Unit Outline 2011
Faculty of Health

Experimental Psychology
7118
This Unit Outline must be read in conjunction with:

a) *UC Student Guide to Policies*, which sets out University-wide policies and procedures, including information on matters such as plagiarism, grade descriptors, moderation, feedback and deferred exams, and is available at *(scroll to bottom of page)*
http://www.canberra.edu.au/student-services

b) *UC Guide to Student Services*, and is available at *(scroll to bottom of page)*
http://www.canberra.edu.au/student-services

c) Any additional information specified in section 6h.

### 1: General Information

1a **Unit title:** Experimental Psychology

1b **Unit number:** 7118

1c **Teaching Period and year offered:** Semester 1, 2011

1d **Credit point value:** 3 Credit Points

1e **Unit level:** Level 2

1f **Name of Unit Convener and contact details (including telephone and email)**

Unit Convener: Dr Navjot Bhullar  
Location: Room 3B237  
Tele: (02) 6206 8623  
Email: Navjot.Bhullar@canberra.edu.au  
Consultation Hours: 11:30am-12:30pm Tuesdays during teaching weeks, or else by appointment (please email)

1g **Administrative contact details (including name, location, telephone and email)**

Psychology Administrative Assistant: Ms Jeanine McMahon  
Location: Room 3B25  
Tele: (02) 6201 2653  
Email: Jeanine.McMahon@canberra.edu.au
2: Academic Content

2a Unit description and learning outcomes

**Unit Description**
This unit examines the most common experimental designs used in psychological research and the appropriate statistical techniques for their analysis. Laboratory work is a compulsory part of this component.

More specifically, the unit attempts to provide you with information about basic research design principles. Thus, not only will you learn how to conduct and interpret statistical tests, the unit also provides you with information about how to write up statistical results in research reports. It is important to appreciate that research excellence requires a combination of sound research design, appropriate statistic analysis, and clear writing.

**Learning Outcomes**
On the completion of this unit, students will be able to (1) identify major research designs and statistical analyses used in psychology; (2) analyse psychological data using SPSS; (3) and write a laboratory report: Results section in APA format.

2b Generic skills
The University recognises that students enter university with a diversity of personal and professional attributes that should be further developed by their experience as students and graduates of the University. The University expects all of its graduates to have developed a set of skills and attributes to a level appropriate for their award, that will equip them for success in professional life. These skills are referred to as Generic Skills or Graduate Attributes. This unit aims to address the following generic skills: [https://guard.canberra.edu.au/policy/policy.php?pol_id=3030](https://guard.canberra.edu.au/policy/policy.php?pol_id=3030)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generic skill</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>The ability to present knowledge, ideas and opinions effectively and communicate within and across professional and cultural boundaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis and inquiry</td>
<td>The ability to gather information, and to analyse and evaluate information and situations in a systematic, creative and insightful way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Solving</td>
<td>The ability to apply problem-solving processes in novel situations; to identify and analyse problems then formulate and implement solutions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2c Prerequisites and/or co-requisites
Psychology 101, Psychology 102, and Introduction to Psychological Research, or permission on the unit convenor
### 3: Delivery of Unit and Timetable

#### 3a Delivery mode

The unit will be delivered in traditional mode (i.e., on-campus lectures and tutorials). One 2-hour lecture will be held each week on **Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:30 in 2B7**. See schedule in section 3b for details. Outlines of all lectures will be made available, and lectures will be recorded and available for downloading via Moodle. For further information on Moodle go to: [http://learnonline.canberra.edu.au/studentSupport.php](http://learnonline.canberra.edu.au/studentSupport.php)

In addition, one hour tutorials will be held in **Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11**. Details of days and times of tutorials are provided below. Your tutor will provide his/her contact details during Week 2 tutorial.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>02:00</td>
<td>1 - 7, 9 - 11</td>
<td>2B07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial C/01</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12:30 AM</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>2 - 7, 9 - 11</td>
<td>7D04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial C/02</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>2 - 7, 9 - 11</td>
<td>7D04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial C/03</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>2 - 7, 9 - 11</td>
<td>7D04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial C/04</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>2 - 7, 9 - 11</td>
<td>7D04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial C/05</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>2 - 7, 9 - 11</td>
<td>7D04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial C/06</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>01:00</td>
<td>2 - 7, 9 - 11</td>
<td>7D04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that this unit is co-taught with Experimental Psychology G (6662) unit.
### 3b Timetable of activities, such as lectures/ tutorials/ practicals/ field classes, showing key dates and topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Tutorials</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (7-11 Feb)</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 1:</strong> Introduction to Experimental Psychology</td>
<td><strong>No Tutorials</strong> this week.</td>
<td>Howell Ch. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (14-18 Feb)</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 2:</strong> Sampling, describing and exploring data, and the normal distribution</td>
<td><strong>Tutorial 1:</strong> Working with data in SPSS</td>
<td>Howell Ch. 2 &amp; 3 A&amp;B Ch. 1 &amp; 2 (p. 1-17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (21-25 Feb)</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 3:</strong> Sampling distributions, hypothesis testing, probability and significance</td>
<td><strong>Tutorial 2:</strong> Entering data into SPSS</td>
<td>Howell Ch. 4 &amp; 5 A&amp;B Ch. 3 (p. 19-32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (28 Feb-4 Mar)</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 4:</strong> Hypothesis testing applied to means</td>
<td><strong>Tutorial 3:</strong> One sample and independent samples t-tests</td>
<td>Howell Ch. 7 A&amp;B Ch. 4 &amp; 5 (p.33-60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (7-11 Mar)</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 5:</strong> Power</td>
<td><strong>Tutorial 4:</strong> Independent and paired samples t-test</td>
<td>Howell, Ch. 8 A&amp;B Ch. 5 &amp; 6 (p. 47-74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 (14-18 Mar)</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 6:</strong> Simple Analysis of Variance and multiple comparisons among treatment means</td>
<td><strong>Tutorial 5:</strong> One-Way Between Groups ANOVA</td>
<td>Howell Ch. 11 &amp; 12 A&amp;B Ch. 7 (p. 75 - 90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 (21-25 Mar)</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 7:</strong> Factorial Analysis of Variance</td>
<td><strong>Tutorial 6:</strong> Factorial b/n groups ANOVA</td>
<td>Howell Ch. 13 A&amp;B Ch. 8 (p. 91-108)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 (28 Mar-1 Apr)</td>
<td><strong>MID-SEMESTER BREAK</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 (4-8 Apr)</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 8:</strong> Correlation</td>
<td><strong>Tutorial 7:</strong> Correlation</td>
<td>Howell Ch. 9 &amp; 10 A&amp;B Ch. 12 &amp; 16 (p. 165-176 &amp; 274-278)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 (11-15 Apr)</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 9:</strong> Non-parametric approaches to data</td>
<td><strong>Tutorial 8:</strong> Non-parametric tests</td>
<td>Howell Ch. 18 A&amp;B Ch. 16 (p. 238-273)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 (18-22 Apr)</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 10:</strong> Categorical data and chi-square</td>
<td><strong>Tutorial 9:</strong> Chi-square tests</td>
<td>Howell Ch. 6 A&amp;B Ch. 16 (p. 223-237)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lab Report: APA-Style Results Write-Ups Due on Friday 22 April by 5pm**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Tutorials</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 (25-29 Apr)</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 11:</strong> Observational research and single-subject designs</td>
<td><strong>No Tutorials</strong> this week.</td>
<td>E-reserve reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 (2-6 May)</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 12:</strong> Ethical issues in Psychology</td>
<td><strong>No Tutorials</strong> this week.</td>
<td>E-reserve reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 (9-13 May)</td>
<td><strong>Lecture 13:</strong> Overview &amp; Summary</td>
<td><strong>No Tutorials</strong> this week.</td>
<td>Final exam preparation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All textbook chapters referred to are from “Statistical Methods for Psychology” by Howell (2010) and “PASW Statistics by SPSS A Practical Guide. Version 18.0.” by Allen & Bennett (2010)
4: Unit Resources

4a Lists of required texts/readings
CALL NUMBER: BF39.H68 2010

South Melbourne, Australia: Cengage Learning Australia.

Recommended Readings
CALL NUMBER: BF76.7.P83 2010

CALL NUMBER: BF76.7.B87 2010

Copies of texts are available at the University Co-op Bookshop (pricing details in 6f below). There is also a small number of copies of texts held in the library.

4b Materials and equipment
SPSS Statistical Analysis Software
Access to SPSS (PASW) software is required. UC computer labs are all equipped with SPSS. You can also acquire off-campus access by purchasing SPSS (PASW) version 19 (the previous versions are acceptable as well) from the Bookshop (refer to section 6f for pricing details).

4c Unit website
Log onto the Experimental Psychology Moodle site via the following URL:
http://learnonline.canberra.edu.au

5: Assessment

5a Assessment overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Tasks (including exams held in the exam period)</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Addresses Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Addresses Generic Skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Online Quizzes</td>
<td>Weeks 3, 5, 7, 10 &amp; 12</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Laboratory Report: APA-Style Results Write-Ups</td>
<td>Fri 22 April by 5pm</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1, 2 and 3</td>
<td>1, 2 and 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Final Exam</td>
<td>During UC Exam period</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>1, 2 and 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: In order to pass this unit, students must complete ALL three assessment items. Students must also achieve an overall mark of at least 50% in order to be eligible for a pass in this unit.

1 Refer to Section 2a
2 Refer to Section 2b
5b Details of each assessment task

1). Online Quizzes (worth 15% of the final mark)
Students will be assessed on five multiple-choice online quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz will consist of ten multiple-choice questions and students will have 10 minutes to complete each quiz. Marks from the three best quizzes for each student will be combined to create a total score out of 15 (5 marks per quiz) to contribute 15% to the overall mark for this component. Quizzes will cover material from the previous two to three weeks (lectures, readings and tutorials) as listed on the Moodle site.

Each online quiz will be available for two weeks (Monday to Sunday). Note that you need to complete at least one online quiz in order to pass this unit.

2). Laboratory Report: APA-Style Results Write-Ups (worth 40% of the final mark)
This assessment task will evaluate your ability to write up 4 short APA-style results sections for the main analyses covered in the unit. Each results section (worth 10 marks) will consist of no more than two paragraphs of text including assumption testing, and one table or figure. Altogether, this assessment will contribute 40% of your final mark.

Students will analyse the data (SPSS data files are provided) and write short APA-style Results sections. Each write-up should include: (1) one paragraph on assumption testing, (2) one paragraph describing the results of the analysis, and (3) one properly labelled APA-style table or figure. Details of this assessment are available on the unit’s Moodle site.

NOTE: SPSS output must be attached in the end of the assignment (SPSS output can be printed double-sided). Please note that assignments will not be marked until they are accompanied by the SPSS output, and students will automatically receive a mark of zero if they fail to provide SPSS outputs.

Submission:
Laboratory report is due on or before 5:00pm on Friday 22 April (Week 11). Submit your lab report directly into the Unit Convenor’s mail box situated in the alcove next to Rooms 3B40 and 3B41. This assessment is required to be submitted in hard copy only, but remember to print out and keep a second copy for your own records. This report is worth 40% of the final mark for this unit.

Late submissions (without an approved extension) will incur a 5% penalty per day. Note that a weekend will count as two days and a long weekend as three days. In addition, late submissions (without an approved extension) will receive minimal written feedback.

Return of Assignments: Students will receive their marked assignments in approximately 3 weeks after submission.
Assignments submitted after the due date: In some cases, this may mean that students submitting a late laboratory report may not receive their lab report results before the final examination.

PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY.

Assignment Cover Sheet:
- A signed Assignment Cover Sheet must be included with all assessment submitted. The Assignment Cover Sheet is available on the Moodle site.
- Assessment items cannot be marked until a signed assignment cover sheet is submitted.
- Late penalties may be applied until a signed assignment cover sheet is submitted.
Important:
Please read the declaration on the Assignment Cover Sheet very carefully before signing. This declaration states that you have not plagiarised. A signature on this declaration indicates that you understand what plagiarism is and that you have not plagiarised any part of your assignment. Penalties for plagiarism include failure of the assessment and/or the unit. If, after reading this declaration, you are unsure as to whether the work you are submitting includes plagiarised material, please consult with your tutor. It is better to do this before the assignment is marked, rather than after.

Plagiarism:

- Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and may result in failure of the assessment and/or the unit.
- Students plagiarising the work of other students, or copying material without acknowledgement from journal articles, textbooks, the internet, or any other sources will be referred to the Associate Dean (Education) of the Faculty of Health who will decide on the penalty to be applied.

3). Final Exam (worth 45% of the final mark)
Multiple choice and short-answer questions will assess your understanding of material presented in lectures, tutorials and text readings. You will be permitted to bring a non-statistical calculator into the exam, but no other materials. This exam will take place in the exam period. The final exam is worth 45% of the final mark.

5c Special assessment requirements
In order to pass this unit, students must submit ALL assessment items. Students must also achieve an overall mark of at least 50%.

Extensions:
Please read this information BEFORE contacting the unit convenor for an extension.

Extensions for the laboratory report will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Requests will require documentary evidence and must be submitted to the unit convener. To request an extension please follow these steps:
1. Complete a "Request for Extension" form, available on the unit moodle site.
2. Ensure you have documentary evidence (see below for information on acceptable documentation) and submit to the unit convener for approval (before the assignment is due).

If approved, the unit convener will sign and return the bottom half of the form to you. This approval form must be attached to your assignment when you submit it.

Any assessment item submitted without an approved extension will incur a 5% penalty per day. Note that a weekend will count as two days and a long-weekend as three days.

An extension will not be granted on the grounds of academic or employment workload, for undocumented issues, for illnesses lasting less than one week, or for technical problems.

No extension will be granted without appropriate documentation, and extensions cannot be granted before documentation is provided.
Documentation for extensions:

Appropriate documentation for extension applications includes the following:

1. A medical certificate signed by a registered medical, dental or health practitioner. The certificate must contain the registered provider number, the duration of the student’s incapacity to study, and the date of consultation.
2. A death notice or other appropriate documentation for bereavement.

5d Supplementary assessment
Supplementary assessment is available as per the Assessment Policy (7.10-7.20) and the Supplementary Assessment Policy Framework: https://guard.canberra.edu.au/policy/policy.php?pol_id=2901

5e Academic Integrity
Students have a responsibility to uphold University standards on ethical scholarship. Good scholarship involves building on the work of others and use of others’ work must be acknowledged with proper attribution made. Cheating, plagiarism, and falsification of data are dishonest practices which contravene academic values. Plagiarism can be detected through a range of methods such as staff familiarity with the subject area and random searches on the Google search engine using key phrases from student work.

5f Text-matching software
Text-matching software may be used for the electronic checking of plagiarism. Plagiarism can also be detected through a range of methods including staff familiarity with the subject area, and random searches on internet search engines using key phrases from student work.

6: Student Responsibility

6a Workload
The amount of time you will need to spend on study in this unit will depend on a number of factors including your prior knowledge, learning skill level and learning style. Nevertheless, in planning your time commitments you should note that for a 3cp unit the total notional workload over the semester or term is assumed to be 150 hours. These hours include time spent in classes. The total workload for units of different credit point value should vary proportionally. For example, for a 6cp unit the total notional workload over a semester or term is assumed to be 300 hours.

6b Special needs
Students who need assistance in undertaking the unit because of disability or other circumstances should inform their Unit Convener or UC AccessAbility as soon as possible so the necessary arrangements can be made.

6c Attendance requirements
Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials.

6d Withdrawal
If you are planning to withdraw please discuss with your unit convener. Information on withdrawal, including important deadlines is available at http://www.canberra.edu.au/student-services/re-enrolment/determine_your_study_program_and_register_on_osis/withdrawal_of_units
6e **Required IT skills**  
Students should have a basic understanding of the SPSS package 14.0 or above for pre-requisite requirements. It is also expected that all students will have basic word-processing skills. If you are unfamiliar with searching specialist data bases for accessing Psychology Journals please see the UC library site for details of training sessions:  
http://www.canberra.edu.au/library/research-gateway/research-skills-training

6f **Costs**  
The materials required for this unit are available for purchase from the Co-op Bookshop as a single text Howell (2010) for $139.95, a single text Allen and Bennett (2010) for $59.95, and a text plus SPSS pack composed of Howell (2010), Allen & Bennett (2010) and SPSS v19 for $189.95. Discounted prices are available for members. Please note that this is the price for current stock. If more stock needs to be ordered the price may change.

6g **Work Integrated Learning**  
Not applicable

6h **Additional information**  
Announcements made via lectures and/or Moodle will be deemed to have been received by **all** students.

The Health Resource Centre (HLRC) is located in 12C24. It is a facility designed to enhance the learning and university experience for health students with particular emphasis on students in their first year. A drop-in service of students helping students is also available.

7: **Student Feedback**

All students enrolled in this unit will have an opportunity to provide anonymous feedback on the unit at the end of the Semester via the Unit Satisfaction Survey (USS) which will be presented to you on OSIS. Your lecturer or tutor may also invite you to provide more detailed feedback on their teaching through an anonymous in-class questionnaire administered through the University’s Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC).

Feedback from this unit in 2010 was used to inform changes to the lectures, tutorial and assessment tasks for 2011. For example, the laboratory report has been modified to include short APA style results write-ups to assess students’ understanding and grasp of the statistical analyses as well as correct interpretation of the SPSS output.

8: **Authority of this Unit Outline**

Any change to the information contained in Section 2 (Academic content), and Section 5 (Assessment) of this document, will only be made by the Unit Convener if the written agreement of Head of Discipline and a majority of students has been obtained; and if written advice of the change is then provided on the unit site in the learning management system. If this is not possible, written advice of the change must be forwarded to each student enrolled in the unit at their registered term address. Any individual student who believes him/herself to be disadvantaged by a change is encouraged to discuss the matter with the Unit Convener.