



CURRICULUM GUIDE: OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code	PSYC 217	Course Title	Thinking Clearly About Psychology			
Credit Value	3	Department	Social Sciences			
No. of weeks	14	Hrs. per week	<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Tutorial</i>	<i>Laboratory</i>	<i>Total</i>
			3	0	0	3
Course Description	This course covers a wide range of topics related to research methods in psychology including the scientific method as it applies to understanding behaviour, research design, and measurement in the behavioural sciences. Specific areas include research ethics, correlational vs. comparative research, experimental designs, quasi-experimental designs, survey research, descriptive and inferential statistics, as well as generalizing and evaluating research findings.					
Prerequisite(s)	ENGL 099, PSYC 101					
Initial Articulation Targets	<i>UBC</i>	<i>SFU</i>	<i>UVic</i>	<i>UNBC</i>	<i>TRU</i>	
	PSYC 217 (3)	PSYC 201 (3) -Q	PSYC 201 (1.5)	PSYC 215 (3)	PSYC 2110 (3)	
	For updated information on the transferability of this course, please consult the BC Transfer Guide, www.bctransferguide.ca					
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the rationale for an empirical approach to the study of behaviour. Identify the major ethical concerns as they apply to social research projects, especially those using human subjects. Explain the differences between conclusions, assumptions, and hypotheses. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of various research methods (e.g., case studies, experiments, quasi-experiments, surveys, observational studies) Explain the relationship between reliability and validity of measurement scales, observations, and behavioural data. Explain the similarities and differences between statistical control and experimental control. Explain the reciprocal relationship between internal validity and generalizability of various research designs. Identify the major design flaws and analysis errors of other experimenters. Describe the benefits and limitations of pilot studies. Design, conduct, and analyze simple research studies (may be correlational, differential, and/or experimental). Write a research report or proposal using APA guidelines. 					
Content	<p>Core topics – all of the following will be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science and ways of knowing. Psychology as a science and the study of behaviour. 					



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurement in the behavioural sciences. • Correlational research designs • Differential research designs • Experimental research designs and methods. • Quasi-experimental design and methods. • Descriptive and inferential statistics • Generalizing and evaluating research findings. <p>Additional topics may also be covered, at the discretion of the instructor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey research 		
Methods of Instruction	Lectures, small group activities, e-classroom, discussion groups, seminars, oral presentations, laboratory demonstrations, field trips, computer simulations, video, guest lectures		
Required Textbook(s)	<p>The following textbook(s) is/are required, or approved equivalent(s).</p> <p>Graziano, A.M. & Raulin, M.L. (2020). Research Methods: A Process of Inquiry (9th Ed) Boston, MA: Pearson (or latest edition)</p> <p>Jhangiani et al. (updated 2019). https://open.bccampus.ca/browse-our-collection/find-open-textbooks/?uuid=b58ffd04-ca71-4365-95e1-916f2105bd55&contributor=&keyword=&subject=</p> <p>Price, P. (updated 2019) https://open.bccampus.ca/browse-our-collection/find-open-textbooks/?uuid=497a78e4-1384-4334-bcc2-e9040a436322&contributor=&keyword=&subject=</p>		
Required Equipment and Technology	<p>Students are required to have a computer with internet access.</p> <p>The following resources are provided by the College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office 365 • Student email 		
Homework Hours	At minimum, students can expect one hour of homework for every hour of instructional time.		
Evaluation	<i>Component</i>	<i>% Value</i>	
	Assignments/Quizzes/Participation	15-25%	
	Midterm examination(s)	15-40%	
	Research proposal/presentation	15-35%	
	Final examination	20-30%	
Completion Requirements	The minimum grade to pass this course is D (50%). Unless otherwise stated, a minimum grade of C- (55%) is required for this course to fulfil a prerequisite.		
Course Designer(s)	Ralph Hakstian, University of British Columbia	Consultant(s), if applicable	Laurence David, Ph.D., Bahman Najarian, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, Alexander College, Kevin Hamilton, M.E.S., Ph.D. Department of Psychology, Kwantlen Polytechnic University



Dean's Approval	Barbara Moon, Ph.D. Dean of Arts and Sciences, Alexander College	Dean's Approval Date	February 22, 2006
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	February 22, 2006	First Term Offered	Winter 2014
Last Review Date	February 14, 2023	Next Review Date	February 14, 2028
Revision History	<p>November 3, 2011-Changed prerequisites</p> <p>October 2017. Change of prerequisites approved by SASC. Effective from Winter 2019 term, the prerequisites for this course, PSYC 217, will be changed from ENGL 098 and PSYC 101 or PSYC 102 to ENGL 098 and PSYC 101. PSYC 102 can no longer be used to meet the prerequisite requirement for this course.</p> <p>February 3, 2022 – English prerequisite increased from ENGL 098 to ENGL 099, effective from Spring 2022 term.</p> <p>February 14, 2023 – Minor updates to grading ranges, added Indigenous research methods text, by Wendy Comeau.</p>		