

## Psychology 2100WQ - Principles of Research in Psychology

### Summer Session 2 - 2026

#### Lectures:

Online, Synchronous

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#### Course Objectives

The aim of this course is to foster understanding and practical application of the fundamentals of research methods in behavioral sciences, with a focus on the field of human psychology. The lectures will be structured to integrate the understanding of research methods and data analyses with educational, scientific, and practical (clinical) domains. Lecture content will also be integrated with the lab sessions, which leverage firsthand learning opportunities. The course bridges the fundamentals of research methods, analyses, and ethics with research topics in Psychology, such as development, cognition, and memory. By the end of the semester, students will draft their own research project, and they should be able to independently discuss and critically review study methods, analyses, and results, including understanding figure and graphic representation of quantitative results.

#### Summary of Course Content (stats topics are also approached in firsthand labs):

- The Scientific Method and Psychology as a Science
- Research Questions and Design
- Stats: Descriptive statistics
- Quantitative Research
- Experimental, Quasi-experimental and Non-experimental Research
- Population sampling and Between and Within-Group Designs
- Validity and Reliability
- Stats: Comparison of means
- Inferential Statistics (Counterfactuals, Null Hypothesis, Confidence Interval)
- Factorial designs
- Research Ethics, Belmont Report.

This is Q and W course!

#### Q course requirements:

"Q courses require the knowledge and use of mathematics and/or statistics at or above the basic algebra level as an integral part of the course. These courses might include comprehensive analysis and interpretation of data. The mathematical and/or statistical methods and skills required are those specific to the course and discipline."

Read more at:

<https://geoc.uconn.edu/quantitative-competency/>

- Lab sessions will involve analyses and interpretation of data, and production of graphs and charts. Students will have to familiarize themselves with the use of spreadsheets (MS Excel required) and basic SPSS analyses.

#### W course (writing competency) requirements:

"Courses (and their equivalents) appropriate for a W designation should:

1. **Require that students write a minimum of 15 pages or a minimum of 4500 words**, excluding references/works cited pages, which have been revised for conceptual clarity and development of ideas, edited for expression, and proofread for grammatical and mechanical correctness.

2. **Address writing in process, require revision, and provide substantial supervision of student writing.** (The structure of revision and supervision may vary, including in-class writing workshops, individual consultation, substantial formative commentary on drafts, among others.)”

Read more at:

<https://geoc.uconn.edu/writing-competency/>

## Course Structure

### **Lectures and Discussions**

Classroom discussions and the lab sessions will draw on the foundations of research and, subsequently, help bridge academic and non-academic (e.g., clinical practice) interests with classic or current, state-of-the art research. Students are expected to have read the material and be ready to answer questions and contribute to the class. Please follow the reading requirements on the schedule and on BlackBoard.

### **Labs**

Lab sessions will involve firsthand exercises to develop the ability for independent data analyses. They will focus on the use of spreadsheets, of survey tools, and of statistical software packages, which, in their turn, will be applied to conduct analyses that relate to the content being discussed in the lectures. To provide an ecological learning opportunity, the course will also make use of openly available, real datasets from APA ONLINE (see below). Lab reports are mandatory, and they count toward the 15-page W requirement minimum.

### Course Materials:

#### **Required Readings**

**This textbook is freely available through the UCONN online library system.**

#### **Research Methods in Psychology - 3rd American Edition**

Cuttler, Carrie; Cuttler, Carrie, author; Open Textbook Library, distributor  
2017

[https://uconn-storrs.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UCT\\_STORRS/1109In5/alma99420721882902432](https://uconn-storrs.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UCT_STORRS/1109In5/alma99420721882902432)

#### **Recommended Readings:**

##### **Belmont Report:**

<https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/belmont-report/read-the-belmont-report/index.html>

##### **Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7<sup>th</sup> Edition)**

Students should observe the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7<sup>th</sup> Edition) guidelines for scholarly writing. Academic Writer will assist you with formatting and writing in APA style.

##### **Labs:**

It is **required for** students to install these software packages on their own computers for working at home.

1. Microsoft Excel (UCONN licensed for students)> [install the actual APP, do not use the online version.](#)
2. Qualtrics (Access using UCONN NETID).

The following additional reference will be used during lab sessions (available through UCONN library):

- [Statistical Analysis with Excel for Dummies. Schmuller, Joseph. 2022](#)

During lab sessions, we will also use the APA Online Psych Lab, which holds several datasets on classic psychological experiments.

- [APA Online Psych Laboratory](#)

**GRADING: points and page count:**

Description	How many?	Points	Page Count
*Assignments: 1 review of lit	1 + 1 (draft and final)	30	3 minimum
*Project Proposal	1 + 1 (draft and final)	30	5 minimum
Lab Reports**	3	15	3
Participation (online forum)	2 posts minimum	10	2
Quizzes	2	20	--
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100 points</b>	<b>12-15 pages</b>

**ATTENTION!!!**

W course requires that teachers provide feedback on student writing, therefore, **turning in only one final draft for the paper will not be sufficient.** The review and the final paper will only be graded after a first draft was turned in, revised, and turned back in by the final deadline. Also, assignments turned in late and with no time for adequate feedback, will not count. **Students MUST MEET the W REQUIREMENT to pass, otherwise, independent of points earned, requirements for passing will not be met.**



Please stick to assignments due dates. There will be a final deadline on late assignments, after which the assignments **will no longer be accepted**. Missing the deadline also means that **students automatically lose 10%** of the points for that assignment if the late assignment is turned in in time.

**SCHEDULE:**

see schedule document in Blackboard:

- Check each folder for the weekly reading assignments.
- See BlackBoard assignment links for deadlines.

**Student Responsibilities and Resources**

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. Please read the UConn Community Standards for guidelines on Student Code, Behavior, Academic Integrity, Sexual and Gender Misconduct and for the contact information for the Community Standards Office. <https://community.uconn.edu/>

**Student Academic Misconduct**

“Academic misconduct is dishonest or unethical academic behavior that includes, but is not limited to, misrepresenting mastery in an academic area (e.g., cheating), failing to properly credit information, research, or ideas to their rightful originators or representing such information, research, or ideas as your own (e.g., plagiarism).” <https://community.uconn.edu/the-student-code-appendix-a/>

**Cheating and plagiarism**

It is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism. All assignments will be reviewed by SafeAssign. For information, check the UConn library writing resources: <https://lib.uconn.edu/services/ask/get-help/writing/>

**Automated Text Generation (e.g., ChatGPT)**

Automatically generating text and using it as your own **will be regarded as cheating and plagiarism.**

However, the tool can be used to help you find references and ideas. For each review of literature and project proposal topic, we will generate automatic texts and share them in BlackBoard. **These texts will be entered in the Safe Assign database for cross-referencing**; if there is a match to student text, it will be regarded as plagiarism just as if it were a copy of some other source online. (For example, if there is a project proposal on the effects of food insecurity and child cognition, we will generate ChatGPT texts on that topic and share them through BlackBoard. ChatGPT texts can be used for ideas, but they cannot be copied or used as part of the assignments or proposal (**they cannot be cited as a source, either**; for proper citing of sources, see Academic Writer). You are required to write using Academic Writer, so make use of the tools in this software.

***Copyright***

Copyright materials used within the course are only for the use of students enrolled in the course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated. Copyright also applies to the unpublished “in press” book provided at no charge, for the purposes of the course alone.

**Adding or Dropping a Course**

If you should decide to add or drop a course, there are official procedures to follow. Please check the Student Administration System for up-to-date information: <https://studentadmin.uconn.edu/>

**Academic Support Resources**

See UConn [Technology and Academic Help](#) FAQs for technical and academic assistance.

**Students with Disabilities**

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's [Center for Students with Disabilities \(CSD\)](#).