

# PSYC602

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## Course Summary

**Course :** PSYC602 **Title :** Quantitative Methods in Social Science Research

**Length of Course :** 8 **Faculty :**

**Prerequisites :** N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

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## Description

### Course Description:

This research methods course provides an in-depth examination of quantitative research methods used in sociology and related social sciences. Students will practice designing quantitative research that collects observational, interview, survey, and other types of data.

### Course Scope:

This course will explore scientific, quantitative methodology, and its application in social sciences. Students will be introduced to the core principles and methodologies of behavioral science research, and the underlying rationale behind research strategies. Students will discuss the goals of science, ethics in research, and research designs and methods, as well as how to generate, evaluate and implement research ideas. Students will develop foundational knowledge of quantitative research methods and the process for conducting research.

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## Objectives

1. Understand the role and importance of research in the scientific process
  2. Translate observations into research questions
  3. Analyze benefits and limitations of choosing a research design
  4. Identify important ethical practices in research
  5. Communicate and interpret research findings
  6. Design data collection measures and recognize the limitations in measurement
  7. Understand the considerations in the application of statistical procedures to test research questions
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## Outline

### Week 1:

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### Learning Outcomes

Understand the application of scientific research methods to daily living

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Examine the four canons of science as they relate to research methodology

Differentiate science and pseudoscience

### Required Readings

Required resources for your course are provided in a course [eReserve](#). Please [select here](#), enter your course number in the 'Search for course eReserves' box, select Go, and then select the course when it appears below the search box. Information included in [LibAnswers](#) provides download and print options for offline reading of Library ebooks.

### Assignments

Week 1 Discussion

Recommended Optional Reading

Recommended Media

### Week 2:

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#### Learning Outcomes

Differentiate between independent and dependent variables

Examine importance of operational definitions in research

#### Required Readings

Required resources for your course are provided in a course [eReserve](#). Please [select here](#), enter your course number in the 'Search for course eReserves' box, select Go, and then select the course when it appears below the search box. Information included in [LibAnswers](#) provides download and print options for offline reading of Library ebooks.

#### Assignments

Week 2 Assignment: Psychological Constructs

Recommended Optional Reading

Recommended Media

### Week 3:

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#### Learning Outcomes

Evaluate the role of research ethics

Develop understanding of American Psychological Association and APUS Institutional Review Board guidelines

Examine practices and requirements for conducting ethical research

#### Required Readings

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## Assignments

### Week 3 Discussion

Week 3 Assignment: [Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative \(CITI\) Training](#)

## Recommended Optional Reading

### Recommended Media

## Week 4:

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### Learning Outcomes

Categorize types of validity evidence in quantitative research

Examine the importance of reliability in quantitative research

Assess threats to validity and strategies to mitigate threats

### Required Readings

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## Assignments

### Week 4 Discussion

Week 4 Assignment: Observations

## Recommended Optional Reading

### Recommended Media

## Week 5:

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### Learning Outcomes

Explain the requirements for experimental research designs

Analyze the strengths and limitations of experimental research designs

Examine strategies to mitigate limitations of experimental designs

### Required Readings

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## Assignments

### Week 5 Discussion

## Recommended Optional Reading

## Recommended Media

### Week 6:

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#### Learning Outcomes

Examine use of surveys in research

Develop strong survey questions

Understand measurement scales and response options in survey research

#### Required Readings

Required resources for your course are provided in a course [eReserve](#). Please [select here](#), enter your course number in the 'Search for course eReserves' box, select Go, and then select the course when it appears below the search box. Information included in [LibAnswers](#) provides download and print options for offline reading of Library ebooks.

#### Assignments

Week 6 Assignment: Creating Measures

#### Recommended Optional Reading

#### Recommended Media

### Week 7:

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#### Learning Outcomes

Examine existing data source research

Analyze the strength and limitations of observational research

Describe research triangulation and design selection

#### Required Readings

Required resources for your course are provided in a course [eReserve](#). Please [select here](#), enter your course number in the 'Search for course eReserves' box, select Go, and then select the course when it appears below the search box. Information included in [LibAnswers](#) provides download and print options for offline reading of Library ebooks.

#### Assignments

Week 7 Discussion

#### Recommended Optional Reading

#### Recommended Media

### Week 8:

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#### Learning Outcomes

Examine the relationship between research design choice and data analysis

Determine appropriate methods to prepare data for analysis

Summarize the importance of sampling and probability

## Required Readings

Required resources for your course are provided in a course [eReserve](#). Please [select here](#), enter your course number in the 'Search for course eReserves' box, select Go, and then select the course when it appears below the search box. Information included in [LibAnswers](#) provides download and print options for offline reading of Library ebooks.

## Assignments

Week 8 Assignment: Research Results

## Recommended Optional Reading

## Recommended Media

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# Evaluation

Please review the Discussions and Assignments for details on the course requirements.

## Grading:

Name	Grade %
Discussions	30.00 %
Week 1 Discussion	6.00 %
Week 3 Discussion	6.00 %
Week 4 Discussion	6.00 %
Week 5 Discussion	6.00 %
Week 7 Discussion	6.00 %
Assignments	70.00 %
Week 2 Assignment: Psychological Constructs	14.00 %
Week 3 Assignment: Research Ethics Training	14.00 %
Week 4 Assignment: Observations	14.00 %
Week 6 Assignment: Creating Measures	14.00 %
Week 8 Assignment: Results	14.00 %

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# Materials

**Book Title:** Social science research: principles, methods, and practices (Ebook links provided through the classroom and the course [eReserve](#).)

**Author:** Bhattacharjee, A.

**Publication Info:** Scholar Commons, & Open Textbook Library

**ISBN:** 9781475146127

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Course Textbook: Bhattacharjee, A., University of South Florida. Scholar Commons, & Open Textbook Library. (2012). [Social science research: principles, methods, and practices](#). Retrieved from

Additional readings and reference articles are presented in weekly lessons.

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## Course Guidelines

### Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow APA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written assignments submitted as part of coursework in the Psychology Department.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on discussion assignments in the School of Arts & Humanities—only attribution of sources (please see details regarding discussion communication below).

### Tutoring

[Tutor.com](#) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

### School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, we understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact your instructor before the due date so you can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including discussion posts/replies, quizzes/tests, and assignments. Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including discussion posts/replies, quizzes/tests, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.

### Turn It In

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

## Academic Dishonesty

Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

## Submission Guidelines

Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc.) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc.). See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure the all submitted work can be accessed and opened by the instructor.

## Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of a particular group or class.

## Communicating on the Discussion

- Discussions are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting day/time after which the instructor will grade and provide feedback, you are strongly discouraged from waiting until the due date to contribute your comments/questions on the discussion. The purpose of the discussions is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- "Substantive" means comments that contribute something new and important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says "I agree", even if wordy and thus, meets the length requirement, is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each other as colleagues. Hateful, aggressive, or hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.
- Students must post a response to the weekly discussions prompt and post the required number of replies to other students – refer to the grading rubric and/or discussion instructions for specific expectations on number of replies and word count requirements.

## Quizzes and Exams

Quizzes and exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Each quiz/exam is accessible only once. Once a quiz/exam is accessed, you will not be able to access it again if you disconnect. Therefore, allocate time to complete your assessments.

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# University Policies

## [Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.