



PSYC-210 – Research Methods in Psychology

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2026

Course Outline Review Date: 2031-03-01

Program Area: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Description:

This course focuses on the fundamental research methods used in psychology. It covers various research methods, including experimental, quasi-experimental, and non-experimental approaches. Students will design, conduct, analyze, and report on a research project, developing skills in critical thinking, scientific reasoning, and communication.

Program Information:

This course can be used as a second-year course in the Associate of Arts Psychology Degree, and an elective in several programs. Refer to the College Program Guide for additional information.

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face), Online

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 3

Course type/s: Social Sciences

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45
Seminar/Tutorials	

Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

Course Requisites:

- Earned a minimum grade of C- (55%) in each of the following:
 - [PSYC101](#) – Introduction to Psychology 1 (3)
 - [PSYC102](#) – Introduction to Psychology 2 (3)

Prior Learning and Recognition: Yes

Students are able to request formal recognition of their prior learning or experience outside the classroom. Challenge examination, portfolio-assisted assessment, work-based assessment or a combination of assessments that is appropriate to identify, assess, and recognize prior skills, competencies, and knowledge to achieve course credit. Tuition fees apply, refer to Policy [2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\)](#) or contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrollment Service office

Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbook was in use:

Morling, B., (2025) *Research Methods in Psychology (5th ed)*. W.W. Norton.

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- recognize the principles and practices of the scientific method as applied to psychology;
- describe, compare, and contrast different research designs;
- design, conduct, and interpret experiments, including data collection and analysis;
- critically evaluate research studies and claims;
- act ethically in all aspects of scholarly work (e.g., literature search, design, data collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting); and
- communicate research findings effectively through written reports and presentations.

Course Topics:

- The Scientific Method
- Research Designs Commonly Used in Psychology
- Quantitative vs Qualitative Research
- The Nature of Variables
- Validity and Reliability
- Hypothesis Generation and Testing
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Interpreting and Reporting Results
- Replication and Transparency in Research
- Ethical Considerations in Research

Evaluation and Assessments

Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face) and Online, or Hybrid

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Assignments	50%
Midterm Exams (2 @ 15)%	30%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

No pass requirements available.

Evaluation Notes: A grade of “D” grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Evaluation Notes Comments:

Please see the instructor syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments and the use of electronic aids.

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a “0” on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.1.4 Course Audit
 - Policy 2.4.1 Credential Framework
 - Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
 - Policy 2.4.4 Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct
 - Policy 2.4.8 Academic Performance
 - Policy 2.4.9 Student Feedback and Concerns
 - Policy 2.4.11 Storage of Academic Works
 - Policy 2.5.3 Student Appeal
 - Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)
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Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.