

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Division of Social Science
SOSC1990 Research Methods in Psychological Science
Course Syllabus
Spring Semester 2022

	Lecturer	Teaching Assistant
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Consultation	By appointment	By appointment

*Emails will be responded to during weekdays 10am to 6pm HKT.

Lecture Time: Tuesday and Thursday 4:30pm – 5:50pm

Venue: Room 2503, Lift 25-26

**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)

Upon completion of 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. 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
6. demonstrate the ability to present, discuss, and explain knowledge about psychological science with clarity in both oral and written forms

Assessment Scheme

Assessment Tasks	Alignment of ILOs	Weighting
1. Individual Assignments	1,2,3,4,5,6	40%
2. Group Project	1,2,3,4,5,6	35%
3. Peer Review Paper	1,2,3,4,5,6	25%

1. Individual Assignment

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

Assignment	Topic
1	Research Ethics
2	Qualitative Research Methods
3	Quantitative Research Methods

2. Group Project

You will be randomly assigned into 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). You will evaluate the contributions of fellow members towards the completion of the project using iPeer. Each person's individual grade will be adjusted based on the peer evaluation.

3. Peer Review Paper

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 suggestions to improve 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.

Suggested Textbook

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

Teaching Schedule

Lecture	Date	Topic	Task
1.	8 Feb	Introduction	
2.	10 Feb	Research Questions and Hypotheses Formulation	
3.	15 Feb		
4.	17 Feb	<i>Workshop I: Conducting Literature Search</i>	
5.	22 Feb	Research Ethics	Finalized Group List
6.	24 Feb		
7.	1 Mar	Psychological Measurement	
8.	3 Mar		
9.	8 Mar	Qualitative Research Methods	
10.	10 Mar		
11.	15 Mar	Survey	Assignment 1
12.	17 Mar		
13.	22 Mar	Experimental Designs	
14.	24 Mar		Assignment 2
15.	29 Mar		
16.	31 Mar		
-	5 Apr	<i>Ching Ming Festival</i>	Group Project Proposal
17.	7 Apr	Group Project Consultation	
18.	12 Apr		
-	14 Apr	<i>Mid Term Break</i>	
19.	19 Apr	Descriptive statistics	
20.	21 Apr	Inferential statistics	
21.	26 Apr		
22.	28 Apr	<i>Workshop II: Inferential Statistics with SPSS/R</i>	Group Project Ppt
23.	3 May		
24.	5 May	Group Project and Q & A Sessions	
25.	10 May		
-	11 May		Peer Evaluation Assignment 3 – Batch 1
-	12 May		Assignment 3 – Batch 2
-	17 May		-
-	21 May		Peer Review Paper