The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Division of Social Science
SOSC1990 Research Methods in Psychological Science
Spring Semester, 2024

Instructor
Name: Dr. Annie Shu
Office: Rm 2371
Email: annieshu@ust.hk
Consultation: By appointment

Teaching Assistant
Name: Ms. Vivian Ng
Office: Rm 2359
Email: vivianci@ust.hk
Consultation: By appointment

*When contacting us by email, please **_prefix the subject line_** of your message with the course code [SOSC1990]. Use your university email account only.

Lecture Time: **Tue, Thu 13:30 – 14:50**
Venue: **Lecture Theatre F**

Course Description
This course introduces students to the basic research principles in psychological science. It evaluates various research designs and statistical analyses, and discusses relevant ethical issues encountered in studying human behaviors.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)
Upon completion of this course, students are expected to:
1. recognize the basic research principles in psychological science;
2. evaluate various research designs and statistical analyses commonly used in research on psychological science;
3. demonstrate the ability to apply the professional ethics in conducting research and practice of psychological science;
4. demonstrate skills of scientific reasoning, effective research methods, and problem-solving;
5. demonstrate the ability to critically read, summarize, interpret, and evaluate information regarding behavioral phenomena and social issues; AND
6. demonstrate the ability to present, discuss, and explain knowledge about psychological science with clarity in both oral and written forms.

Recommended Readings
Shaughnessy, J. J., Zechmeister, E. B., & Zechmeister, J. S. (2015). *Research methods in psychology* (10th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Jhangiani, R. S., Chiang, I-Chant. A., Cuttler, C., & Leighton, D. C. (2019). *Research methods in psychology* (4th ed.). Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, B. C. https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/75

Assessment Scheme

Components	Weighting	ILOs
Class Participation	10%	1,2,3,4
Research Experience	5%	1,2,3
Individual Assignments	45%	1,2,3,4,5,6
Group Project	20%	1,2,3,4,5,6
Quiz	20%	1,2,3,4

1. **Class Participation (10%)**
- You are strongly encouraged to participate actively in class activities and group discussions. The activities or discussions will be issues that you will come across in your everyday life that are related to the course contents.
- Your contributions in the class discussions or activities will be recorded on Qualtrics and count towards your participation score.

2. **Research Experience (5%)**
- One of the best ways to understand knowledge is through application. Research Experience offers opportunities to "switch hats" from a researcher to a participant to observe how a real research study is conducted. You will complete either ONE of the two tasks:
   - Research study: Complete a research study as a participant and learn firsthand how it is conducted. Answer a few reflective questions about your experience afterward.
   - Article reading: Read one journal article from the list provided on Canvas. Write a summary report using the template provided.
- Your writings will be graded on a pass/fail basis (for failed cases, you will receive comments and have a chance to rewrite and resubmit with a 1%-score deduction).

3. **Individual Assignments (45%)**
- You will have to complete 3 individual assignments. Guidelines will be released on Canvas in due course.

Assignment	Topic
1	Research Ethics (15%)
2	Scale and Measurement (15%)
3	Quantitative Research Methods (15%)

4. **Group Project (20%)**
- In a group of 5, you will formulate a research hypothesis and propose a research design to test your hypotheses.
- You will be randomly assigned to a group and the group list will be released on Canvas after the add/drop period. To minimize the problem of free riders, each student will anonymously evaluate the contribution of their groupmates towards the completion of the project through the iPeer system. The free rider's grade may be adjusted based on the peer evaluation.

5. **Quiz (20%)**
- A quiz, scheduled on **May 7**, will be administered to test your understanding of the course materials. The format will be multiple-choice and/or short questions. It covers all contents in lectures from Week 1 to 14. The quiz will NOT include the recommended readings. These

readings are useful for a deeper understanding of the course materials.
- Arrive on time for the quiz as no additional time will be given for students arriving late.
- No make-up quiz will be given to students who are absent from the quiz unless students can provide validated medical reasons. You should notify the teaching team (through email) about your absence by attaching your official medical certificate *within 24 hours of the original quiz date* if you wish to arrange for a make-up quiz. The make-up quiz will ONLY be in the form of essay questions.

Academic Integrity

You should observe the University's policies regarding academic integrity (https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/regulations-student-conduct-and-academic-integrity). Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating would result in a reduction of scores or even a failing grade in the course. We will investigate every suspected case of plagiarism and report the confirmed case to the Division of Social Science for further review or action. Make sure you understand academic honesty.

Course Communication Platform

All lecture materials and announcements will be posted on CANVAS. Be sure to check CANVAS frequently for any updated news.

*Do **NOT** leave messages in the CANVAS inbox.*

Some Other Notes
- *Interaction in class* – I believe interactions (both verbal and non-verbal) between the lecturer and the students (and among students) are one of the key ingredients to an optimal learning experience. Your active participation in class discussions or activities will not only enhance your learning, but also motivate the teaching team to do better! Stay behind the class and share with me your thoughts about the course contents.
- *Lecture slides* – Lecture slides will be posted to CANVAS before each class, but the contents will be a bit different from the displayed slides as I hope to encourage you to take your notes. Note-taking facilitates your reflection and assimilation of the lecture contents.
- *Penalties* – Score deduction applies to any assignments over the word limit. Details can be found in the assignment guidelines.
- *Late submission* – Submissions received less than 5 hours after the deadline will not be penalized. No submissions will be accepted after 5 pm HKT on the due date.
- *Communication* – Please expect that your emails will be responded to during weekdays 10 am to 6 pm HKT.
- *Your feedback* – Your opinions about the course are very valuable to help me improve the course. Feel free to drop by to talk to me. A course evaluation will also be held at the end of the course.

Teaching Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	Feb 1	(1) Introduction
2	Feb 6	(2) Types of Research Methods
	Feb 8	(3) Research Questions and Hypotheses Formulation
3	*Feb 13*	*Lunar New Year Holiday*
	Feb 15	(4) Research Ethics
4	Feb 20	(5-6) Psychological Measurement
	Feb 22	
5	Feb 27	(7-8) Survey and Sampling
	Feb 29	
6	*Mar 5*	***Workshop I: Conducting Literature Search***
	Mar 7	(9-10) Qualitative Research Methods
7	Mar 12	
	Mar 14	(11-12) Experimental Designs
8	Mar 19	
	Mar 21	***Group Project Consultation***
9	*Mar 26*	
	Mar 28	*Mid-term Break*
9	*Apr 2*	
	Apr 4	
10	Apr 9	(13) Descriptive Statistics
	Apr 11	(14) Inferential Statistics
11	*Apr 16*	***Workshop II: Inferential Statistics with SPSS***
	Apr 18	
12	*Apr 23*	***Group Project Presentation***
	Apr 25	
13	*Apr 30*	
	May 2	
14	**May 7**	**Quiz (Week 1 to 14)**
	May 9	***Submission of Assignment 3***

Important Dates

Date	Submission
Feb 26	Assignment 1
Mar 25	Assignment 2
Apr 22	Group Project PPT
May 3	Peer Evaluation
May 9	Assignment 3