



Shih Chien University

STP Program (July 01-Aug 02)

PSY 209 Fundamentals of Psychological Research

Course Outline

Course Code: PSY 209

Instructor: Dr. Job Chen

Home Institution: University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Office Hours: TBA

Email: job.chen@charlotte.edu

Credits: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 144 class hours, including 50 lecture hours, professor 30 office hours, 20-hour TA discussion sessions, 10-hour review sessions, 34-hour extra classes.

Prerequisites: N/A

Course Description :

This course serves as a comprehensive introduction to the foundational principles and methodologies of psychological research. Designed for students pursuing studies in psychology or related fields, the course will equip participants with the essential skills to critically evaluate, design, and conduct psychological research. Emphasizing both quantitative and qualitative approaches, the curriculum covers key aspects of research design, data collection, statistical analysis, and ethical considerations. Through a combination of lectures, hands-on activities, and practical exercises, students will gain a solid understanding of the scientific methods that underpin psychological inquiry.

By the end of the course, students will:

- Demonstrate a foundational understanding of the scientific method and its application in psychological research.
- Critically assess and compare different research designs in terms of their

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Disclaimer: Course schedule is subject to change.



appropriateness and limitations.

- Gain practical experience in selecting and applying various data collection methods.
- Understand the use of statistical methods in empirical studies.
- Understand and adhere to ethical guidelines in the design and conduct of psychological research.
- Enhance critical thinking skills through the evaluation of research studies and the formulation of research questions.

Required Course Materials:

Morling, B. (2020). *Research Methods in Psychology*, 4th ed. W. W. Norton.

Grading System (1 ~ 100):

Quality Points	Grade	Percentage %
4	A	80-100
3	B	70-79
2	C	60-69
1	D	50-59
0	E	0-49

Assignments and Essays (30%) – A literature-informed research essay integrating the theories learned from this class. Grades are given based on thoughtful analyses and application of the relevant theories (40%), evidence-based argument and critical thinking (40%), and overall writing and grammar (20%). The essay is due in the last week of the class.

Midterm exam (35%) – will be multiple choice questions given in the middle of week 3 to cover all materials previously studied.

Final exam (35%) – will be multiple choice questions given at the end of week 5 to cover all materials previously studied.

Course Schedule

WEEK 1

Introduction to Research in Psychology

Overview of the Scientific Method

Variables and Measurement

Psychological Scales and Measurement

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WEEK 2

Survey Research I

Survey Research II

Sampling and Generalizability

Non-experimental Research

WEEK 3

Experimental Research I

Experimental Research II

Midterm

Quasi-experimental Research

WEEK 4

External and internal validity

Single-Subject Research

Qualitative Research Methods I

Qualitative Research Methods II

WEEK 5

Descriptive Statistics

Inferential Statistics

Research ethics

Presentation of your research

Final