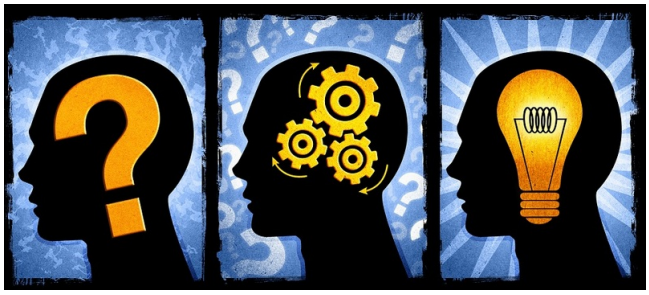
FACULTY OF SCIENCE
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC1111 MEASURING MIND AND BEHAVIOUR
SESSION 2 2015

Course Summary:



This course provides students with knowledge about the characteristics of science, scientific method, experimental design and data analysis in behavioural sciences. It provides a comprehensive foundation in critical thinking enabling students to design and plan research, conduct basic statistical analysis and discriminate between evidence-based information and pseudoscience. At the end of this course students will be able to scrutinise and critically evaluate published research and effectively communicate statistical and research data in variety of formats and contexts. This course will provide an essential foundation for more advanced psychology courses and will enable students to design their own experiments and carry out data analysis. These skills will be of a particular importance to students who are going to conduct their independent research projects in the fourth (Honours) year.

Course Format:

The content is delivered via weekly lectures (two 1 hour lectures every week, weeks 1-12), 6 tutorials (1 hour tutorial every second week) and online content (uploaded weekly). Attendance at lectures and tutorials and participation in online and tutorial activities is compulsory. A significant amount of the course content will be delivered online using the e-learning Moodle site (https://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle), allowing students to access additional material and assess their knowledge at their own pace and time.

Lectures are divided into two 1-hour long lectures held every week, starting from Week 1:

1. *Statistics:* deals with the data analysis and presentation
2. *Research methods*: deals with the various research methods used in the behavioural sciences

Lectures will be digitally recorded. Links to the lecture recording will be available through the course web page. Lecture slides will be also uploaded weekly and available to students as a summary of the key points covered in lectures.

Lecture Recordings

Tutorials will be held every second week starting from Week 2. The primary goal of the tutorial component of the course is to provide students with the opportunity to discuss various aspects of research and data analysis in psychology through problem-solving, discussion-based activities. As such, a prerequisite for the tutorial component is to attend the lectures, read the weekly readings, and complete the exercises and other activities available on the course site every week.

Online content will be uploaded weekly. The primary goal of the online component of the course is to provide students with the examples for the relevant content covered in the lectures, test their knowledge, communicate with other students and apply the knowledge gained through lectures on various examples. The completion of tasks in online component is obligatory and it provides a necessary foundation for tutorial activities and discussions. It also allows students to demonstrate independent learning and application of research skills and critical thinking in a variety of problem-solving contexts.

Course Assessments:

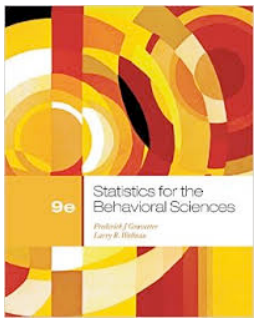
- In-session exam (worth 5% of the final mark);
- Mid-session exam (worth 10% of the final mark);
- Final Exam (worth 30% of the final mark);
- Research study critique (worth 15% of the final mark);
- Research study design (worth 15% of the final mark);
- Presentation of research results (worth 15% of the final mark); and
- Participation in online activities (worth 10% of the final mark).

Course Resources:

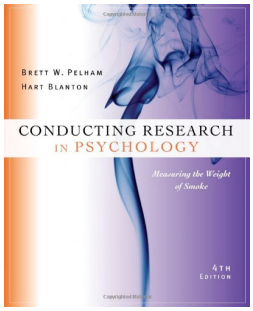
Textbooks:

The prescribed textbooks for the course are:

- Gravetter, F. J., Wallnau L.B. (2013). Statistics for the Behavioural Sciences. Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning. (9th edition).



- Pelham, B.W., Blanton, H. (2013). Conducting research in Psychology: Measuring the Weight of Smoke. Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning. (4th edition).



Online resources (Moodle) will include:

- lecture slides in pdf;
- links to lecture recordings;
- topics and instructions for group discussions;
- interactive exercises;
- test your knowledge quizzes;
- test and apply your problem solving abilities;
- additional reading material ranging from peer-reviewed published research papers and book chapters to media reports about various research findings;
- links to video clips taken from science shows and popular programs;
- links to useful websites;
- writing workshop;