Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus

Spring 2021

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| Course Title (Credits) | IDS 301 Research Methods 1: Data Collection (3 Credits) |
| Course Designation for TC | N/A |
| Content Teacher | |
| Instructor | Futoshi Kobayashi, Ph.D. |
| E-mail address | fkobayas@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp |
| Office/Ext | MIC 1-410/Ext. 3735 |
| Office hours | Tuesday & Thursday 9:05-10:35 |
| Language Teacher | |
| Instructor | N/A |
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| Office/Ext | N/A |
| Office hours | N/A |

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| Course Description: | | |
| This course introduces students to research methods in the social sciences. The emphasis is on collecting data and recognizing the types of data gathered in the social sciences. Basic concepts of scientific research are also introduced. Students in psychology and other majors will pursue research related to their disciplinary interests within the general framework of research methodologies common to all the social sciences. | | |
| Course Objectives: | | |
| Upon completion of this course students should be able to:   * Understand basic concepts of the scientific approach. * Understand the importance of ethics in psychological research. * Generate testable statements. * Explain the concepts of reliability and validity. * Understand and use basic psychology experimental methods. * Understand and use basic psychology descriptive methods. * Write a complete research proposal with appropriate referencing.   Critical thinking: In this course we practice essential critical thinking skills including interpretation, analysis, evaluation, inference, and explanation. We will practice these critical thinking skills both formally through specific research assignments and tests, as well as more informally during class discussions, presentations, question and answer sessions, and other active learning activities. | | |
| Course Schedule: | | |
| Day | Topic | Content/Activities |
| 1 | Introduction | Discussion of Syllabus  Explanation of Goals and Purpose of the Class  Log-in Moodle Course  Introduction of Web Dictionary for English Learners  (HW) Read Chapter 1 Text |
| 2 | Chapter 1: The Science of Psychology (1) | Ch. 1 Text Questions (Handout), “Women Talk More Than Men” Study, Definition of Psychology, Empiricism, “Seven Bank” Story, “THE CHOCOLATE” by Meiji Corporation |
| 3 | Chapter 1: The Science of Psychology (2) | Empiricism: No Data, No Science  What is pseudoscience? (p. 3)  Karl Popper and “an unfalsifiable claim” (p. 3) |
| 4 | Chapter 1: The Science of Psychology (3) | “Karl Popper, Science, & Pseudoscience” (YouTube Video, 9 min.) & Discussion  Forer effect (or Barnum effect) (pp. 3-4) |
| 5 | Chapter 1: The Science of Psychology (4) | “I Gave Fake Personality Tests, and People Believed It.” (YouTube Video, 10.5 min.) & Discussion  “Why Astrology Isn't Real Science” (YouTube Video, 3 min.) & Discussion  “Five Simple Strategies to Sharpen Your Critical Thinking” (YouTube Video, 4.5 min.) & Discussion |
| 6 | Chapter 1: The Science of Psychology (5) & Chapter 2: Getting Started in Research (1) | Ch. 2 Text, Ch. 2 Text Questions (Handout), Watch “Correlation Coefficient” Video for discussion, Mean and Standard Deviation Activity (Group Work) |
| 7 | Chapter 2: Getting Started in Research (2) | Correlation Activity 1 (Scatterplot Drawing Exercise, Strength of Relationship Exercises, 3 Possible Interpretations Exercises), Watch “Correlation vs. Causation” Video for discussion |
| 8 | Chapter 2: Getting Started in Research (3) & Chapter 3: Experimental Research (1) | Correlation Activity 2 (Pair Work), Ch. 1&2 Test Preparation Guide, Watch “The danger of mixing up causality and correlation” (Video, 6 min.) for Discussion, A Diet Pill at Amazon.com (Group Discussion)  (HW) Prepare for Ch. 1&2 Test. |
| 9 | Chapter 3: Experimental Research (2) | Ch. 1&2 Test, “Website: How to Lose Weight Using Cinnamon Powder and Honey” (Group Discussion), Ch. 3 Text, Ch. 3 Text Questions (Handout) |
| 10 | Chapter 3: Experimental Research (3) | Return and go over Ch. 1&2 Test, Continue Ch. 3 Text Questions (Report & Discussion), Explain “Double-Blind Procedure” by drawings, Independent Variable and Dependent Variable Activity (Pair Work)  (HW) Finish Independent Variable and Dependent Variable Activity. |
| 11 | Chapter 3: Experimental Research (4) & Chapter 4: Theory in Psychology (1) | Go over Independent Variable and Dependent Variable Activity, Ch. 4 Text, Bystander Effect (Handout & Video), “Serial Position Effect” Video (Report & Discussion), “Information Processing Model” Video (Report & Discussion) |
| 12 | Chapter 4: Theory in Psychology (2) | Ch. 4 Text Questions (Report & Discussion), Replication: Stroop Effect (Individual Activity on Web) |
| 13 | Chapter 4: Theory in Psychology (3) | “Texting While Walking” Video (Report & Discussion), “Stroop Effect” & “Texting While Walking” Phenomena (Short Lecture), Memory Game (Individual Activity) & Magical Number 7±2 (Short Lecture), |
| 14 | Chapter 4: Theory in Psychology (4) | “What is theory?” (Short Lecture), “What is Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID)?”(Short Lecture), Watch “Dissociative Identity Disorder Video (Front Screen), Sociocognitive Theory vs. Posttraumatic Theory for DID (Short Lecture), Watch “Sociocognitive Explanation for DID” (Video, 12 min.) for Report & Discussion, Ch. 3&4 Test Preparation Guide  (HW) Prepare for Ch. 3&4 Test. |
| 15 | Chapter 5: Psychological Measurement (1) | Ch. 3&4 Test, Watch “Posttraumatic Explanation for DID” (Video, 9 min.) for Report & Discussion, Ch. 5 Text, Ch. 5 Text Questions (Group Report & Discussion) |
| 16 | Chapter 5: Psychological Measurement (2) | Return and go over Ch. 3&4 Test, Construct & Operational Definition (Short Lecture), Make “Shyness” Questions (Group Work), Psychological Measurement Books Exercise (Group Work) |
| 17 | Chapter 5: Psychological Measurement (3) | Construct (Review), Converge vs. Diverge (Short Lecture), What is Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)? (Short Lecture), “Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7 Item (GAD-7)” and “Zung Self-Rating Anxiety Scale (SAS)” (Individual Activity), Levels of Measurement Exercise (Individual Activity), Reliability & Validity Exercise (Pair Work), Ch. 5 Text Check (Test-Retest Reliability, Internal Consistency, & Interrater Reliability) |
| 18 | Chapter 5: Psychological Measurement (4) | Review: Construct, Reliability, & Validity of Ch. 5 Text, Criterion and Discriminant Validity Exercise with 3 Scales (Group Work), “What is the VIA Survey?” (Short Lecture), Experience VIA Survey (Individual Activity on Web) |
| 19 | Chapter 6: Survey Research (1) | Ch. 6 Text, Ch. 6 Text Questions (Report & Discussion), Good Survey Questions Exercise (Pair Work) |
| 20 | Chapter 6: Survey Research (2) | Simple Random Sampling, Margin of Error, & Confidence Interval (Text Check), Margin of Error Exercise with M&M Chocolate Packages (Group Activity), Excel Activity (Descriptive Statistics, Correlation Coefficient, Scatterplot, etc.) |
| 21 | Chapter 6: Survey Research (3) & Chapter 7: Correlational Research, Observational Research, and Archival Research (1) | Continue Excel Activity, then move to Excel Project (Individual Practice), Ch. 7 Text, Ch. 7 Text Questions (Handout), Eye Blinking Rate Exercise (Pair Work) |
| 22 | Chapter 7: Correlational Research, Observational Research, and Archival Research (2) & Chapter 8: Single-Subject Research (1) | Archival Research Exercise (Individual Activity),  Content Analysis Exercise with magazines (Group Work), Ch. 5&6 Test Preparation Guide, Ch. 8 Text, Ch. 8 Text Questions (Handout), “How to do jumping jacks (Video, 1 min.)”  (HW) Prepare for Ch. 5&6 Test.  (Notice) “Next class, you must wear sneakers and other shoes that are appropriate for exercise. No high heels and no boots.” |
| 23 | Chapter 8: Single-Subject Research (2) | Ch. 5&6 Test, Continue Ch. 8 Text Questions (Handout), Jumping Jacks ABAB Design Activity |
| 24 | Chapter 8: Single-Subject Research (3) & Chapter 9: Research Ethics (1) | Return and go over Ch. 5&6 Test, Class Discussion for Jumping Jacks ABAB Design Activity, Single-Subject Research Exercise, Ch. 9 Text, Ch. 9 Text Questions (Handout) |
| 25 | Campus Library Tour | Continue Ch. 9 Text Questions (Handout), Campus Library Tour for learning how to use various resources and database |
| 26 | Chapter 9: Research Ethics (2) & Chapter 10: Learning about APA Style (1) | Milgram’s Obedience Study (Text Check), Autonomy, Informed Consent, Privacy, & Confidentiality (Text Check), Informed Consent Example (Short Lecture), APA-Style Referencing (Short Lecture), APA Referencing: The Basics (Video & Handout), Ch. 7&8 Test Preparation Guide  (HW) Prepare for Ch. 7&8 Test. |
| 27 | Chapter 10: Learning about APA Style (2) | Ch. 7&8 Test, Continue APA Referencing: The Basics (Video & Handout), Explain APA Documentation Guideline Handouts, APA Documentation Guideline Activity (Individual Work) |
| 28 | Chapter 10: Learning about APA Style (3) & How to Prepare Your Research Proposal (1) | Return and go over Ch. 7&8 Test, Ch. 9 Test Preparation Guide, Finish APA Documentation Guideline Activity (Individual Work), Final Exam = Research Proposal (Short Lecture with Syllabus), Explain two example research proposals, Finding Your Research Interests & Key Words Exercise (individual Activity), Planning for Research Proposal Exercise (individual Activity)  (HW) Prepare for Ch. 9 Test. |
| 29 | How to Prepare Your Research Proposal (2) | Ch. 9 Test, Individual Search for Literature Review |
| 30 | How to Prepare Your Research Proposal (3) | Return and go over Ch. 9 Test, Individual Help for Research Proposals |
|  | Finals | Research Proposal Submission |
| Required Materials: | | |
| Bring a highlighter, a red pen, a pencil, an eraser, an English-English dictionary, and an A-4 binder to every class. Instead of using a standard textbook, handouts will be given in class. There are no textbooks necessary. Students are expected to keep this syllabus and all class materials organized neatly in a binder, and to bring the binder to every lesson. | | |
| Course Policies (Attendance, etc.): | | |
| You are expected to be punctual and to attend all lessons. A delay or early departure will be counted as a half (0.5) day absence. However, any absence, delay, or early departure can be excused if an official document (e.g., doctor’s notes) is submitted to your instructor within 7 days of such an occurrence. When you miss a lesson, it is your responsibility to see your instructor afterwards (and perhaps other students who attended the lesson), to find out how to catch up with the work you missed. If you expect to be absent from a forthcoming lesson, you should email your instructor to explain your absence at least one day in advance.    **A maximum of five and a half (5.5) absences is allowed. The sixth absence will automatically result in a grade of F (Fail).** | | |
| Class Preparation and Review: | | |
| Students are expected to spend at least one hour reviewing and doing homework and one hour preparing for every hour of lesson time. | | |
| Grades and Grading Standards: | | |
| Ch. 1&2 Test: 16%  Ch. 3&4 Test: 16%  Ch. 5&6 Test: 16%  Ch. 7&8 Test: 16%  Ch. 9 Test: 8%  Research Proposal: 28%  The final grade will be determined as below.  A: 90-100 points  B: 80-89 points  C: 70-79 points  D: 60-69 points  F: Less than 60 points  Plagiarism  Plagiarism is not acceptable at MIC. Students must submit their own work and not copy from other sources, unless they credit their sources with appropriate referencing. Students caught copying information from other sources and pretending that it is their own work will automatically result in a grade of ‘F’ or withdrawal from the course. | | |
| Methods of Feedback: | | |
| In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback, i.e., grade, comments, etc. | | |
| Diploma Policy Objectives: | | |
| Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objectives:   1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought) 2. The ability to identify and solve problems   5. Proficiency in the use of information technology | | |
| Notes: | | |
| The schedule, policies, and procedures in this course are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. | | |

