
RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY in Fall 2019 (PY2020)

Course Code	PY2020	Professor(s)	Maria Medved
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	PL201
Class Schedule	MR: 13:45-15:05 in PL-4	Office Hours	Monday and Thursday 4:45 to 5:15 or by appointment
Credits	4	Email	mmedved@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2019	Office Tel. Ext.	829

Course Description

In this course, you will learn the critical skills needed to evaluate research and conduct your own research in psychology. As such, this course aims to help students improve their research skills from two different perspectives:

1. User of Research: Although only a few of you may pursue a career as a research psychologist, all of you are users of research – from psychology to other social science disciplines. Therefore, the primary goal of this course is to develop your capacity to critically evaluate empirical evidence that is communicated in academic journals, the popular press, and other outlets.
2. Producer of Research: Another goal of this course is to sharpen your ability to produce original research in psychology. This includes skills in designing and conducting research studies, and drawing appropriate conclusions. Even if you do not plan to go on further in psychology or another related field, many of you will enter fields where your skills as a researcher will be a huge asset, and you may very well find yourself drawing on the material from this course to produce original research as part of your job.

We will focus on both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. More broadly, this course also serves to introduce students to the practice of research psychology, exploring how to develop study ideas, submit to psychology journals, and observe how scholarship in psychology is verbally presented.

Course Learning Outcomes

be able to critically evaluate research studies in terms of methodology
learn how to choose the appropriate research design for a study appreciating the advantages and disadvantages of different methods

understand the fundamental differences between quantitative and qualitative methodologies
grasp the basics of research ethics
learn fundamental APA research style conventions
familiarize themselves with how psychological research is practiced day to day (e.g.,
presentations; peer review process)

General Education

[PLEASE EDIT OR REMOVE THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS APPLICABLE]

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the [INDICATE THE REQUIREMENT(S) FULFILLED BY THE COURSE] requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

[INDICATE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES]

Course Outline

Week	Topic	Reading(s)
1. Sept 2 & 5	Why Methods & Design?	Replication Crisis
2. Sept 9 & 12	Research Ideas	Walking in Two Worlds
	Hypothesis Development	McBride, Chapt 2
3. Sept 16 & 19	Variables and Measurement	McBride, Chapt 5

4. Sept 23 & 26	Sampling	McBride, Chapt 6
5. Sept 30 & Oct 3	One Factor Designs	McBride, Chapt 12
6. Oct 7 & 10	Field Outing (Musée des Arts et Métiers – worth 2 classes; visit on Thursday Oct 10 at 19:30; no in-class instruction this week)	
7. Oct 14 & 17	Ethics in Research	McBride, Chapt 3
8. Oct 21 & 24	Survey Research	McBride Chapt 10
Statistic Basics	McBride, Chapt 7	
9. Oct 28	Test One	
Fall Break (Oct 31)		
10. Nov 4 & Nov 7	Multifactorial Designs	McBride, Chapt 13
	Correlational Research	McBride, Chapt 11
11. Nov 14	Psychological Science on the Web (seminar in library)	
Nov 11 – No class (Armistice Day)		
12. Nov 18 & 21	Other specialized designs	McBride, Chapt 14

Quasi-Experiments

McBride Chapt 15

13. Nov 25 & 28

Qualitative Research

Qualitative Research

Reporting

McBride, Chapt 8

14. Dec 2 & 5

The Practice of Research

(peer review process, etc.)

Career Seminar (Dec 2)

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
The Process of Research in Psychology (4th ed)	McBride	Sage	9781544323497	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Two Tests (2 x 35%) = 70%

Research Activities (10 x 3%) = 30%

Other
