

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Division of Social Science
SOSC1990 Research Methods in Psychological Science
Course Syllabus
Fall Semester 2021

Lecturer	Teaching Assistant
Dr. Beatrice LAI Office: Room 2387 Email: beatricelai@ust.hk Phone: 2358 7817 Consultation: By appointment	Vivien PONG Email: sosc1990ta@ust.hk Consultation: By appointment

Lecture Time: Tuesday and Thursday, HKT 10:30 – 11:50

Venue: Room 2502 (Lift 25-26) / Zoom

**The format of the course will follow University guidelines. Consistent with the other SOSC Psychology courses offered, this course will not be recorded.

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)

After taking this course, you should be able 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. understand the professional ethics in the 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
6. demonstrate the ability to present, discuss, and explain knowledge about psychological science with clarity in both oral and written forms

Assessment Scheme

Individual Assignments	40%
Group Project	35%
Peer Review Paper	25%

1. Individual assignments (40%) ILOs #1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6

You will have to complete three individual assignments. Guidelines of the assignments will be distributed on Canvas in due course.

	Topic	Due Date
Assignment 1	Research ethics	Oct 8
Assignment 2	Survey	Oct 22
Assignment 3	Statistics	Batch 1 – Dec 3 Batch 2 – Dec 6

2. Group project (35%) ILOs #1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6

You will work in a team of 5-7 people to propose a research study. Your group has to formulate a research hypothesis(es) and to propose a research design to test your hypothesis(es).

3. Peer review paper (25%) ILOs #1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6

You will work individually to review your peers' research study. Your task is to critically evaluate pitfalls and weaknesses of your peers' research study and make suggests to the research design and methodology.

Academic Integrity

All of you are expected to observe the University's policies regarding academic integrity (<https://acadreg.ust.hk/generalreg.html#b>). Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating usually results in a reduced or failing grade in eth course. Please consult the teaching team if you are not clear about the guidelines.

Course Communication Platform

All lecture materials and announcements will be posted on CANVAS. Be sure to check CANVAS from time to time for any updated news. Interaction between the lecturer and the students is one of the key ingredients to an optimal learning experience. You can share any thoughts relevant to the course by email. These can be things you come across in your everyday life which are related to what you have learned in class.

Your Feedback

Your opinions about the course are very valuable to improve the course. A course evaluation will be held at the end of the course. You are also very much welcome to talk to the teaching team.

Teaching Schedule

Lecture	Date	Topic
1.	Sep 2	Introduction: What is science?
2.	Sep 7	
3.	Sep 9	Where to start? The beginning of the research journey
4.	Sep 14	Workshop: How to conduct literature search?
5.	Sep 16	Psychological measurement
6.	Sep 21	
7.	Sep 23	Research ethics: Is the study ethical?
8.	Sep 28	
9.	Sep 30	Qualitative methods
10.	Oct 5	
11.	Oct 7	Survey
12.	Oct 12	
-	<i>Oct 14</i>	<i>Holiday – Chung Yeung Festival</i>
13.	Oct 19	Experimental design
14.	Oct 21	
15.	Oct 26	
16.	Oct 28	
17.	Nov 2	Group project consultation
18.	Nov 4	
19.	Nov 9	Basic statistics: Statistical inference and statistical relationships
20.	Nov 11	
21.	Nov 16	
22.	Nov 18	Workshop: Statistics with R
23.	Nov 23	
24.	Nov 25	Group project Q&A session
25.	Nov 30	

Important Dates

Date	Task
Sep 21	Submission of group list
Oct 8	Assignment 1 due
Oct 22	Assignment 2 due
Oct 29	Group project proposal due
Nov 19	Group project due
Nov 25 or 30	Group project Q&A session
Dec 1	Peer evaluation due
Dec 3	Assignment 3 – Batch 1 due
Dec 6	Assignment 3 – Batch 2 due
Dec 11	Peer review paper due