The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Division of Social Science
SOSC1990 Research Methods in Psychological Science
Course Syllabus
Spring Semester 2020

Lecturer	Teaching Assistant
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Lecture Time: Monday and Wednesday, 9:00-10:20
Venue: Room 2404 (Lift 17-18)

Course Description
This course introduces students to the basic research principles in psychological science. It evaluates various research designs and statistical analyses, and discusses relevant ethical issues encountered in studying human behaviors.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)
After taking this course, you should be able to:
1. recognize the basic research principles in psychological science
2. evaluate various research designs and statistical analyses commonly used in research on psychological science
3. understand the professional ethics in the research and practice of psychological science
4. demonstrate skills of scientific reasoning, effective research methods, and problem solving
5. demonstrate the ability to critically read, summarize, interpret, and evaluate information regarding behavioral phenomena and social issues
6. demonstrate the ability to present, discuss, and explain knowledge about psychological science with clarity in both oral and written forms

Assessment Scheme

Individual Assignments	25%
Group Project	30%
Peer Review Paper	25%
Quiz	20%

1. Individual assignments (25%) ILOs #1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6
You will have to complete 3 individual assignments. Guidelines of the assignments will be distributed on Canvas in due course.

	Topic	Due Date
Assignment 1	Literature search and generating research hypothesis	Mar 13
Assignment 2	Research ethics	Mar 23
Assignment 3	Survey	Apr 14

2. Group project (30%) ILOs #1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6
You will work in a team of 5-7 people to propose a research study. Your group has to formulate a research hypothesis(es) and to propose a research design to test your hypothesis(es).

3. Peer review paper (25%) ILOs #1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6
You will work individually to review your peers' research proposal. Your task is to critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your peers' research proposal and make suggests to the research design and methodology.

4. Quiz (20%) ILOs #1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6
You will answer a series of essay questions in the quiz to test your understanding of course materials. No make-up quiz will be given to students who are absent from the quiz unless there are validated medical reasons. You must present a written note from your doctor attesting to the fact that you were too ill to attend the quiz. The make-up quiz will be in the form of essay questions.

Academic Integrity
I expect all of you to observe the University's policies regarding academic integrity (http://publish.ust.hk/acadreg/generalreg/index.html). Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating usually results in a reduced or failing grade in eth course. Please consult me if you are not clear about the guidelines.

Course Communication Platform
All lecture materials and announcements will be posted on CANVAS. Be sure to check CANVAS from time to time for any updated news. I believe interaction between the lecturer and the students is one of the key ingredients to an optimal learning experience. You can share any thoughts relevant to the course by email or talking to me in person. These can be things you come across in your everyday life which are related to what you have learned in class.

Your Feedback
Your opinions about the course are very valuable in helping me to improve the course. A course evaluation will be held at the end of the course. You are also very much welcome to talk to me.

Teaching Schedule

Lecture	Date	Topic
1.	Feb 19	Introduction: What is science?
2.	Feb 24	
3.	Feb 26	Where to start? The beginning of the research journey
4.	Mar 2	Workshop: How to conduct literature search?
5.	Mar 4	Psychological Measurement
6.	Mar 9	Research ethics: Is the study ethical?
7.	Mar 11	
8.	Mar 16	Qualitative methods
9.	Mar 18	
10.	Mar 23	Survey
11.	Mar 25	
12.	Mar 30	Experimental design
13.	Apr 1	
14.	Apr 6	
15.	Apr 8	Group project consultation
-	Apr 13	*Holiday: Easter Monday*
16.	Apr 15	Factorial design
17.	Apr 20	Quasi-experimental designs
18.	Apr 22	Basic statistics: Statistical inference and statistical relationships
19.	Apr 27	
20.	Apr 29	Workshop: Statistics with R
21.	May 4	
22.	May 6	Group project Q&A session
23.	May 11	Recent methodological advances
24.	May 13	Current issues in psychology research
25.	May 18	Quiz

Important Dates

Date	Task
Mar 12	Submission of group list
Mar 13	Assignment 1 due
Mar 23	Assignment 2 due
Apr 6	Group project proposal due
Apr 8	Group project consultation
Apr 14	Assignment 3 due
May 1	Group project due
May 6	Group project Q&A session
May 18	Quiz
May 25	Peer review paper due