

PSYC 201 (A02)

Research Methods in Psychology

January-April 2021 CRN 22545
Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30-5:50

Contact Details

* Instructor: Steve Lindsay, slindsay@uvic.ca, 250-721-8593, office hour Fridays 1-2:30 or by appointment.

My pronouns are he/him/his.

* Lecture TA: Abu Sheriff, abu.sheriff42@gmail.com

Lab TA: Shauna Nedelec shaunanedelec@uvic.ca

* Website: <https://bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/118352>

* Zoom: <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/85696349718?pwd=OXJ6ZDF1WVZNNUkycDZZd0pkQ3lpQT09>

Meeting ID: 856 9634 9718

Password: 421171

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 Objectives

The main goal of this course is to improve students' ability to assess evidence for claims (e.g., that vaccines are harmful). The broad aim is to enhance students' skill with critical and scientific thinking. This entails developing an understanding of how flukes of random chance, measurement error, and/or confounding differences between conditions can create misleading impressions of reality. Students will also acquire some of the vocabulary of research methods in psychology (which overlap with methods in many life sciences). Through a self-study lab exercise and paper, students will learn about single-subject research and perhaps gain some insight into themselves. See the Learning Outcomes Document in the BrightSpaces page for more detailed, specific objectives.

Text

[Jhangiani, R. S., Chiang, J. A., & Price, P. C. \(2015\). Research methods in Psychology—2nd Canadian Edition.](#)

In previous years I used Morling, B. (2018). *Research Methods in psychology: Evaluating a World of Information*. New York: WW Norton. I like the Morling text (any edition) a lot, and some of my lectures draw on that text. I am using Jhangiani et al. because it is free (which students like), electronic (which seems desirable from a COVID-19 perspective), Canadianized, and pretty good. The Morling text is optional but recommended if you can find a used one around...

Keys to Success

Students must participate via Zoom during the designated class times. Most class sessions will involve a mix of periods during which we all work together and periods during which students work in smaller teams in Zoom-based break-out rooms, with me and TA Abu Sheriff rotating between rooms. And it will be important to prepare for these sessions in advance (see the Schedule of Topics and Readings/Resources).

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 Techniques

LECTURE COMPONENTS (Total 60%)

Teamwork Summary Statements and Questions 30%

Starting Thursday 14 January, each lecture will include a 15- to 20-minute teamwork session, during which groups of 6 to 8 students will work to accomplish two tasks:

1. Write a one- or two-sentence statement that captures what the group believes to be one of the most important/interesting ideas in the assigned reading. What is the most important take-home point?
2. Write a one- or two-sentence question about something in the reading that seemed important but that was unclear or confusing. If you could ask one question about the reading, what would be it be?

These will be graded on the following scale: 0 = absent, .6 = below expectations, .8 = meeting expectations, up to 1 for exceeding expectations. Each team member who participates on a day will get the same grade. For each student, the three lowest scores will be dropped before grades calculated.

Quizzes 30%

During each lecture starting 14 January, students will have opportunity to complete a small online quiz on the reading assigned for that day and/or material presented in lecture that day. We design these questions such that students who read the material should be able to answer most questions. The three lowest scores will be dropped before grades are calculated.

LAB COMPONENTS (total 40%)

Self-research report paper (20%)

Lab attendance/participation (10%)

Lab assignments (10%)

Each student will receive a score for each component listed above; these will be weighted as per the percentages indicated above and then summed to determine your total points, which will be converted into a letter grade as follows: 90 and up = A+; 85 to 89 = A; 80 to 84 = A-; 77 to 79 = B+; 73 to 76 = B; 70 to 72 = B-; 65 to 69 = C+; 60 to 64 = C; 50 to 59 = D; 0 to 49 = F. Marks will be rounded up from .5 (e.g., 89.499 = A, 89.50 = A+).

Questions/Problems

Please come see me during Zoom office hours if you need help or just to chat about the course. Bright, motivated students come to instructors' office hours. 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 avail, 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, please contact the Computer Help Desk (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, Ulrich Mueller, at psychchair@uvic.ca and/or you could ask the UVic Ombuddy, Annette Fraser, ombuddy@Uvic.ca (see <https://uvicombudsperson.ca/>).

Important Dates

Second term classes begin for all faculties	January 11th
Last day for 100% reduction of second term fees for standard courses	January 24th
Last day for adding courses that begin in the second term	January 27th
Last day for paying second term fees without penalty	January 31st
Last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees for standard courses	February 14th
Last day for withdrawing from courses without penalty of failure	February 28th

Important Course Policy Information

Prerequisites

Prerequisites for this course are PSYC 300A (with PSYC 300B as a pre- or co-requisite) and either PSYC 351A or two of PSYC 351B, 351C, and 351D. Students who remain in courses for which they do not have the prerequisites do so at their own risk. Those who complete courses without prerequisites are not exempt from having to complete the prerequisite course(s) at some later date if such courses are required for the degree program. Students are responsible for checking their registration status by the add/drop deadline. For other information about program requirements, see <https://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/psychology/undergraduate/program-requirements/index.php>

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.

Commitment to Inclusivity and Diversity

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. I strive to make my classroom a safe and welcoming place for students of diverse backgrounds, genders, and abilities.

In the Event of Illness, Accident or Family Affliction (See UVic Calendar, September 2018, p. 48-50)

- *What to do if you require additional time to complete 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 (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. Or download the Request for Academic Concession form here: <http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf>

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. You are responsible for 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. **Being an Accessory to Offences.** This means that helping another student to cheat (for instance, by showing or communicating to them answers to an assignment, or by allowing them to view answers on an exam) is an academic offence.

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 Policy on Academic Integrity in the University calendar (on p. 46 in September 2018).

The definitive source for information on Academic Integrity is the University Calendar (p. 45-47 in September 2018) (<https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html#>)

Other useful resources on Plagiarism and Cheating include:

1. The Study Solutions Office: <https://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/success/study/index.php>
2. The Ombudsperson's office: <https://uvicombudsperson.ca/tips/plagiarism/>
3. UVic Library Resources: <http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/>
4. Dr. Mitchell of the UVic English Dept.: http://web.uvic.ca/~amitch/teaching_files/Avoiding%20Plagiarism.pdf

DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

Discrimination and Harassment are prohibited at the University of Victoria. Members of the University Community have the right to work, study and participate in activities at the university in an environment free of Discrimination and Harassment. Eligible WorkSafeBC claimants also have a right to an environment free of workplace bullying or harassment as it is defined by regulations pursuant to the British Columbia Worker's Compensation Act. Please refer to University of Victoria discrimination and harassment policy at:

https://www.uvic.ca/universitysecretary/assets/docs/policies/GV0205_1150_.pdf and WSBC bullying and harassment policies at: https://www.uvic.ca/ohse/assets/docs/BH_policies_Nov1_2013.pdf

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

Health and Well-being Promotion

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/mentalhealth/undergraduate/connecting/index.php>

Counselling Services:

Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/

Health Services:

University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives. www.uvic.ca/services/health/

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/

Student Wellness Centre

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEsdBw2zmAA&t=2s>

Mental Health Supports and Services:

Mental health supports and services are available to students from all areas of the UVic community:

www.uvic.ca/mentalhealth/undergraduate/