

**UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**PSY204: METHODOLOGY I: DESCRIPTIVE RESEARCH
Spring 2019**

PROFESSOR: Michael Lombardo PhD
COURSE DAYS & HOURS: Tuesday, Friday, 9-10:30 or 10:30-12
CLASSROOM: ΚΕΠ 003 or 004

OFFICE ROOM: ΟΕΔ2 B117
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 12-1pm
E-MAIL: lombardo@ucy.ac.cy

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides the students with basic knowledge and skills that are related to descriptive research in general, with particular emphasis in the relevant studies conducted in psychology. It will cover the philosophical and epistemological bases of the search for truth and understanding of reality and students will be introduced to descriptive research design techniques in psychology. Particular emphasis will be given to data analysis skills. It is expected that the students will acquire the necessary skills that will allow them to critically evaluate the findings that are reported in scientific research. It is also expected that the students will acquire basic skills of designing and conducting psychological descriptive research.

The course contributes to the understanding of the importance of statistical applications, and basic statistical concepts, which can be used for descriptive and inferential statistics. An important part of the meetings in the laboratory will be dedicated to practicing data analysis software.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

- 1 Recognize the main methodological designs in psychological research
- 2 Develop descriptive research designs. Designs must specify sampling, selection tools, and research procedures
- 3 Describe findings from the literature in their own words following the APA system.
- 4 Define and calculate statistical indicators such as central tendency, dispersion, and skew.
- 5 Select and apply appropriate statistical data analysis methods for descriptive purposes.
- 6 Use software for descriptive data analysis.
- 7 Interpret results of statistical analysis they get from data analysis software.
- 8 Present descriptive statistics results using appropriate statistical evidence

COURSE READING MATERIAL:

The texts below are not required material, but are highly recommended to supplement the lectures.

MAIN TEXTBOOKS

Freedman, D., Pisani, R., & Purves, R. (2007). *Statistics* (4th edition). New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company.

Χλουβεράκης, Γ. (2012). *Εισαγωγή στη στατιστική: Περιγραφικές Μέθοδοι και Εφαρμογές*. Αθήνα: Πεδίο.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTBOOKS

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: APA.

Field, A. P. (2009). *Discovering statistics using SPSS* (3rd ed.). London: Sage.

Ρούσσος Π., & Τσαούσης Γ. (2011). *Στατιστική στις επιστήμες της συμπεριφοράς με τη χρήση του SPSS*. Αθήνα: Τόπος.

Shaughnessy, J. J., Zechmeister, E. B., & Zechmeister, J. S. (2012). *Research Methods in Psychology* (9th edition). New York: McGraw Hill.

Weinberg, S. L., & Abramowitz, S. K. (2008). *Statistics using SPSS: An integrative approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

ASSESSMENT:

1. **Attendance and Participation (10%).** Please attend all lectures if you want to do well in the course. People who don't attend lectures typically never do well on the exams. I will take attendance before every class and if you are late in arriving to class, you will not be marked down for attending. Thus, please ensure you arrive to class on time. This component of your grade will not just be about you showing up to class. You must also actively participate during class, via discussions, asking questions, etc.
2. **Midterm exam (35%).** The questions in the midterm exam will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. The content on the midterm will include information discussed in lectures. **MIDTERM EXAM DATE: March 1, 2019.** Please note that the writing of short answer questions must be done in English. Therefore, it is important for you to first consider your level of English, since you will be expected to write clear succinct answers to questions on the midterm and final exams.
3. **Assignment (20%).** Students will be given a dataset and will be asked to answer a series of questions about the dataset. The assignment requires students to use their learned skills using data analysis software to achieve the correct answers to the assignment questions. **SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April**

19, 2019. Please note that the assignment is not a group activity. You must complete the assignment on your own. Any evidence of plagiarism will result in you receiving a 0 for the assignment.

4. **Final Exam (35%).** The questions in the final exam will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. The content on the final exam will include information discussed in lectures.
5. **Optional participation in research (5%)** extra credit for participating in research studies in Psychology. Some adverts for ongoing studies can be found here: <http://www.ucy.ac.cy/psych/el/research/students-and-research>. More details about this component can be given upon request.

Notes about the Midterm and Final Exams

Midterm and final exam dates are set in stone and are not negotiable. You will only be allowed to take both tests on the date set (no exceptions!). In case of absence due to an emergency you must present proof.

Notes about Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism and cheating are academically dishonest practices and are absolutely unacceptable. Any evidence of such activities will result in the student receiving a 0 for that component of assessment in the course.

COURSE CURRICULUM:

<i>Week</i>	<i>Content</i>	<i>Readings</i>
1	Introduction to research methodology in psychology Scientific method	Χλουβεράκης 1 Freedman 1,2
2	Types of research Multiple Methods Scientific Research Process	Χλουβεράκης 1 Freedman 1,2
3	Basic statistical concepts and measurement. Sampling, sample population	Χλουβεράκης 2 Freedman 19-22
4	Measurement Scales Entering and editing data using SPSS software	Χλουβεράκης 2 Freedman 3,6,7
5	Organization and presentation of data	Χλουβεράκης 3 Freedman 4

6	Central tendency indicators	Χλουβεράκης 4 Freedman 4 APA (2010)
7	Midterm Review Midterm Exam	
8	Review of Midterm results The APA system for writing scientific work	Χλουβεράκης 5
9	Indicators of dispersion and skew The normal (Gaussian) distribution Statistical transformations. Z-scores	Freedman 13, 14
10	The normal (Gaussian) distribution Statistical transformations. Z-scores	Freedman 14, 15
11	Probability theory	Χλουβεράκης 6 Freedman 5,18
12	Relationships between two variables	Χλουβεράκης 7 Freedman 8,9
13	Final Review	