Research and Quantitative Methods in Psychology

(PSYC 2060A)

Fall 2017

Department of Psychology
The University of Hong Kong

Lectures:
Wednesday 1030 – 1220, CPD 1.21

Instructor: Dr. Joseph Cheng
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Consultation Hours: Tue 1430 – 1530, or by appointment

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Email: lancewlw@hku.hk llsigerson@gmail.com cqiuhku.hk
Office Hour: Thu 230pm to 330pm by appointment Thu 230pm to 320pm
Tutorial Hours: Wed 530pm Fri 930am Thu 1230pm
Fri 1030am Thu 130pm
Tutorial Venue: All in CPD3.41

Course Description
This purpose of the course is to equip students with the knowledge and skills in research methods in psychology, enabling them to critically evaluating other, as well as designing their own, quantitative psychological studies. The course will adopt interteaching to facilitate learning.

Learning Objectives
By the end of this course, students should be able to:
- Understand the logic behind the common experiment designs and statistical methods in psychology;
- Critically evaluate psychological research from a methodological and statistical perspective.
- Identify different experiment designs, apply the appropriate designs and analyse the data collected for different research questions;
- Interpret and report results of commonly used statistical analyses in psychological research.
- Understand ethical issues related to research ethics
Textbook


Interteaching
Interteaching is developed by Boyce & Hineline (2002) and has been used by Saville (2006; 2011) in teaching psychological research methods. A typical interteach section requires students to first complete a preparation guide (prep guide) that is designed to guide you through the assigned reading before class. During class, they will form group of three to four during class to discuss the items in the prep guide after a short lecture. At the end of the lecture, students are required to submit a record form to rate their discussion and report what they have discussed and which prep guide questions they find difficult. The lecturer shall study the record form and clarify confusing items in the next lecture.

Computer Resources
Lecture slides, homework assignments, and readings will be made available on Moodle. We will use SPSS for statistical analyses.

If you have trouble accessing the course website, please contact your tutor.

Assessment
Prep guide 10%
In class discussion 10%
Tutorial 20%
Lab report 10%
Short Quizzes 30%
Final Quiz 20%

Preparation Guide (Prep guide)
Each week a prep guide which consists of 10-12 items in different formats and difficulties related to the topic of the following week will be released. It is designed to guide you through the assigned reading and the in-class discussion. You can find all the information needed to complete the prep guide in the assigned reading. Only 1-2 selected items will be graded and are required to be submitted by 5pm, the day after the lecture. The lecturer will announce the required questions in class.

In class discussion
About half of the class time will be assigned for in class discussion. You will form into groups of three to discuss the items in the prep guide. You are encouraged to argue and disagree with your groupmate. No consensus is needed to be reached. At the end of the discussion, each student will need to submit a duly filled discussion record form. The lecturer shall review the record form and tailor the upcoming lecture in
respond to the feedback and common misconceptions. Lecturer and tutors will walk around to answer enquiries and assess the discussion quality. To encourage in-class social interaction, bonus mark will be given for novel group composition.

**Participation / Tutorials**

You are required to participate in all 8 tutorials in this course. During each tutorial, you will learn how to conduct different statistical analyses on SPSS. You will also be required to complete a mini exercise after each tutorial and submit it to Moodle. The attendance and the exercises together consist of 20% of the total grade.

**Quizzes**

There will be 4 thirty-minute short quizzes. They are non-cumulative, i.e. each quiz only covers the materials that are introduced after the previous quiz. Only the best 3 will be counted into your final grade. It consists of 30% of the total grade. No made up quiz will be permitted.

**Final Quiz**

There will be one comprehensive final quiz on 6th Dec, 2017 (Wed). No make-up quiz will be arranged unless a valid medical proof (medical certificate) is presented. No make-up quiz will be arranged for a make-up quiz. Some questions (30% of the final) will come from prep guides. It consists of 20% of the total grade.

**Lab Report**

Dataset and handouts describing a study will be provided. You will need to analyse the data and write about the results of the analyses to address the research problems in the study in the form of a short report (max 1500 words, excluding references). You are required to submit both softcopy (to Turnitin through Moodle) and hardcopy (to your tutor’s pigeon hole) by 5pm on 13th Dec, 2017 (Wed). It consists of 10% of the total grade.

**Homework (Including selected prep guide questions and lab report) Submission**

No late homework assignments will be accepted, unless a valid medical proof is presented. Each assignment submission should have the course code, instructor’s name, your name, UID, and tutorial session written down at the top of the first page clearly.

**Feedback Policy**

Students can expect to receive feedback within three weeks after submitting written assignments and the quizzes. Quiz paper will not be returned to students; however, students can get individual feedback about the quizzes through making appointments with their tutors.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism, interfering with grading) will receive a grade of F in this course and will be reported to the Office of Student
Conduct & Ethical Development for further disciplinary action. There will be no exceptions. If you are not sure what constitutes an academic offense of plagiarism, consult your Lecturer or Tutor. You may also consult the relevant HKU webpage on plagiarism at http://www.rss.hku.hk/plagiarism.

Plagiarism
A hardcopy and a softcopy are required for all written assignments. The softcopy will be checked for plagiarism against a database of articles, books, webpages, and essays submitted by students at HKU and other universities. No credit will be given for an assignment that contains plagiarized materials. Further penalties will also be applied. These penalties include a zero mark for participation in course tutorials and a zero mark for the course. Plagiarism will also be reported to your Faculty for consideration of possible disciplinary action.
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*Quiz date
#Readings are required to be done before attending the lecture