

M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the design, measurement and inferential reasoning in psychological research articles.
2. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the nature of knowledge in Psychology and identify common misunderstandings about Psychology.
3. Identify the major ethical concerns as they apply to social research projects, especially those using human subjects.
4. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of various research methods and designs (e.g., case studies, experiments, quasi-experiments, surveys, observational studies)
5. Design, conduct, and analyse research projects.
6. Write a research report using APA guidelines.

N: Course Content:

1. The scientific understanding of behaviour
2. Theories and falsifiability
3. Developing questions, hypotheses and predictions
4. Reviewing scientific literature
5. Operationism and variables
6. Ethical Research
7. Testimonials and case study evidence
8. Correlation and causation
9. The experimental method
10. Measurement concepts and practices
11. Observational methods
12. Surveys and questionnaires
13. Experimental design
14. Conducting experiments
15. Multiple causation and complex experimental designs
16. Quasi experimental and developmental research
17. Understanding research results – describing data
18. Probabilistic reasoning and chance – inferential statistics
19. Converging evidence and consensus
20. Generalizing results
21. Research report writing
21. The image of Psychology

O: Methods of Instruction:

This course will employ a number of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives, including some of the following:

- lectures
- laboratory activities
- small group discussion
- problem based activities

There will be laboratory meetings throughout the semester in which students will develop and carry out their own research projects.

P: Textbooks and Materials to be obtained by Students:

Cozby, Paul C., (2009) Methods in Behavioral Research (10th Ed.)
New York, NY, McGraw-Hill Publishing

Stanovich, Keith E, (2009) How to Think Straight about Psychology (9th Ed.) Boston, MA., Allyn and Bacon

Or some comparable textbooks.

Texts will be updated periodically.

Q: Means of Assessment:

Evaluation will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. Evaluation will be based on course objectives and may include some of the following: quizzes, multiple choice exams, essay type exams, term paper or research project, computer based assignments, etc. The instructor will provide the students with a course outline listing the criteria for course evaluation at the beginning of the semester.

An example of one evaluation scheme:

2 Midterm Exams	40%
Research Project Report	30%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
	100%

R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR

No.

Course Designer: Dr. Graham Rodwell

Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

Dean / Director: Dr. Kathy Denton

Acting Registrar: Brenda Walton