Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus

Spring 2022

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| Course Title (Credits) | IDS 301-3 Research Methods 1: Data Collection (3 Credits) |
| Course Designation for TC | N/A |
| Content Teacher | |
| Instructor | Paul Richards, Ph.D. |
| E-mail address | prichards@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp |
| Office/Ext | 1-330 / 3771 |
| Office hours | Wednesday 2:30 to 5:30 (must come by 5:15)  or by appointment |
| Language Teacher | |
| Instructor | N/A |
| E-mail address | N/A |
| 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, Chapter 1 Text & Ch. 1 Text Questions (Handout) |
| 2 | Chapter 1: The Science of Psychology (1) | Ch. 1 Text Questions (Handout), “Women Talk More Than Men” Study, Empiricism, “Seven Bank” Story, “THE CHOCOLATE” by Meiji Corporation |
| 3 | Chapter 1: The Science of Psychology (2) | Empiricism (Review), What is pseudoscience? (p. 3), Karl Popper and “an unfalsifiable claim” (p. 3), Feudalism (Video, 2 min.), “Karl Popper” (Video, 2 min.), Science vs. Pseudoscience |
| 4 | Chapter 1: The Science of Psychology (3) | Forer effect (or Barnum effect) (pp. 4-5), “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, “5 Tips to Improve Your Critical Thinking” (YouTube Video, 4.5 min.) & Discussion |
| 5 | Chapter 1: The Science of Psychology (4), Chapter 2: Getting Started in Research (1) & Library Tour | Psychologist vs. Mentalist, How To Read Someone's Mind - Derren Brown (Video, 3.5 min.), Ch. 2 Text, Ch. 2 Text Questions (Handout & HW), Library Tour |
| 6 | Chapter 2: Getting Started in Research (1) | Ch. 2 Text, Ch. 2 Text Questions (Check HW), Watch “Correlation Coefficient” (Video, 6 min.) for discussion, Mean and Standard Deviation Activity (Group Work), Variability |
| 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, 2.5 min.) for Discussion |
| 8 | Chapter 2: Getting Started in Research (3) | Correlation Activity 2 (Handout), 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 (1) | Ch. 1&2 Test, “Website: How to Lose Weight Using Cinnamon Powder and Honey” (Group Discussion), Ch. 3 Text, Ch. 3 Text Questions (Handout & HW) |
| 10 | Chapter 3: Experimental Research (2) | Inform Ch. 1&2 Test Mean, Continue Ch. 3 Text Questions (Report & Discussion), Watch “Placebo Effect, Control Groups, and the Double Blind Experiment” (Video, 3.5 min.) for Discussion, Watch “Independent and Dependent Variables” (Video, 3 min.) for Discussion, Independent Variable and Dependent Variable Activity (Handout)  (HW) Finish Independent Variable and Dependent Variable Activity. |
| 11 | Chapter 3: Experimental Research (3) & Chapter 4: Theory in Psychology (1) | Go over Independent Variable and Dependent Variable Activity, Watch “What is Random Assignment?” (Video, 3 min.) for Discussion, Ch. 4 Text, Bystander Effect (Handout & Video), “Serial Position Effect” Video (Report & Discussion), “Information Processing Model” Video (Handout & HW) |
| 12 | Chapter 4: Theory in Psychology (2) | Go over “Information Processing Model” Video Handout, 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 (Handout & HW) |
| 16 | Chapter 5: Psychological Measurement (2) | Inform Ch. 3&4 Test Mean, Ch. 5 Text Questions (Check HW), Construct & Operational Definition (Short Lecture), Make “Shyness” Questions (Group Work), Operational Definition Example Activity (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 “Classroom Anxiety Measure” (Individual Activity), Levels of Measurement Exercise (Individual Activity), Reliability & Validity Exercise (Group Activity), 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 (Group Work) |
| 20 | Chapter 6: Survey Research (2) | Simple Random Sampling, Margin of Error, & Confidence Interval (Text Check), Chapter 6 Miyazaki Governor Example (Handout), 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) | Continue Excel Activity, then move to Excel Exercise, and finish them. |
| 22 | Chapter 7: Correlational Research, Observational Research, and Archival Research (1) | Ch. 7 Text, Ch. 7 Text Questions (Handout), Observational Research Activity: Eye Blinking Rate Study (Pair Work), Archival Research (Text Check), Ch. 5&6 Test Preparation Guide  (HW) Prepare for Ch. 5&6 Test. |
| 23 | Chapter 7: Correlational Research, Observational Research, and Archival Research (2) | Ch. 5&6 Test, Chapter 7 Archival Research Activity (Individual Activity), Watch Content Analysis (Video, 2 min.) for Discussion |
| 24 | Chapter 7: Correlational Research, Observational Research, and Archival Research (3) & Chapter 8: Single-Subject Research (1) | Inform Ch. 5&6 Test Mean, Chapter 7 Content Analysis Activity with magazines (Group Work), Ch. 8 Text, Ch. 8 Text Questions (Handout), Single-Subject Research Exercise: Café Exercise (Handout & HW) |
| 25 | Chapter 8: Single-Subject Research (2) & Chapter 9: Research Ethics (1) | Single-Subject Research Exercise: Café Exercise (Check HW), Ch. 9 Text, Ch. 9 Text Questions (Handout), Watch “5 Psychology Experiments You Couldn't Do Today” (Video, 11 min.) for Discussion |
| 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), Chapter 10 Reference Activity (Individual Activity), 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 and Finish APA Referencing: The Basics (Video & Handout), Explain Research Proposal Guidelines & Research Proposal Form, Learn Example Titles of Research Proposal from Moodle.  (HW) Read Research Proposal Example. |
| 28 | Chapter 10: Learning about APA Style (3) & How to Prepare Your Research Proposal (1) | Inform Ch. 7&8 Test Mean, Ch. 9 Test Preparation Guide, Explain Research Proposal Guidelines, Research Proposal Form, & Research Proposal Example again, Watch Introduction to Citation Styles: APA 7th ed. (Video, 3 min.), Learn Various APA Reference Examples, Re-check Example Titles of Research Proposal from Moodle, Propose Possible Research Proposal Title (individual Activity)  (HW) Prepare for Ch. 9 Test. “If you have not gotten an approval of the topic of your research proposal, send me your topic before next class.” |
| 29 | How to Prepare Your Research Proposal (2) | Ch. 9 Test, Individual Help for Research Proposals |
| 30 | How to Prepare Your Research Proposal (3) | Inform Ch. 9 Test Mean, 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. | | |

