



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
MADRID

PSY 2050 M01: Research Methods and Statistics
Spring 2018

Class Days and Time: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45pm

Classroom: PRH 4

Prerequisite(s): PSY 1010

Credit(s): 3

Instructor: Andrea Pousada, Ph.D.

Instructor's Email: andrea.pousada@slu.edu

Instructor's Campus Phone: 91 554 58 58, ext. 254

Office: SIH 308

Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30-1:30pm (Please make an appointment)

Course Description: This course is designed to expand students' awareness of the scientific underpinnings of psychology. The course will focus upon the values, habits and skills that are important to scientific inquiry, as well as the primary methods used to expand the body of knowledge in psychology and related disciplines.

An understanding of the concepts introduced in this course will help you to more thoroughly appreciate the information presented in upper-division psychology courses and will add you in fulfilling future course requirements. However, in acknowledgement of the fact that many of you may not go on to a career in psychology and may not even be psychology majors, a goal of this course is to work with you to figure out how to make general research methods relevant and applicable to your own life regardless of major or profession. I strive to help you develop both a healthy appreciation and skepticism for the presentation of scientific information and to help you use scientific methods to advance your own personal goals, regardless of what those may be.

Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes: By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the research process and incorporate research as a way of thinking.
- Understand and relate the importance of a rigorous methodology in the scientific field of psychology.
- Be familiar with fundamental research concepts.
- Have the ability to think critically between science and pseudo sciences.
- Accurately relate and critically evaluate the quality of information obtained from behavioral research.
- Have competence in searching for scientific literature.
- Use the scientific approach to explore a psychological phenomenon of interest.
- Apply scientific skills to problem-solving and decision-making situations in personal and professional settings.
- Be able to present data out of a research study.

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, the Campus regularly assesses its teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs is kept on file, such as assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. *Thus, copies of student work for this course, including written assignments, in-class exercises, and exams may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes.* If students prefer that Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus does not keep their work on file, they need to communicate their decision in writing to the professor.

Required Texts and Materials: Kumar, R (2014). Research Methodology. 4th Edition. Sage Publications.

Some useful books:

- Privitera, G (2015). Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences. Sage Publications.
- Tolmie, A (2011). Quantitative methods in educational and social research using SPSS [electronic resource]. Maidenhead: Open University Press.
- Davis, C (2013). SPSS step by step: essentials for social and political science. Policy Press, 2013.

Recommended APA style guidelines (particularly for Psychology Majors)

- American Psychological Association (2009). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition. New York: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 978-4338-0561-5
- Concise Rules of APA Style (2010). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition. New York: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 978-1433805608
- Excellent and free online tutorials on APA style can be access through the APA website at:
 - o <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx>
 - o Information and guidelines for the use of APA style can be found on the school's library homepage: <http://libguides.slu.edu/socialwork>. Click on "Writing and APA Format" tab.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend class regularly and to arrive to class promptly. Late arrival to class is not only rude, it is disruptive to both the professor and fellow classmates. You are responsible for all announcements made and/or material covered during class meetings. Please keep in mind that on occasion, when the class as a whole is interested in pursuing a topic more in depth, when the opportunity arises to invite a guest speaker, or when other unpredictable events happen, slight changes may be made in the schedule on the syllabus, so it is always best to come to class and stay informed.

Class lectures will include topics in more detail than the text allows, and topics that are not in the text at all. Anything discussed in class may appear on exams. In addition, a large part of your semester grade will come from in-class activities and assignments. These assignments cannot be made up if you are absent for any reason. As such, it will be difficult to be successful in this class without attending regularly. Although the professor does not take attendance, please keep in mind that your class participation grade may be negatively affected for excessive absences or tardiness. Students who miss class due to illness are asked notify the professor as soon as possible to discuss the issue and agree upon the appropriate course of action.

Classroom Etiquette: Appropriate behavior in the classroom is expected at all times. Because an environment of respect fosters learning, I promise to be respectful of you, your time, your learning, and your questions. I ask you to be respectful of your classmates and of me in return. Part of the goal of this course is to help train you to be successful in a professional environment. Professionalism includes being punctual, speaking clearly and calmly, and working well with others. If you have special circumstances that will prevent you from arriving on time or you need to leave earlier on a regular basis, please let me know in advance.

During class we will sometimes have discussions about research in which students are encouraged to express their own opinions and views. Respecting other students' opinions and values -no matter how different they differ from one's own- is essential to creating a comfortable environment that fosters intellectual discussion. Prejudice and discrimination will not be tolerated. Debate is an excellent way to facilitate critical thinking, but respect for others must be maintained in all discussions.

Course Requirements and Grading Rationale/System:

Exams: There will be two equally weighted exams (midterm and final) throughout the semester. Because research methods is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and cumulative field, each test will also include a percentage of items that are from previously learned materials. This is to encourage greater understanding and retention of materials.

Class activities/Homework: Throughout the semester there will be many class activities that will count toward your grade. In most cases these activities will not be announced in advance so it is important to attend class regularly. (If you don't attend or are late to class on the day of an activity and miss it, you cannot receive points for that activity. These activities may include (but are not limited to) participation in demonstrations of an experiment, worksheets completed individually or in groups, participation in group discussions, and brief written reflections. Some of these activities may become homework assignments that will be turned in on the following class day (unless otherwise instructed).

Readings: It is your responsibility to keep up with the readings for the course. Since a basic introduction can be gained by reading the textbook we will save valuable class time that can be spent through more interactive means rather than straight lecture of knowledge based information.

Research review: Students will review one peer-reviewed empirical article published within the last 5 years. Reviews should be 2-3 full pages (standard formatting) and include discussion in the article. All article reviews are due by April 19th at 9:30am – No late submissions will be accepted.

Recommended journals with full text articles available online through Pius Library include:

- Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory & Cognition
- Personality and Individual Differences
- Developmental Psychology
- Journal of Personality and Social Psychology

If you are unsure if your journal article meets these criteria, I will be happy to approve your article in advance. This is a good chance to practice summarizing and paraphrasing. Any students caught plagiarizing these research reviews will receive zero credit for the assignment and may be considered for a review of their academic honesty.

Laboratory: 30% of your grade in this course will be based upon your performance in the lab. You will receive information on lab assignments and requirements in lab on Thursday.

Anticipated Grading (subject to change):

The final grade is calculated as follows:

- Exams: 2x30= 60%
- LAB: 30%
- Literature review: 5%
- Class participation: 5%

Saint Louis University Grade Policy

A	94-100 4.0	Sobresaliente
A-	90-93 3.7	Sobresaliente bajo
B+	87-89 3.3	Notable alto
B	84-86 3.0	Notable
B-	80-83 2.7	Notable bajo
C+	77-79 2.3	Aprobado alto
C	74-76 2.0	Aprobado
C-	70-73 1.7	Aprobado bajo
D	60-69 1.0	Aprobado bajísimo
F	<60 0.0	Suspenso
P/NP		Apto / No apto
W		Clase retirada

E-mail: Campus and course announcements will often be handled by e-mail. Students should check their "@slu.edu" e-mail regularly.

University Statement on Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office [website](#) at:. Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail

definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals.

The professor will review these matters during the first weeks of the term. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

University Title IX Statement: Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 230) or Sinews Multiplettherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 917-00-1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: <http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

Students with Special Needs: In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/learning-resources>.

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also must notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

Spring 2018 Course Schedule (subject to change at the instructor's discretion):

Week	Date	Topic	Readings and Assignments DUE
1	Jan 11	Syllabus and Introduction	Syllabus
2	Jan 16	Research: A way of thinking	Ch. 1
	Jan 18	The research process I	Ch. 2
3	Jan 23	The research process II	Ch. 2
	Jan 25	Reviewing the literature (Step 1)	Ch. 3
4	Jan 31	Formulating a research problem	Ch. 4
	Feb 1	Identifying variables I	Ch. 5
5	Feb 6	Identifying variables II	Ch. 5
	Feb 8	Constructing hypotheses I	Ch. 6
6	Feb 13	Constructing hypotheses II	Ch. 6
	Feb 15	The research design (Step I)	Ch. 7
7	Feb 20	MIDTERM EXAM	
	Feb 22	WINTER BREAK – No class	
8	Feb 27	The research design (Step II)	Ch. 7
	Mar 1	Selecting a study design: quantitative research I	Ch. 8
9	Mar 6	Selecting a study design: quantitative research II	Ch. 8
	Mar 8	Selecting a study design: qualitative research	Ch. 8
10	Mar 13	Selecting a method of data collection I (Step III)	Ch. 9
	Mar 15	Collecting data using attitudinal scales I	Ch. 10
11	Mar 20	Collecting data using attitudinal scales II	Ch. 10
	Mar 22	Establishing the validity and reliability of a research instrument	Ch. 11
12	Mar 27	Holiday – SEMANA SANTA (No classes)	
	Mar 29		
13	Apr 3	Selecting a sample I (Step IV)	Ch. 12
	Apr 5	Selecting a sample II	Ch. 12
14	Apr 10	Writing a research proposal I (Step V)	Ch. 13
	Apr 12	Writing a research proposal II	Ch. 13
15	Apr 17	Considering ethical issues in data collection I (Step VI)	Ch. 14
	Apr 19	Displaying data	Ch. 16
16	Apr 24	Writing a research report	Ch. 17
	Apr 26	Oral presentations	
17	May 1	HOLIDAY – Dia de la Comunidad de Madrid – No class	
	May 3	Oral presentations	
18	May 9	FINAL EXAM (8:30-11:30)	

Final Exam Schedules Spring 2018

	4 May (Fr)	7 May (Mn)	8 May (Tu)	9 May (Wd)	10 May (Th)
08:30-11:30	Mn classes that meet at 9:00 & 9:30	Mn classes that meet at 10:00	Mn classes that meet at 11:00 & 11:30	Tu classes that meet at 9:30	Tu classes that meet at 8:00
12:00-15:00	Tu classes that meet at 11:00	Mn classes that meet at 13:00	Tu classes that meet at 14:30	Mn classes that meet at 12:00 & 12:30	Tu classes that meet at 12:30
15:30-18:30	Mn classes that meet at 14:30	Tu classes that meet at 17:00 & 17:30	Mn classes that meet at 16:00	Tu classes that meet at 16:00	Mn classes that meet at 17:30
19:00-22:00	---	---	Mn classes that meet at 18:30 & 19:00	Tu classes that meet at 19:00	---