



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Year: 2025

Course Prefix: PSY

Course and Section #: 3030 003

Course Title: Research Methods for Psychology

Credits: 4

Course Description

Explains the logic of the classical true experiment and how it permits causal inferences. Compares and contrasts the benefits and drawbacks of quasi-experimental and correlational research designs. Includes the design of an empirical psychological study. Covers compliance with guidelines for ethical research as codified in law and the American Psychological Association's ethics code. Requires collection, analysis, and presentation of quantitative data for an empirical psychological study. Includes a lab.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Sabrina Badali

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, students should be able to...

1. Explain the logic of the classical true experiment and how it permits causal inferences.
2. Compare the benefits and drawbacks of quasi-experimental and correlational research designs.
3. Collaborate with peers to design an empirical psychological study.
4. Comply with guidelines for ethical research as codified in law and the American Psychological Association's ethics code.
5. Interpret quantitative data for an empirical psychological study.

This course is required for psychology majors.

Course Materials and Texts

Research Methods in Psychology: Evaluating a World of Information (4th Edition). Beth Morling ISBN-13: 978-0393617542

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Lab Assignments (33%)

There are 11 lab assignments that are due throughout the semester. Lab assignments include activities related to research methods, completing training on how to conduct ethical psychological research, and milestones for designing your own research project.

Module Quizzes (25%)

There are 10 chapter quizzes administered on Canvas. Each quiz covers one module and is non-cumulative. After you complete the quiz you will be shown the answers and my explanations for them.

Team Functioning Activities (2%)

There will be two short teamwork-related surveys throughout the semester. These activities are to check-in about team functioning. The purpose of these assignments is to help you meet the course objective of working with peers to design an empirical study. It will help you assess how your team is working together and provide me with information about how to support you.

Research Paper (25%)

There is one final research paper during the last week of the semester. This research paper will be the final product of a semester's worth of work of designing, running, and analyzing the data from a group research project. Lab assignments throughout the semester will guide you through the process of writing your research paper.

Poster Presentation (15%)

In addition to a research paper, your group will be designing and presenting a poster about your research project. This is intended to be a creative and celebratory way to share your findings with the class.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percent
A	94-100
A-	90-93.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9

Grade	Percent
C+	77-79.9
C	73-76.9
C-	70-72.9
D+	67-69.9
D	63-66.9
D-	60-62.9
E	0-59.9

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

All required readings are listed with the modules below

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Module 1:

- Required Reading: Sources of Information: Why Research Is Best and How to Find It
- Topic: How do we know things?

Module 2:

- Required Reading: Three Claims, Four Validities: Interrogation Tools for Consumers of Research
- Topic: What research can tell us

Module 3:

- Required Reading: Ethical Guidelines for Psychology Research
- Topic: How do we conduct research ethically?

Module 4:

- Required Reading: Identifying Good Measurement
- Topic: How do we measure the mind?

Module 5:

- Required Reading: Surveys & Observations: Describing what People Do
- Topic: How can we measure what people do?

Module 6:

- Required Reading: Sampling: Estimating the Frequency of Behaviors and Beliefs
- Topic: When do results generalize?

Module 7:

- Required Reading: Introduction to Simple Experiments
- Topic: What is an

experiment?

Module 8:

- Required Reading: More on Experiments: Confounding and Obscuring Variables
- Topic: What is a good

experiment?

Module 9:

- Required Reading: How can experiments test more complex ideas?
- Topic: Ch 12 Experiments with More Than One Independent

Variable

Module 10:

- Required Reading: Ch 8 Bivariate Correlational Research
- Topic: What do correlations tell us?

Module 11:

- Required Reading: Ch 13 Multivariate Correlational Research
- Topic: How can correlations get closer to

causation?

Module 12:

- Required Reading: Ch 14 Replication, Generalization, and the Real World
- Topic: When is a study trustworthy and relevant to the real

world?

Module 13:

- Topic: How do I organize my

data?

Module 14:

- Topic: How do I analyze my

data?

Module 15:

- Topic: How do I present research?

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

AI Statement: Easily accessible tools powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) are growing in popularity. In this class if you want to use AI tools, I want you to be able to use these tools in an effective and ethical way. My goal is for you to learn and develop critical thinking and creative skills and AI doesn't need to work against that goal. For work in this class, if you use AI you **must add a short AI disclosure statement** and **cite** the AI you use in APA style. Please see the **AI Disclosure** page for more details! I will be using a plagiarism checker that includes screening for AI. These tools are notoriously inaccurate, but if your assignment gets flagged and you do not have an AI disclosure statement, then I will enter a 0 for your grade and get in contact with you. After you have added an appropriate AI disclosure statement (or if we have determined that it was an error) then I will update your assignment grade.

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, Page

admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.