



**UNSW**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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# Science

Faculty of Science  
School of Psychology

## PSYC2001 Research Methods 2

Semester 1, 2013

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1. Information about the Course			
FACULTY	Science		
SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENT	Psychology		
COURSE CODE	PSYC2001		
COURSE NAME	Research Methods 2		
SEMESTER	Semester 1	YEAR	2013
UNITS OF CREDIT	6	LEVEL OF COURSE	2
PREREQUISITES	PSYC1001, PSYC1011		
SUMMARY OF THE COURSE	This course deals with the basic principles of research design and provides an introduction to inferential data analysis procedures.		

2. Staff Contact Details			
<b>COURSE COORDINATOR</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Office</b>
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<b>LECTURERS</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Office</b>
Peter Lovibond	9385 3830	<a href="mailto:p.lovibond@unsw.edu.au">p.lovibond@unsw.edu.au</a>	914
Chris Donkin	9385 9444	<a href="mailto:c.donkin@unsw.edu.au">c.donkin@unsw.edu.au</a>	706
Jenny Richmond	9385 3036	<a href="mailto:j.richmond@unsw.edu.au">j.richmond@unsw.edu.au</a>	707
<b>TUTORS &amp; DEMONSTRATORS</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Office</b>
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<b>To make an appointment with teaching staff, please enquire by email.</b>			
<b>All enquiries should be directed to your tutor in the first instance.</b>			

Course Timetable					
Component	Class Number	Day	Time	Location	Weeks
Lecture	4127	Monday	2-3 pm	CLB7	1-12
Lecture	4127	Thursday	5-6 pm	CLB7	1-12
Statistics Tutorial	4131-4142	various			2-13
Computing Lab	4156-4154	various			2,3,5,7,11,13
<i>NB. Students are advised to check regularly for updates on the Blackboard course site.</i>					
<i>Log in via <a href="http://teaching.unsw.edu.au/elearning">http://teaching.unsw.edu.au/elearning</a></i>					

3. Aims of the Course
1) Provide you with a level of understanding of research methodology and inferential data analysis procedures that will allow you to choose appropriate analysis strategies for basic experimental and non-experimental designs, and to critically evaluate analyses of published experiments
2) Provide you with the skills necessary to carry out these analyses using the SPSS statistical package.

<b>4. Student Learning Outcomes</b>	
By the end of this course you will have:	
1. an intermediate-level knowledge of research methods, enabling you to:	1.1. design and analyse basic studies to address theoretical questions: frame research questions; undertake literature searches; critically analyse empirical studies; formulate testable hypotheses; operationalize variables; choose appropriate research designs; make valid, reliable measurements; analyse data and interpret results; and draw defensible conclusions 1.2. perform descriptive and inferential statistical analyses using the computer package SPSS
2. enhanced critical thinking skills, enabling you to:	2.1. apply knowledge of the scientific method in thinking about problems related to behaviour and mental processes 2.2. evaluate the quality of information, including differentiating empirical evidence from speculation 2.3. assess the validity of conclusions based on statistical analysis of experimental evidence 2.4. evaluate issues and behaviour using different theoretical and methodological approaches
3. enhanced communication skills, including the ability to:	3.1. describe the outcome of inferential statistical tests 3.2. articulate valid conclusions from statistical tests
4. improved knowledge of research ethics, allowing you to:	4.1. carry out sound research and data analysis, controlling the risk of inferential errors 4.2. appreciate the limitations of your own research and the research of others 4.3. identify both intentional and unintentional errors in data analysis and presentation

<b>5. Graduate Attributes</b>		
<b>School of Psychology Graduate Attributes*</b>	<b>Level of Focus</b> 0 = No focus 1 = Minor 2 = Medium 3 = Major	<b>Activities/Assessment</b>
<b>1. Core knowledge and understanding</b>	1	Lecture material, tutorial exercises and assignment will refer to knowledge and methods from various fields of psychology
<b>2. Research methods in psychology</b>	3	All components of the course relate directly to this attribute.
<b>3. Critical thinking skills</b>	3	Lectures will raise theoretical issues regarding how to quantify and communicate probabilistic information. The assignment will allow students to demonstrate application of their critical analytical skills to an individual published research paper
<b>4. Values, research and professional ethics</b>	2	All components of the course will emphasise how to draw valid conclusions from evidence
<b>5. Communication skills</b>	2	Throughout the course, emphasis will be given to communication of the outcomes of inferential analyses. The Optional test and final exam will assess these skills.
<b>6. Learning and application of psychology</b>	1	Lecture material, tutorial exercises and assignment will include reference to examples of applied research.

\* The *Graduate Attributes of the Australian Undergraduate Psychology Program* was produced as part of the Carrick Associate Fellowship project, "Sustainable and evidence-based learning and teaching approaches to the undergraduate psychology curriculum", and "Designing a diverse and future-oriented vision for undergraduate psychology in Australia", a Discipline-based Initiative funded by the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, and supported by the Australian Psychological Society and the University of New South Wales (School of Psychology; Learning and Teaching @UNSW).

## 6. Rationale for the Inclusion of Content and Teaching Approach

This course prepares students for higher-level psychology courses by conveying the benefits and limitations of particular research designs and of inferential statistical analyses. It also provides specific skills in carrying out data analyses, communicating the outcomes and drawing appropriate conclusions.

Students who continue in psychology have the opportunity to study more advanced techniques in PSYC3001 Research Methods 3, which provides preparation for the independent research project carried out in the fourth (Honours) year.

## 7. Teaching Strategies

The course web page is run through Blackboard, which can be accessed from the UNSW eLearning site: <http://teaching.unsw.edu.au/elearning>

Login with your student number and your zPass, and follow the links to the Research Methods 2 page.

**Lectures** will be digitally recorded through the Lectopia system. Links to the lecture recordings will be available through the course web page. Lecture slides in PDF format will be placed on the webpage in advance of each lecture. The slides summarise key points that the lecturer will expand on. They do not cover all the information and are not a substitute for attending the lectures. You may wish to print the slides and bring them to the lecture to write more detailed notes on.

**Statistics tutorials** will be held in Weeks 2 – 13 inclusive. Times and locations are available on the Blackboard site. These tutorials will concentrate on the practical application of inferential statistical procedures, through worked examples and practice questions.

**Computing labs** will be held in Weeks 2, 3, 5, 7, 11 and 13. In these labs you will be using the statistical package SPSS. All computing labs are in Mathews Room 209, located on level 2 behind the elevators.

**Attendance** at tutorials and labs is compulsory.

**Calculator:** You should purchase a basic calculator for use in tutorials, the optional test and the final exam. See: <https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/academiclife/assessment/examinations/Calculator.html>

Please go to the Psychology Office (Mathews 1011) prior to the end of semester to obtain an official UNSW sticker that confirms your calculator is approved for use in UNSW exams.

### Suggested approach to the course:

1. Attend lectures and tutorials/labs; take good notes
2. Complete the exercises in the tutorial manual
3. Take the Optional Test
4. Submit your assignment on time
5. Do not leave studying until just before the final exam

## 8. Course Schedule

Week (approx.)	Lecture Topic	Lecturer
1	Introduction and revision	Peter Lovibond
1-2	Inferential statistics	Chris Donkin
3-4	Analysis of single mean designs	Chris Donkin
5-6	Analysis of two mean designs	Chris Donkin
7-8	Type 1 errors, Type II errors, and power	Peter Lovibond
9	Validity	Peter Lovibond
9-10	Correlation and prediction	Jenny Richmond
11	Chi-square	Jenny Richmond
12	Factorial designs	Jenny Richmond
12	Assumptions, multiple comparisons	Jenny Richmond

## 9. Assessment

There will be 4 components of assessment.

**SPSS Exercises.** In the final four computing labs, the tutor will grade your answers to the SPSS exercises (5 marks for each tutorial). He/she may ask you to show how you obtained the relevant output. Your best 2 marks will count (10% total).

An **Optional Test** will be held during the Monday lecture hour in Week 8 (April 29, 2-3pm CLB7). This test is optional in the sense that your mark will contribute to your overall grade in the subject only if it turns out to be higher (on a percentage basis) than your final exam mark. You should be able to adopt a reasonably relaxed attitude to the test, and treat it as relatively non-threatening practice for the final exam. The test will cover the material presented in Lecture Weeks 1-6. Please bring your calculator to the test. You may choose not to take the optional test if you wish. Its optional worth is 15% of your final mark. The optional test will be held only once; that is, there will be no additional assessment if you miss the test.

**Assignment.** The assignment is compulsory and is worth 15% of your final mark. It is due in by 4 pm on the Thursday of Week 12 (May 30th). This assignment will involve methodology and validity.

The **Final Exam** will be two hours and will be closed book (relevant formulae and statistical tables will be provided). The exam will contain data analysis questions, and both short-answer and multiple-choice questions. The data analysis questions will require you to do some limited hand calculations and interpret output from SPSS. The emphasis of the exam is on your understanding of inferential procedures and research methodology issues as well as their practical application. The exam is nominally worth 75% of your final mark, but if your optional test mark counts, the exam will be worth 60% of your final mark. Please bring your calculator to the exam.

Assessment Task	Weight	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Graduate Attributes Assessed	Date	Feedback
SPSS exercises	10%	1.2	2	final 4 computing labs	marks on Blackboard by end of following week
Optional mid-semester test	0% or 15%	all	2, 3, 4, 5	Monday lecture Week 8 (April 29, 2-3pm CLB7)	collection from Psychology Office after Monday May 13
Assignment	15%	1.1 2.1-2.4	2, 3, 4, 5	due by 4pm Thursday May 30	collection from Psychology Office after Monday June 17
Final Exam	60% or 75%	all	2, 3, 4, 5	June exam period	-

## 10. Expected Resources for Students

<b>TEXTBOOKS</b>	There is no set textbook for this course. You may wish to consult the following books held in the Library's High Use Collection, but they are <u>not</u> required reading for the course. Howell, D. C. (2007). <i>Statistical Methods for Psychology</i> . Belmont, CA : Thomson/Wadsworth. Smithson, M. (2000). <i>Statistics with Confidence</i> . London: Sage.
<b>TUTORIAL MANUAL</b>	Download Tutorial Manual from Blackboard site and print at start of semester. The manual includes material to be covered in statistics and computing labs, practice questions, and statistical tables.

## 11. Course Evaluation & Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered using various means including UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process.

## 12. Plagiarism & Academic Integrity

### What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- **Copying:** using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.
- **Inappropriate paraphrasing:** changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.
- **Collusion:** working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- **Duplication:** submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

### Where can I find out more information?

In many cases plagiarism is the result of inexperience about academic conventions. The University has resources and information to assist you to avoid plagiarism. The first place you can look is the section about referencing and plagiarism in each Course Guide, as this will also include information specific to the discipline the course is from. There are also other sources of assistance at UNSW:

- **How can the Learning Centre help me?**

The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how to not plagiarise. Information is available on their website: [www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism](http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism). They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

- **How can Elise help me?**

ELISE (Enabling Library & Information Skills for Everyone) is an online tutorial to help you understand how to find and use information for your assignments or research. It will help you to search databases, identify good quality information and write assignments. It will also help you understand plagiarism and how to avoid it. All undergraduate students have to review the ELISE tutorial in their first semester and complete the quiz, but any student can review it to improve their knowledge: <http://elise.library.unsw.edu.au>.

- **What is Turnitin?**

Turnitin is a checking database which reviews your work and compares it to an international collection of books, journals, Internet pages and other student's assignments. The database checks referencing and whether you have copied something from another student, resource, or off the Internet. Sometimes students submit their work into Turnitin when they hand it in, but academics can also use it to check a student's work when they are marking it. You can find out more about Turnitin here: <http://telt.unsw.edu.au/turnitin>.

### What if plagiarism is found in my work?

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student's work or paying someone to do your work, may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in a honours thesis) even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here:

[www.unsw.edu.au/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf](http://www.unsw.edu.au/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf)

## Examples of plagiarism

### Using the internet appropriately

A first year student handed in an assignment where she had copied from a website. Her lecturer realised she didn't understand you have to reference websites in the same way you reference books and journal articles. The lecturer explained how to reference and sent her to a workshop at the Learning Centre to help her improve her skills.

### Working together on a math assignment

A group of Mathematics students worked together on an assignment when they had been told this was not allowed. All questions where the students had worked together were given zero, and this led to some student failing the assessment.

### No referencing in an assessment

A third year student submitted a major assessment that included material from a journal article published in Canada. When his essay was submitted into Turnitin, it let the academic know that the student didn't reference the material. The student was given zero for the essay, and because it was worth 50 per cent he failed the course.

### Copying design work

A final year design student used images of someone else's designs in her work and he said the designs were his own. The matter was formally investigated by his Faculty and he was found to have committed academic misconduct and failed the course.

### Further information and assistance

If you would like further information or assistance with avoiding plagiarism, you can contact the Learning Centre. The Learning Centre at The University of New South Wales has two locations:

#### UNSW Learning Centre

Lower Ground Floor, North Wing, Chancellery Building  
(C22 Kensington Campus – near Student Central)  
[www.lc.unsw.edu.au](http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au)

**Phone:** 9385 2060

**Email:** [learningcentre@unsw.edu.au](mailto:learningcentre@unsw.edu.au)

#### Opening Hours:

Monday to Thursday: 9am - 5pm and  
Friday: 9am - 2.30pm

#### COFA Campus Learning Centre

**Email:** [cofalearningcentre@unsw.edu.au](mailto:cofalearningcentre@unsw.edu.au)

**Phone:** 9385 0739

## 13. Administrative Matters

The *School of Psychology Student Guide*, available at

[http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/sites/all/files/page\\_file\\_attachment/Psychology%20Student%20Guide%202013.pdf](http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/sites/all/files/page_file_attachment/Psychology%20Student%20Guide%202013.pdf)

contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in psychology courses, such as:

- Attendance requirements;
- Assignment submissions and returns;
- Assessments;
- Special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- Student Code of Conduct;
- Student complaints and grievances;
- Student Equity and Disability Unit; and
- Occupational Health & Safety.

Students should familiarise themselves with the information contained in this *Guide*.