PSYC 344: Research Methods

30 points, 0.2500 EFTS
16 Jul – 18 Nov, 2018

Coordinator: Neville M Blampied, Room 469, Psychology Lab Block. Direct Dial 3694385, Internal Ext. 94385

Email: Neville.Blampied@canterbury.ac.nz

Coordinator Office hours: Neville maintains an open door policy, but prefers to see students by appointment. Make an appointment by email, phone, or at a lecture.

Teaching Assistants: To be advised

Contributing Teachers: Simon Kemp (Rm 208a, ext 94394); Brian Haig (Rm 203, ext 92073); Ailsa Humphries (Rm 401, ext 7550). In addition, Professor Ralph Miller, Erskine Fellow will contribute. Prof Miller is Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Binghamton University, New York State, USA. https://www.binghamton.edu/psychology/people/rmiller.html

Description

An advanced survey of research methods, including the design and conduct of research studies and the analysis and reporting of data in Psychology. This course will consider a variety of methods that are useful for carrying out psychological research and the rationale for the methods. The laboratory classes are designed to provide some practical experience in conducting psychological research, especially the design of questionnaires, and in writing research reports in standard APA format.

Goals of the Course

• To introduce students at an advanced level in their undergraduate studies to key research methods in psychology and to equip them to critically evaluate different methods;
• To provide a foundation in research methods for postgraduate study in psychology and to prepare students to undertake postgraduate research in psychology;
• To give experience of writing research reports in the form required in psychology using APA style.

Learning Management System

Please use the following link - http://learn.canterbury.ac.nz/ - for downloading PowerPoint/lecture notes, ECHO360 lecture recordings, lab/tutorial assignments etc.

Please note that not all lecturers in the course regularly use PowerPoint. In particular, for Simon Kemp’s section, students are urged to attend all lectures as ECHO360 may not record PowerPoints for these lectures.
Note also that posted PowerPoints may differ slightly from that used in lectures. You are expected to attend all lectures and make notes as well as use PowerPoint-derived information. Access to lecture recordings may be restricted at the discretion of the lecturer, but recordings will be available for review immediately after a lecture and in the week leading up to the test and examination.

**Timetable and Lecture Schedule**

Please see the timetable and lecture and laboratory schedule below. This contains important information about due dates for Lab Reports and other Assessments.

**Note:** Remember to regularly check your Timetable or course web page for possible day or venue changes to both lectures and labs.

**Textbooks**

There is no Text for PSYC344. Each teacher will supply reference lists and lecture guides for their section and most if not all reference material will be available via Learn. Preparation for lectures involves pre-reading all key references cited by lecturers. You are expected to read all material provided in lecture guides and any key references supplied for PSYC344. Not only are these materials necessary for sound understanding of the lecture topics, they are also examinable.

**Laboratories**

NB: Reports will be due at 5pm on Friday on the designated date. Hardcopies of Reports are to be placed in the physical PSYC344 Dropbox in the Psychology Lab Block foyer. Make sure you keep an electronic or hard copy of any report you submit to cover the possibility of it being lost during marking.

Lab 1: **Tutorial: Identifying Bad Research Designs.** [No formal assessment].

Lab 2: **Scale construction exercise:** Done as small group exercise and extends over 2 consecutive labs. The exercise yields data for Lab 4. There will be follow-up work that each student will need to do during the semester break to meet the requirements for Lab 4 and the Research Report.

Lab 3: **Multiple Regression (MR):** Assumes that students will use Statistica to analyse data working individually. **Report worth 10%: MR report due Friday, September 28th, 5pm**

Lab 4: **Reliability and validity of the scale:** Major Report, in APA style; worth 20%. **DUE Friday, October 19th 2018, 5pm.**

**Report Writing Workshops:** To assist students with the preparation of the Research Report there will be Report Writing Workshops scheduled in the Week beginning 1st October and if necessary 8th October.

**Assessment Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labs:</th>
<th>30%  (1 x 10%, plus 1 x 20% reports)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test:</td>
<td>35%  Wednesday, 26th September 2018, normal lecture time + extra after 5pm, venue TBA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam:</td>
<td>35%  2 hrs.  (Set by the University; date, time, and venue to be advised)</td>
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</table>

The Test will cover material taught in Term 3 and the Exam will cover material taught in Term 4.

*Only in exceptional circumstances will permission be given to take the test at other than the scheduled time.* For more information, see *University of Canterbury Enrolment Handbook 2018* and the *Psychology Handbook 2018.*
# Lecture Schedule – Semester 2 2018 (correct as at 05/07/2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER 2</th>
<th>LABS</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THUR</th>
<th>FRI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>PSYC 344</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LABS</td>
<td>C2</td>
<td>E5</td>
<td>C2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 16</td>
<td></td>
<td>NB1 Intro</td>
<td>NB 2 Intro</td>
<td>NB 3 Intro</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 23</td>
<td></td>
<td>RM 1 Expt Design</td>
<td>RM 2 Expt Design</td>
<td>RM 3 Expt Design</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 30</td>
<td></td>
<td>SK 1 Intro</td>
<td>SK 2 Intro</td>
<td>SK 3 Intro</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 06</td>
<td></td>
<td>LAB 1 Experimental Design</td>
<td>SK 4 Q design</td>
<td>SK 5 Q design</td>
<td>SK 6 S&amp;T</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 13</td>
<td></td>
<td>LAB 2 Questionnaire Design</td>
<td>SK 7 Q S&amp;T</td>
<td>SK 8 Q S&amp;T</td>
<td>SK 9 S&amp;T</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 20</td>
<td></td>
<td>TA Report Back on Questionnaire Design</td>
<td>SK 10 MR</td>
<td>SK 11 MR</td>
<td>SK 12 MR</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>August 27</td>
<td></td>
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<td>September 03</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td></td>
<td>LAB 3 - MR</td>
<td>SK 13 Meta-Analysis</td>
<td>SK 14 Ethics</td>
<td>NB 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 17</td>
<td></td>
<td>LAB 4 Questionnaire Analysis</td>
<td>NB 5</td>
<td>NB 6</td>
<td>NB 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td></td>
<td>MR report due Friday, 28th, 5pm</td>
<td>NB 8</td>
<td>TEST</td>
<td>NB 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 01</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tutorial Major Report Preparation</td>
<td>NB 10</td>
<td>NB 11</td>
<td>SK – 400 level</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 08</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional Tutorial</td>
<td>AH 1</td>
<td>BH 1</td>
<td>AH 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Major Report</td>
<td>BH 2</td>
<td>AH 3</td>
<td>BH 3</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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*Mid-semester break: no undergraduate assessment to be carried out or fall due (except fieldwork or clinical or workplace placements or performance music recitals)*

| September 03 |      |     |     |     |     |     |
| September 10 |      | LAB 3 - MR | SK 13 Meta-Analysis | SK 14 Ethics | NB 4 |
| September 17 |      | LAB 4 Questionnaire Analysis | NB 5 | NB 6 | NB 7 |
| September 24 |      | MR report due Friday, 28th, 5pm | NB 8 | TEST | NB 9 |
| October 01 |      | Tutorial Major Report Preparation | NB 10 | NB 11 | SK – 400 level |
| October 08 |      | Optional Tutorial | AH 1 | BH 1 | AH 2 |
| October 15 |      | Major Report | BH 2 | AH 3 | BH 3 |
Topics:

NB = Neville Blampied – Introduction (Term 3) + Single-case research (Term 4)

RM = Ralph Miller (Erskine Fellow) – Experimental design (Term 3)

SK = Simon Kemp – Questionnaire design, scaling & testing, multiple regression (MR) + other topics (Term 3 & 4)

AH = Ailsa Humphries – Theory development, exploratory data analysis, tests of statistical significance (Term 4)

BH = Brian Haig – Phenomena detection, exploratory factor analysis, theory evaluation (Term 4).

NOTE: The TEST will be held in the normal Wednesday lecture slot but with extra time allocated beyond 5pm. Room assignment will be confirmed later. It will be a multi-choice test covering all material taught in Term 3 plus the additional lectures in Term 4 given by Simon Kemp.

**Timetable 2018**

Students must attend one activity from each section.

### Lecture A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>16:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>E5 Lecture Theatre</td>
<td>16 Jul - 26 Aug 10 Sep - 21 Oct</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lecture B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>C2 Lecture Theatre</td>
<td>16 Jul - 26 Aug 10 Sep - 21 Oct</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lecture C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>14:00 - 15:00</td>
<td>C2 Lecture Theatre</td>
<td>16 Jul - 26 Aug 10 Sep - 21 Oct</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## General Department of Psychology Information

**IT Services:** [http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/its/](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/its/)

**Learn (online learning):** [http://learn.canterbury.ac.nz/](http://learn.canterbury.ac.nz/)

**UC Library Subject Guide:** [http://canterbury.libguides.com/psyc](http://canterbury.libguides.com/psyc)

### Assessment Cover Sheets

Please attach cover sheets to the front of all your assignments. Hard copies can be found in the ground floor of the Psychology building where the assignment drop boxes are located, and electronic copies are available on LEARN.

### Academic Liaison

If you have any concerns about a course, please contact the Course Coordinator in the first instance. The Department of Psychology has a Staff/Student Liaison Committee and each Semester students voluntarily represent courses from each level. Postgraduate students are represented for both Part 1 paper years and Part 2 thesis years for the whole year. A request for volunteers is sent early in the first semester.

### Students with Disabilities

Please refer to the Disability Resource Service for information on study support services: [http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/disability/](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/disability/)

### Policy on Dishonest Practice

Plagiarism, collusion, copying and ghost writing are unacceptable and dishonest practices.

- Plagiarism is the presentation of any material (text, data, figures or drawings, on any medium including computer files) from any other source without clear and adequate acknowledgement of the source.
- Collusion is the presentation of work performed in conjunction with another person or persons, but submitted as if it has been completed only by the named author(s).
• Copying is the use of material (in any medium, including computer files) produced by another person(s) with or without their knowledge and approval.
• Ghost writing is the use of another person(s) (with or without payment) to prepare all or part of an item submitted for assessment.

In cases where dishonest practice is involved in tests or other work submitted for credit, the student will be referred to the University Proctor. The instructor may choose to not mark the work.

The Department reserves the right to require work to be submitted in electronic format so that it can be submitted to plagiarism detection websites.

Special Considerations

Special Consideration for assessments is for students who have covered the work of a course but have been prevented from demonstrating their knowledge or skills at the time of the assessment due to unforeseen circumstances. Students should consult the Special Considerations website for information, and contact them directly with any queries. http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/special-consideration/

Also on the Examinations webpage is information about Results and Appeals for final grades. The Department of Psychology policy of “substantial part of assessment” for all courses is set at 50% of all coursework. Unless a minimum of 50% of coursework is completed, final special consideration will not be given.

Marks and Grades

You will get a mark and/or a grade for each piece of assessment during the course and a final grade at the end of the course. For more information on the University regulations for credit see: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/regulations/general-regulations/general-conditions-for-credit-regulations/

Reconsideration of Grades

Students can appeal any decision made on their final grade, and should, in the first instance, speak to the course coordinator about their grade. Students can apply through Student Services to appeal for up to four weeks after the release of results: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/examinations/result-dates-and-appeals/.

For more information see General Course and Examination Regulations in the University Calendar: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/publications/brochure-gallery/.

Complaints and Grievances

If a student encounters any problems regarding any aspect of the course, they should in the first instance approach the lecturer concerned. Failing that, they can approach the course coordinator. For more information, please see the Psychology Handbook.

Missed Tests

In rare cases a student will not be able to sit a test. In such cases, the student should consult with the course coordinator to discuss if alternative arrangements are available. This must be done well in advance of the set date of the test. The criteria used for approving a special sitting are the same as the UC policy used for end-of-semester examinations, which are outlined below:
• Clash with another test from other UC courses
• Religious (Conflicting religious day or event)
• Bereavement (family member or close friend)
• Study (overseas study, must be a tertiary institute)
• Sporting or cultural event (Representing NZ, Canterbury or the University of Canterbury)
• Wedding (immediate family member or part of a bridal party)
• Business (travel)

With the exception of the above criteria, tests will only be given at the regularly scheduled time and place. Missed tests will result in a score of 0% for that test.

Emergency Assembly Area

Please gather in the Psychology car park on the grassed area away from the cars and buildings.

Health & Safety Information

See the Department of Psychology webpage: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/science/schools-and-departments/psychology/about-us/