and Commitment to Inclusive Learning

We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

We are committed to making our best efforts to provide a safe, supportive, and effective learning environment for all students. See <https://www.uvic.ca/equity/index.php> and the section below on Health and Wellness Promotion.

Course Description

Introduction to basic research techniques in psychology; emphasis on the conceptual rather than the statistical rationale underlying various research strategies. Areas include the nature of variables, types of measurement, how to generate and test hypotheses, types of validity, and how to interpret and report results. Laboratory exercises and class demonstrations on the processes involved in conducting empirical research.

Course Objectives

- Explain the relationship between science and nonscience, and define the general goals, approaches and methods of scientific research.
- Differentiate between a research prediction and the hypothesis (explanation) behind it.
- Distinguish between ethical and unethical research by applying the standards in the TCPS tutorial.
- Explain the difference between a construct and an operational definition, suggest one given the other, and provide some assessment of how well a particular operational definition likely represents its associated construct.
- Define and identify examples of dependent, independent, and confounded variables.
- Explain the importance of representative sampling and random assignment, and when each is of primary importance.
- Explain how various factors can threaten the validity of conclusions drawn by researchers, and how their impact can be controlled or minimized.
- Explain the differences among true experimental, quasi-experimental, and non-experimental research, including qualitative approaches. Describe the reasons for selecting among them, and various methodologies employed in each approach.

- Define and describe the purpose of experimental designs. Given data from a factorial design, distinguish between main effects and interactions.
- Organize data by constructing various tables and graphs.
- Make sense of data by applying very basic descriptive and inferential statistics.
- Conduct a study incorporating the subject matter of the course, leading to an APA-styled report in the form of a poster and/or research report.

Text

Required

Cozby, P.C., Mar, R.A., & Rawn, C.D. (2020). *Methods in behavioural research* (3rd Canadian Ed). Toronto: McGraw Hill.

Students will find that earlier versions of this textbook will work well. Amazon can be a good place to find inexpensive used versions).

Optional

The Jhangiani et al. (2019) covers the same material as the course textbook, although it is harder to read, and the material does not align exactly. That said, it is available for free on the BC Open website ([Research-Methods-in-Psychology-1641401927.pdf](https://open.library.ubc.ca/subject_areas/psychology/1641401927.pdf))

Jhangiani, R. S., Chiang, I. A., & Price, P. C. (2019). *Research methods in Psychology* (4nd Canadian Ed.) BC Open Learning.

Students with Disabilities

If a disability makes it difficult for you to perform course tasks, please consult with the fine folks at the Centre for Accessible Learning, <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/> I am happy to make accommodations to help students learn.

Requirements/Assessment

- 1.) Three quizzes (60%, 3 quizzes 22.5% for quiz 1 and 2, and 15% for quiz 3) – During the term, students will have opportunity to complete three online quizzes (one for each major content area). Each quiz will be comprised of multiple choice and short answer questions, or an essay question. Although the exams will focus on new material, major concepts from previous sections may also be tested. Please see schedule below for specific dates of the exams.
- 2.) Perusall Target Readings (5%) – For each of the three sections, students will be assigned 1-2 target articles and asked to comment on the paper via Perusall (<https://perusall.com/>). Perusall is an e-reader platform that allows students to annotate the assigned readings and engage in topic discussion similar to social media posting using “like” comments, hashtags, emoticons, and link. Engagement will be evaluated according to the frequency and quality of the comments and responsiveness to the comments of others.
- 3.) Presence (5%) – Your attendance and presence at lecture is strongly encouraged.
- 4.) Breakout Room/Group Activities (5%) – For each of the three content sections, we will have a breakout room/group activity where you and fellow group members will discuss a key concept, topic or question presented in lecture and the readings. The group will be responsible for generating a synopsis of the ideas discussed in the group either in written or visual (e.g., diagram, picture). At the end of the lecture, the

group will submit the synopsis to the instructor and the submission will be evaluated based on the quality of its content and integration of course concepts. Breakout Activity #1 will be pass/fail, breakout activities 2# and #3 will be graded. Unless prior permission is granted, late assignments will not be accepted.

Note: Failure to complete one or more of the course assessments will result in a grade of “N” regardless of the cumulative percentage of all other elements of the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.

In accordance with the University’s policy on academic concessions, “A student who completes all course requirements is not eligible for an academic concession”. Consequently, students can only request deferrals for the completion of required course components and not for non-essential course component

LECTURE COMPONENTS (Total 75%)

Summary of Course Requirements

Three quizzes (60%, 3 quizzes 22.5% for quiz 1 and 2, and 15% for quiz 3)

Perusall Readings = 5%

Presence = This percentage (5%)

Breakout room/group activities = 10%

LAB COMPONENTS (total 25%)

Self-research report paper/poster (15%)

Lab attendance/participation (5%)

Lab assignments (5%)

Grades:

A+	9	90-100%	B+	6	77-79%	C+	3	65-69%	F	0	<50%
A	8	85-89%	B	5	73-76%	C	2	60-64%			
A-	7	80-84%	B-	4	70-72%	D	1	50-59%			

Questions/Problems

Please come see me during office hours if you need help or just to chat about the course. If you have a concern about the marking of a course component, please first make a genuine effort to understand the marking on your own. If that doesn’t work, then please contact me via email.

For general help on study skills, www.coun.uvic.ca/learning/

For help with English, please contact the English Language Centre (www.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/).

If you have problems with email or Brightspaces, contact the Computer Helpdesk (helpdesk@uvic.ca).

If you have a problem with the course, please tell me about it. If speaking to me does not resolve the problem, you can contact the Chair of the Department of Psychology, Stephen Lindsay, at psychair@uvic.ca and/or you could ask the UVic Ombuddy, Annette Fraser, ombuddy@Uvic.ca (see <https://uvicombudsperson.ca/>).

Tentative Course Schedule

Week Commencing

Topic

Section 1: Rational thinking

Jan. 09	Introduction to course and Science of psychology (Chapter 1) Non-rational approaches to human behaviour
Jan. 16	Bias in everyday thinking The scientific Method (Chapter 2)
Jan. 23	The importance of replication Social media, fake news and echo chambers (In-class Activity #1) Ethics: History and deception (Chapter 3)
Jan. 30	Deception - Informed consent EXAM #1

Section 2: Qualitative and quantitative approaches to science

Feb. 06	Qualitative approaches: Observations Chapter 7: Nonexperimental research In-class exercise: Semi-structured interview
Feb. 13	Quantitative approaches: Correlation to causation Chapter 4: Theory in psychology Independent and dependent variables Chapter 6: Experimental research

Feb. 20 **READING WEEK**

Section 3: The Psychological Experiment

Feb. 27	EXAM #2
Mar. 06	Types of validity (internal & external validity)
Mar. 13	Statistical and external validity Experimental pitfalls: Confounds, small sample size & placebos
Mar. 20	Descriptive stats – means & variability (In-Class Activity #3)
Mar. 27	Finding statistical differences More than one independent variable & EXAM #3 Virtual Conference

Emailing the lecturer: Use your UVic email address. The subject line should include the course number (PSYC 201) and a clear statement of purpose. Email represents formal correspondence; as such, you should use proper salutations and full sentences. If you have a specific question about the course material or assignment, please see me after class, during office hours or by appointment. Course assignments cannot be submitted by email.

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Department of Psychology Important Course Policy Information Winter Session 2022/23

Accessible Learning

The University of Victoria is committed to creating a learning experience that is as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please feel welcome to discuss your concerns with me. If you have a disability or chronic health condition, or think you may have a disability, you may also want to meet with an advisor at the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL).

Attendance and Absences

Attendance is important. Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled. Students may be assigned a final grade of N or debarred from writing final examinations if they fail to satisfy a minimum attendance requirement set by the instructor for lectures, laboratories, online course discussions or learning activities, tutorials, or other learning activities set out in the course outline.

Medical documentation for short-term absences is **not required** (approved by Senate). Students who cannot attend due to illness are asked to notify their instructors immediately. If illness, accident, or family affliction causes a student to miss the final exam or to fail to complete any required assignment/assessment by the end of the term students are required to submit a request for academic concession (see below).

Children and Pets

If you need to bring your children or pet to class, please do not hesitate to do so. It is understood that sometimes this is necessary due to care circumstances. However, please aim to have minimal class disturbance so that student learning is not impacted.

Class Recording and Auto-Captioning Statement

The instructor may record class sessions and those recordings may be made available to all students in the class via Brightspace. If you have questions or concerns regarding class recording and privacy please contact privacyinfo@uvic.ca

Auto-generated captioning may be enabled in this course. Auto-captioning is highly error-prone, especially for specialized terminology and proper names. Students are asked to refer to the audio feed for clarification of any errors. If you find captioning errors that are offensive, please contact your instructor and/or teaching assistant so that they are aware. If you require captions as part of an academic accommodation, please contact [CAL](#).

Commitment to Inclusivity, Diversity, and Respectful Environments in the Classroom and Online

The University of Victoria is committed to providing a positive and supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. All members of the university community have the right to this experience and the responsibility to help *create* such an environment. The University will not tolerate racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying, or harassment.

Please be advised that, by logging into UVic's learning systems or interacting with online resources and course-related communication platforms, you are engaging in a University activity.

All interactions within this environment are subject to the university expectations and policies. Any concerns about student conduct may be reviewed and responded to in accordance with the appropriate university policy.

To report concerns about online student conduct: onlineconduct@uvic.ca

Copyright

All course content and materials are made available by instructors for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in their class¹. The material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with ©. Any further use or distribution of materials to others requires the written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act. Violations may result in disciplinary action under the [Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations policy \(AC1300\)](#) or the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), whichever is more appropriate for the situation.

Course Experience Survey (CES)

The instructor values your feedback on this course. Toward the end of term, you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to the instructor regarding the course and their teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to <http://ces.uvic.ca>. You will need to use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. You will be reminded nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

1. What strengths did your instructor demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
2. Please provide specific suggestions as to how the instructor could have helped you learn more effectively.
3. Please provide specific suggestions as to how this course could be improved.

Disclaimer

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Grading

In classes that are based on a percentage grading scheme, the following [Undergraduate Grading Scale](#) is used

Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
Percentage	90-100	85-89	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	65-69	60-64	51-59	< 50
GP Value	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

Rounding is only applied to the final grade and is rounded up at the 0.5% level (e.g., 84.49% is round to 84% and 84.50% is rounded to 85%).

Medical Documentation for absences

No medical documentation for short-term absences is required (Approved by Senate).

If you are seeking a Withdrawal Extenuating Circumstances or an Aegrotat grade, medical documentation may be required if relevant.

Ombudsperson and Academic Concerns

From the course calendar...

Depending on the nature of the academic matter of concern to the student, the order in which the student should normally try to resolve the matter is: first, the course instructor; second, the Department Associate Chair; third, the Dean of the faculty; and finally, the Senate.

If you are having an academic concern or problem that cannot be resolved with your instructor or the Department Associate Chair, you may wish to consult with the Office of the Ombudsperson (<https://uvicombudsperson.ca>). Current contact information for the office can be found here <https://uvicombudsperson.ca/contact/>.

¹ Syllabi belong to the department through which the course is administered.

Policy on Academic Integrity including Plagiarism and Cheating

The Department of Psychology fully endorses and intends to enforce rigorously the [Senate Policy on Academic Integrity](#). It is of utmost importance that students who do their work honestly be protected from those who do not. Because this policy is in place to ensure that students carry out and benefit from the learning activities assigned in each course, it is expected that students will cooperate in its implementation.

The offences defined by the policy can be summarized briefly as follows:

1. **Plagiarism.** You must make sure that the work you submit is your work and not someone else's. There are proper procedures for citing the works of others. The student is responsible for being aware of and using these procedures.
2. **Unauthorized Use of an Editor.** The use of an editor is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization.
3. **Multiple Submission.** Only under exceptional circumstances may a work submitted to fulfill an academic requirement be used to satisfy another similar requirement. The student is responsible for clarifying this with the instructor(s) involved.
4. **Falsifying Materials Subject to Academic Evaluation.** This includes falsification of data, use of commercially prepared essays, using information from the Internet without proper citation, citing sources from which material is not actually obtained, etc.
5. **Cheating on Assignments, Tests, and Examinations.** You may not copy the work of others in or out of class; you may not give your work to others for the purpose of copying; you may not use unauthorized material or equipment during examinations or tests; and you may not impersonate or allow yourself to be impersonated by another at an examination. The Department of Psychology has a policy of not making old examinations available for study purposes. Therefore, use of old exams without the express written permission of the instructor constitutes cheating by the user, and abetting of cheating by the person who provided the exam.
6. **Aiding Others to Cheat.** It is a violation to help others or attempt to help others to engage in any of the conduct described above.

Instructors are expected to make every effort to prevent cheating and plagiarism. This may include the assignment of seating for examinations, asking students to move during examinations, requests to see student identification cards, and other measures as appropriate. Instructors also have available to them a variety of tools and procedures to check for Internet and electronic media-based cheating. In instances of suspected or actual plagiarism or cheating, instructors, following prescribed procedures, are authorized to take steps consistent with the degree of the offence. These measures will range from a zero on the test or assignment or a failing grade for the course, probation within a program to temporary or even permanent suspension from the University.

Rights of Appeal are described in the Policy on Academic Integrity in the University calendar January 2023.

The definitive source for information on Academic Integrity is the University Calendar

Other useful resources on Plagiarism and Cheating include:

1. The Ombudsperson's office: <https://uvicombudsperson.ca/academic-integrity/>
The [Office of the Ombudsperson](#) is an independent and impartial resource to assist with the fair resolution of student issues. A confidential consultation can help you understand your rights and responsibilities. The Ombudsperson can also clarify information, help navigate procedures, assist with problem-solving, facilitate communication, provide feedback on an appeal, investigate and make recommendations. Phone: 250-721-8357; Email: ombuddy@uvic.ca; Web: uvicombudsperson.ca.
2. UVic Library Resources: <http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/>
3. UVic Library Document on **Avoiding Plagiarism**

Prerequisites

Students who remain in courses for which they do not have the prerequisites do so at their own risk. Students who complete courses without prerequisites ARE NOT exempt from having to complete the prerequisite course(s) if such courses are required for the degree program.

Program Requirements

For more information see the [UVic Calendar](#).

Registration Status

Students are responsible for verifying their registration status. Registration status may be verified using My Page, View Schedule. Course adds and drops will not be processed after the [deadlines](#) set out in the current UVic Calendar.

Students who do not attend classes must not assume that they have been dropped from a course by an academic unit or an instructor. Courses that are not formally dropped will be given a failing grade, students may be required to withdraw and will be required to pay the tuition fee for the course.

Request for Academic Concessions: In the Event of Illness, Accident or Family Affliction

Request for Academic Concession form: <http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf>

- **What to do if you miss the final exam scheduled during the formal exam period**
Apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”, normally within 10 working days of the date of the exam. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example, a deferred exam). Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record.
- **What to do if you miss an exam other than one scheduled during the formal exam period**
Do not apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”. Instead, contact your course instructor (or designated teaching assistant) to let them know why you missed the exam and include the [in-course extension form](#) if required. Medical documentation is not required.
- **What to do if you require additional time to complete core course requirements**
Apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”, normally within 10 working days of the end of the course. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation. Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record if the missing work has been deemed required. Note, only required course components may be deferred.

Research Participation Opportunities with the Department of Psychology

The Department of Psychology offers multiple opportunities to participate in research studies over the year. Students are encouraged to learn more about the field of psychology by volunteering in these studies. Information about studies can often be found posted on notice boards around the Department as well as through our Participant Pool webpage at <https://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/psychology/research/participants/>.

Student Support Services

[Learn Anywhere](#) is the student support portal for a full range of student academic and support services. Services include: [Centre for Academic Communication](#), [Math & Stats Assistance Centre](#), [Counselling Services](#), [Health Services](#), [Library](#), [Ombudsperson](#), and [Computer Help Desk](#)

This classroom is a trans-inclusive space

Please indicate if you have a preferred name and pronoun that you’d like to be used in the classroom. Please e-mail your instructor or your TA if you would like to discuss the climate of this classroom for trans students. Gender neutral bathrooms are available at UVic.

University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS)

The [UVSS](#) is a social justice based non-profit run by students, for students and is entirely separate from UVic. As an undergrad student, you are already a member! We work on issues affecting students such as affordability, public transit, sexualized violence, sustainability, student employment, and much more. We fund clubs and course unions, and have several advocacy groups. We also have a Food Bank and Free Store, a Peer Support Centre, and run your health and dental plan. We are here to support you, so please reach out to us at uvss.ca!

Academic Important Dates

Winter session - second term (January – April)

Monday, Jan 9 th	Second term classes begin for all faculties
Sunday, Jan 22 nd	Last day for 100% reduction of second term fees for standard courses 50% of tuition fees will be assessed for courses dropped after this date.
Wednesday, Jan 25 th	Last day for adding courses that begin in the second term
Tuesday, January 31 st	Last day for paying second term fees without penalty
Sunday, Feb 12 th	Last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees for standard courses 100% of tuition fees will be assessed for courses dropped after this date.
Feb 20 th - Feb 24 th	Reading Break for all faculties
Tuesday, Feb 28 th	Last day for withdrawing from full year and second term courses without penalty of failure
Thursday, Apr 6 th	Last day of classes in second term for all faculties
Apr 11 th - Apr 26 th	Second-term formal examination period

Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response at UVic

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting www.uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:

Where: Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR, Sedgewick C119

Phone: 250.721.8021

Email: svpcoordinator@uvic.ca

Web: www.uvic.ca/svp

BE WELL



A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Social Life, Friends, & Community at UVic:

Having a social network is an extremely important foundation for positive mental health. There are lots of benefits to joining clubs, course unions, intramurals and teams on campus.

<https://www.uvic.ca/undergraduate/housing-student-life/student-life/index.php>

Counselling Services:

The Student Wellness Centre can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students. <https://www.uvic.ca/student-wellness/contacts/student-wellness-team/index.php#ipn-counsellors>

Health Services:

The Student Wellness Centre also provides a full service primary health clinic for students. <https://www.uvic.ca/student-wellness/contacts/student-wellness-team/index.php#ipn-physicians>

Centre for Accessible Learning:

The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations www.uvic.ca/services/cal/. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Elders' Voices:

The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/

Mental Health Supports and Services:

Mental health supports and services are available to students from all areas of the UVic community: <https://www.uvic.ca/student-wellness/wellness-resources/mental-health/>