

## **Course Description**

### **Basics of Research Methods**

#### **Aim of the course**

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The course of Basics of Research Methods provide the basic knowledge about psychological research related to the main approaches and methods. During the lectures examples and practical exercises help in the transformation of theoretical information into practical competencies.

The aim of the course is getting theoretical and practical information related to research planning and the execution of scientific research.

##### **Learning outcome, competences**

knowledge:

- about the different theoretical aspects and research traditions, an overview about their aims, similarities and differences
- about the steps of a research planning process
- the possible methods, tools of a study

attitude:

- openness towards the research of different psychological concepts
- sensitivity related to the research problems of psychology
- ethical sensitivity related to the psychological research

skills:

- can plan a psychological study
- can use literature individually, can use the literature information during the whole research process

#### **Content of the course**

##### **Topics of the course**

- Introduction to research methods.
- The historical roots of the psychological assessment, the problem of assessment in psychology.
- Theories in research: main models and their related methods, research strategies.
- The process of scientific research. Research ethics.
- Literature in research. Research question and hypothesis.
- Academic writing, presentation skills.
- Qualitative methods.
- Quantitative methods.
- The types of the psychological tests, the process of testing. Sampling procedures.
- Reliability of measuring tools.
- Validity of measuring tools.
- The use of the internet and computer in research.

##### **Learning activities, learning methods**

frontal method, cooperative learning, group work

#### **Evaluation of outcomes**

**Learning requirements, mode of evaluation, criteria of evaluation:**  
requirements

- knowledge of the theoretical materials related to the presentations and the required readings

mode of evaluation:

- as a precondition to the final exam (the student has to pass it to have the exam in the exam period): written mid-term exam with a result of at least 50%, based on the materials of the course (presentations and the required readings).
- final written exam in the exam period, based on the based on the materials of the course, with a result of at least 50%. The final grade can range from 1-5.

criteria of evaluation:

- the quantity and quality of the theoretical material and their possible applications

<b>Reading list</b>
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**Compulsory reading list**

1. Altermatt, B. (2008). The Scientific Literature in Psychology. URL: [http://psych.hanover.edu/classes/ResearchMethods/Readings/The\\_scientific\\_literature.pdf](http://psych.hanover.edu/classes/ResearchMethods/Readings/The_scientific_literature.pdf)
2. American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. (Chapter 1, 2, 7, 8.)
3. Biggerstaff, D. (2012). Qualitative research methods in psychology. In G. Rossi (ed.) *Psychology – Selected Papers* (pp. 175-206). Rijeka: InTech. URL: <http://cdn.intechopen.com/pdfs-wm/36452.pdf>
4. Cohen-Swerdlik (2009). *Psychological Testing and Assessment: An Introduction to Tests and Measurement (7th Ed.)*. The McGraw-Hill Companies. (Chapter 1, 2, 5, 6)
5. Gosling, S. D., Vazire, S., Srivastava, S., & John, O. P. (2004). Should We Trust Web-Based Studies? A Comparative Analysis of Six Preconceptions about Internet Questionnaires. *American Psychologist*, 59 (2), 93-104.
6. Konradt, U., Syperek, S., & Hertel, G. (2011). Testing on the Internet: Faking in a Web-Based Self-Administered Personality Measure. *Journal of Business and Media Psychology*, 2(1), 1-10.
7. McBride, D. M. (2012). *The Process of Research in Psychology. Thousand Oaks, Ca: Sage Publications, Inc.* (Chapter 1. *Psychological Research. The Whys and Hows of the Scientific Method.*)
8. McGuire, W. J. (1997). Creative hypothesis generating in psychology: Some useful Heuristics. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 48, 1-30. URL: [http://sing.stanford.edu/cs303-sp11/papers/mcguire\\_hypothesis\\_gen.pdf](http://sing.stanford.edu/cs303-sp11/papers/mcguire_hypothesis_gen.pdf)
9. Overview of Psychology Research Methods. URL: <http://my.fit.edu/~gabrenya/IntroMethods/eBook/methods.pdf>
10. Riva, G., Teruzzi, T., & Anolli, L. (2003). The Use of the Internet in Psychological Research: Comparison of Online and Offline Questionnaires. *Cyber Psychology & Behavior*, 6(1), 73-80.
11. Sukamolson, S. (2007). *Fundamentals of quantitative research*. Bangkok, Thailand: EJTR. URL: <http://www.culi.chula.ac.th/Research/e-Journal/bod/Suphat%20Sukamolson.pdf>
12. Urbina, S. (2004). *Essentials of psychological testing*. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (Chapter 1, 4, 5, 7.)