

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
Programme:	Psychology
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Experimental Methods in Psychology
Course Code:	PSY 5210
Course Leader:	Dr Ira Konstantinou
Student Engagement Hours:	160
Lectures:	20
Laboratory:	45
Independent / Guided Learning:	95
Semester:	Spring 2013
Credits:	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course covers experimental design and testing methodology in the study of human behaviour. The course will elaborate on the content covered in PSY 5205 Quantitative Methods in Psychology. More advanced statistical analysis will be covered alongside the theoretical base for using different research methods and what are the advantages and disadvantages of each. Also we will discuss in depth ethical issues in psychological research and the way we report and present studies in psychology. Students are expected to be deliver their experimental work with limited direction building on what they learned in PSY 5205 in terms of designing, conducting and reporting an experiment according to APA standards.

Prerequisites: PSY 3100 and MTH 4120 and PSY 5205

Aims and Objectives:

In this course we will focus on the usefulness and appropriateness of different research methods for the examination of various phenomena. Special emphasis will be placed on the applications of theories through experimentation and the critical evaluation of these. To illustrate these points we will examine experimental studies in different areas of psychology such as memory, attention, language, emotion, psychophysics etc. Moreover, the laboratory class will complement the lectures, whereby students are required to collect, analyze and interpret data on a topic of their choice. This is an extended project

to be presented to publication standards and at the Experimental Psychology poster session at the end of the semester.

Programme Outcomes:

5A.i, 5A.iii, 5B.i, 5Bii, 5Biii, 5D.i, 5D.ii, 5D.iii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the experimental methods used in psychology
- Appreciate the connections between the theories and their applications in experimentation and to be able to critically evaluate these
- Demonstrate the ability to apply different methodologies when specific phenomena are examined
- Demonstrate the ability to design, conduct, analyse, interpret and report an experimental study with limited guidance
- Demonstrate the ability use statistical software to analyse data and interpret the result tables.
- Develop the ability to orally present an experimental study to the standards of a conference

Indicative Content:

Theoretical content:

- Observation and Correlation
- Experimental studies
- Ethics in Research
- Methods used in Individual Differences research
- Methods used in Cognitive Skills research
- Methods used in Perception and Attention research
- Methods used in Learning and Memory research
- Methods used in Psychophysics research

Laboratory content:

- ANOVAs: all types
- Planned comparison and post-hoc tests
- Regression
- Non-parametric tests
- Preparing a poster presentation to conference standards

Assessment:

The module is evaluated as follows:

Type of assessment	Length per item	Weighting per item	Total assessment
Experimental study report	3000	25%	1 two-hour final exam plus 5000-6000
Laboratory take-home exam	1000	20%	
Laboratory SPSS problem sheets	1000	10%	
Conference poster presentation	1000	15%	
Final exam		30%	

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved by Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Lecture presentations with the key concepts
- II. Group discussions on the material
- III. Laboratory/software applications
- IV. Internet sites related to psychology
- V. Videos
- VI. On-line experiments
- VII. Related journal articles

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

Kantowitz, B.H., Roediger, H.L., III, Elmes, D.G. (2009). *Experimental Psychology. Understanding Psychological Research*, Wadsworth.

Field, A. (2005). *Discovering Statistics using SPSS for Windows*. Sage Publications

Journals

American Psychologist
 British Journal of Psychology
 British Journal of Social Psychology
 Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology
 Journal of Personality
 Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
 Psychological Bulletin
 Psychological Review

