

PS114-18 Research Methods in Psychology

20/21

Department

Psychology

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Hester Duffy

Credit value

18

Module duration

24 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The module provides skills and knowledge necessary for understanding the nature of empirical work in psychology.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The module provides skills and knowledge necessary for designing, implementing, analysing, and reporting the student's own empirical investigations. The module provides valuable preparation for the second and third year projects.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Scientific writing for psychology: Structure and purpose of an article, content of title, abstract, introduction, method (and subsections of method), results, discussions and reference section, and

citations and referencing formats

Structure and components of experimental and non-experimental research designs

Types of data collection techniques

Application of statistical hypotheses to research, and selection of statistical tests for analysing data

Statistical calculation using software (SPSS) of t-tests, chi-square (goodness-of-fit and contingency table) tests, correlation and simple regression, one-way ANOVAs, factorial ANOVAs and repeated-measures ANOVAs

Reporting of statistical evidence in scientific reporting for psychology

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- the ability to understand, implement and discuss the principles of psychological research;
- the ability to understand the principles of experimental, observational and questionnaire methods;
- the ability to understand the principles of qualitative methods in psychology;
- the ability to understand ethical issues in psychological research.
- the ability to design studies to collect, analyse and interpret data, and to apply these skills to write reports of empirical investigations that conform to the standard American Psychological Association format.

Indicative reading list

Howell, D. C. (2008). Fundamental statistics for the behavioural sciences (6th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth. (or a more recent edition of this text)

Field, A. (2009). Discovering statistics using SPSS (3rd ed.). London: Sage. (or a more recent edition of this text)

Howell, D. & Cramer, D. (2014). Introduction to SPSS in Psychology (6th ed.). Harlow, England: Pearson.

Research element

Research Project Report

Design, run and orally present (in groups of c4 students) and write up (independently) a replication study, using one of several suggested studies as a starting point:

- (i) Obtain ethical approval (does not directly contribute to the grade, but if late, late penalties will be applied to the write-up, and if absent, no marks will be awarded for the write-up);
- (ii) Write a 2500-word APA-format manuscript based upon it.

Students are advised that the project write-up must be passed for the module to be passed, as well as the weighted average needing to be above the pass mark.

Subject specific skills

critical analysis, formulation and testing of hypotheses
write reports of empirical investigations that conform to the standard American Psychological Association format; this includes, but is not limited to, article structure and referencing conventions.
understand ethical issues in psychological research.

Transferable skills

written and oral communication skills;
use of SPSS;
group work.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	15 sessions of 1 hour (8%)
Project supervision	6 sessions of 2 hours (7%)
Practical classes	15 sessions of 2 hours (17%)
Private study	123 hours (68%)
Total	180 hours

Private study description

Guided Private Study

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time
Online test	25%	

	Weighting	Study time
Online test undertaken in class time		
Oral Presentation of Project	5%	
5 minute presentation		
Research Experience	10%	
Research experience contributes to both PS114 & PS113		
1st Practical Report	5%	
1500-word APA-format manuscripts (practical reports) on set topic		
2nd Practical Report	5%	
1500-word APA-format manuscripts (practical reports) on set topic		
3rd Practical Report	5%	
1500-word APA-format manuscripts (practical reports) on set topic		
Project Report	45%	
Research Project Report		
Design, run and orally present (in groups of c4 students) and write up (independently) a replication study, using one of several suggested studies as a starting point:		
(i) Obtain ethical approval (does not directly contribute to the grade, but if late, late penalties will be applied to the write-up, and if absent, no marks will be awarded for the write-up);		
(ii) Write a 2500-word APA-format manuscript based upon it.		
Students are advised that the project write-up must be passed for the module to be passed, as well as the weighted average needing to be above the pass mark.		

Feedback on assessment

Feedback on practical reports and project report takes the form of 1) a printed form giving selected standard comments (corresponding to amount of credit given) on each assessed sub-element of the report (e.g., each student receives seven selected comments about the Abstract of which one could be "The abstract included a clear, accurate, concise statement of the dependent variable." or "The dependent variable was not stated in the abstract" or an alternative about the same topic would be included); plus 2) additional disambiguating comments from the marker, as needed.

Feedback on project presentation takes the form of marks on the department scheme for oral presentations plus written comments from the marker.

Other components treated as summative only.

Availability

Post-requisite modules

If you pass this module, you can take:

- PS215-15 Further Methods in Psychology

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of UPSA-C800 Undergraduate Psychology
- Year 1 of UPSA-C804 Undergraduate Psychology with Education Studies
- Year 1 of UPSA-C802 Undergraduate Psychology with Linguistics