



UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑΣ

University of Nicosia, Cyprus

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| Course Code PSY-285 | Course Title Research Methods | ECTS Credits 6 |
| Department Social Sciences | Semester Fall | Prerequisites PSY110, PSY111 |
| Type of Course Required | Field Psychology | Language of Instruction English |
| Level of Course 1 st Cycle | Year of Study 3 rd | Lecturer(s) Dr Menelaos Apostolou |
| Mode of Delivery face-to-face | Work Placement N/A | Co-requisites None |

Objectives of the Course:

This course is designed to provide psychology students with an overview on the “scientific method” of research. It is an introduction on how to do quality research in psychology. By definition it also assists students in developing skills in analysing the research work of others – at least from a methods perspective.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course students are expected to

1. Recall what research method types are available to undertake research
2. Identify what makes a research topic “important”
3. Demonstrate an understanding of what is the role of theory in research
4. Identify theory relevant to an important research question
5. Demonstrate an understanding of how to develop a testable research question from an important topic
6. Explain what makes research “valid” or “invalid”

7. Explain what are the various threats to research validity
8. Critically assess how can threats to validity can be controlled
9. Explain what assists in making research “reliable” or “unreliable”
10. Explain what is research design and why is it so important to research
11. Explain how to choose between alternative possible research designs
12. Evaluate a research project report from methods perspective
13. Develop statistical skills using SPSS.
14. Be able to test hypotheses using the appropriate statistical analyses
(parametric and non-parametric)
15. Be able to interpret the outcome of the statistical analyses.

Course Contents:

1. Curiosity, Creativity, and Commitment.
2. Research as a Process of Inquiry
3. The Starting Point: Asking Questions
4. Data and the Nature of Measurement.
5. Statistical Analysis of Data
6. Field Research: Naturalistic and Case-Study Research
7. Correlational and Differential Methods of Research
8. Hypothesis Testing, Validity, and Threats to Validity
9. Controls to Reduce Threats to Validity
10. Single-Variable, Independent-Groups Designs
11. Correlated-Groups and Single-Subject Designs
12. Factorial Designs
13. A Second Look at Field Research: Field Experiments, Program Evaluation, and Survey Research
14. Final Preparations before Data Collection
15. Research Methodology: An Evolving Discipline
16. Writing a Research Report: APA Publication Style
17. Conducting Library Research

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Interactive Lectures, Lab Presentations, Lab Tutorials, Practical Exercises

Assessment Methods:

Practical Portfolio, Mid-Term Exam, Final Exam.

Required Textbooks/Reading:

| Authors | Title | Publisher | Year | ISBN |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Graziano, A. Raulin M, | Research Methods: A Process of Inquiry | Allyn & Bacon | 2007 | 0-205-52557-1 |

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

| Authors | Title | Publisher | Year | ISBN |
|--|---|--|-------------|-------------|
| Pallant, J. | SPSS Survival Manual. | Open University Press. | 2008 | |
| Brace, N., Kemp, R. & Snelgar, R. | SPSS for Psychologists | MacMillan | 2006 | |
| American Psychological Association | Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association(4 th Edition) | American Psychological Association | 2007 | |