



BHS 240 *Research Methods* (3)

Fall 2006

Instructor: Alan Ho, Ph.D.

Class Time: T/Th 4:00-5:15 pm

Class Location: 519

Lab: M 1:00-2:15 pm

Office: 509

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: 571-2550 Ext. 5911

E-Mail: aho@auc-nuc.ca

Required Texts

C. James Goodwin. (2005). *Research in Psychology: Methods and Design*. 4th Ed. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

On Reserve

Babbie, Earl. (2004). *The Practice of Social Research*, 10th Ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co.

Berg, Bruce L. (1998). *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*. Toronto: Allyn & Bacon.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the concepts and processes of quantitative and qualitative research. Research processes include problem definition, designing the study, selection or development of theory, literature review, data collection, determination of appropriate statistical methods, interpretation and analysis of data, and writing of the research report. Students will develop research skills through application of textual concepts.

Note: This course involves a Monday laboratory component. Absences from labs will result in 5% reduction per missed lab in the final grade.

Course Objectives

By the conclusion of this course students will

- Gain an understanding of the logic of experimental research in psychology
- Understand the ethical implications of conducting psychological research
- Be acquainted with research design and several quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Be able to conduct a literature review
- Be able to interpret data appropriately
- Apply both qualitative and quantitative techniques to actual research situations
- Be aware of the importance of avoiding plagiarism
- Be able to draft a research proposal

Course Schedule

September 7, 12	Chapter 1 –Scientific Thinking in Psychology
September 14	Chapter 2 – Ethics in Psychological Research
September 19, 21	Chapter 3 – Developing Ideas for Research in Psychology
September 26	No Class (Community Day)
September 28, October 3	Chapter 4 – Measurement and Data Analysis
October 5, 10	Chapter 5 – Introduction to Experimental Research

October 12, 17	Chapter 6 – Control Problems in Experimental Research
October 19	Unit Exam #1 (Chapters 1-6)
October 24, 31	Chapter 7 – Experimental Design I: Single-Factor Designs
October 26	No Class (Community Day)
November 2, 7	Chapter 8 – Experimental Design II: Factorial Designs
November 9	No Class (Mid-semester Break)
November 14, 16	Chapter 9 – Correlational Research
November 21, 23	Chapter 10 – Quasi-Experimental Designs and Applied Research
November 28, 30	Chapter 11 – Small N Designs
December 5, 7, 12	Chapter 12 – Observational and Survey Research Methods
Winter Exam Period	Unit Exam #2 (Chapters 7-12)

Final Assignment – 20%

The final assignment constitutes a Research Proposal of a hypothetical study you might conduct based on your exposure to various research designs during the course of this term. This assignment is due on **Dec. 7**.

Course Requirements

- Readings must be completed *prior to* the class sessions in which the respective readings are featured.
- In consideration of your lab instructor, missed Labs may not be made up.

Course Grade (100%)

Laboratory Assignments (5 x 10%)	50%
Examinations (2 x 15%)	30%
Final Assignment (Research Proposal)	20%

Grade Structure:

Percentage:	Letter Grade:	Grade Point Weight:
96-100	A+	4.0
91-95	A	4.0
86-90	A-	3.7
82-85	B+	3.3
75-81	B	3.0
72-74	B-	2.7
68-71	C+	2.3
63-67	C	2.0
60-62	C-	1.7
56-59	D+	1.3
50-55	D	1.0
0-49	F	

Important Notes

- Last day to enter course without permission and/or voluntarily withdraw from course without financial penalty:**Sep 15, 2006**
- Last day to voluntarily withdraw from course or change to audit without academic penalty:**Nov 15, 2006**
- It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with, and adhere to, NUC Academic Policies, such as the policy on Academic Dishonesty, which are stated in the current Catalogue.
- Questions regarding Laboratory assignments should be directed in the first instance to the Lab Instructor.

Notable Websites:

- American Psychological Association <http://www.apa.org>
- Canadian Psychological Association <http://www.cpa.ca>
- Psych Web (APA style, psychology careers, journals)
<http://www.psychwww.com>