Unit Outline 2011
Faculty of Health

Research Methods & Professional Ethics PG (Pt A)
7375
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)*

b) *UC Guide to Student Services*, and is available at *(scroll to bottom of page)*

c) Any additional information specified in section 6h.

## 1: General Information

1a Unit title: Research Methods and Professional Ethics PG (Part A)

1b Unit number: 7375

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

1d Credit point value: 3 credit points of a 6 credit point unit

1e Unit level: P

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

   Dr Tricia Brown
   room: 3B23
   ph: 6201 5362
   email: Tricia.Brown@canberra.edu.au
   Note: I work part-time (Wed-Fri). My preferred mode of contact is via email.

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

   Jeanine McMahon
   room: 3B25
   ph: 6201 2653
   email: Jeanine.McMahon@canberra.edu.au
2: Academic Content

2a Unit description and learning outcomes

Syllabus: Research Methods and Professional Ethics PG is a year long unit offered in two parts (A & B). Students must complete both parts to be assigned a result for the unit and have the credit points count towards course completion. Part A must be completed in Semester 1 and part B in the Winter Term. Students will study design, methodological and data analysis methods and issues relevant to applied psychological research. The professional ethical guidelines and issues of psychological research and practice will also be covered.

Learning Outcomes: On successful completion of this unit, students will be able to: (1) critically evaluate research designs in psychology; (2) develop and carry out psychological research designs; (3) analyse research data using SPSS; (4) be aware of how the professional code of ethics applies in psychological practice and research; and (5) have an understanding of some of the issues involved in professional practice in psychology.

2b Generic skills

This unit aims to address the following generic skills (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 Enquiry</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 to novel situations; to identify and analyse problems and then formulate and implement solutions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2c Prerequisites and/or co-requisites

Prerequisite: Course entry requirements
Co-requisite: Honours Thesis in Psychology, Research Methods and Professional Ethics PG (Part B)

3: Delivery of Unit and Timetable

3a Delivery mode

The unit will be delivered in traditional mode (i.e., on-campus lectures and laboratories). An outline of the week’s lecture or lab notes will be available via Moodle prior to each lecture and may be printed from Moodle. Unless stated otherwise, all lectures will be held in room 6C34 and all laboratories in room 7D4.

All lectures will be recorded. A link to recordings will be provided via Moodle. Laboratories will not be recorded.
3b Timetable of activities, such as lectures/ tutorials/ practicals/ field classes, showing key dates and topics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>LECTURE: Introduction / Research Designs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>LECTURE: Research Designs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>LAB: Measurement, Setting up Data Files, Descriptive Statistics, Data Screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>LAB: Survey Design &amp; Measurement, Scales, Reliability, Correlation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>LAB: Statistical Inference, Effect Sizes &amp; Power, Introduction to Regression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>LAB: Multiple Regression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>LAB: Regression: Mediators &amp; Moderators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mid-Semester Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9    | LECTURE: Advanced Topics in Multiple Regression  
Guest Lecturers: Dr Navjot Bhullar & Dr Amanda George  
This lecture will be held in room 2B11 |
| 10   | LAB: Testing Group Differences and Introduction to ANOVA |
| 11   | LAB: Factorial Designs & Factorial ANOVA |
| 12   | LAB: Factorial ANOVA / Repeated Measures ANOVA |
| 13   | LAB: Repeated Measures ANOVA & SPANOVA |
| 14   | LAB: MANOVA & ANCOVA |

4: Unit Resources

4a Lists of required texts/readings

There is no prescribed text for this unit. A list of readings will be provided to students via Moodle for each topic.
Recommended:

While not essential, the following texts are recommended:


A bundle including Allen & Bennett and SPSS Grad Pack Premium 19 is available from the Co Op Bookshop for $169.95

**Lab reports** are expected to use **APA style**, such as described in:


All the above texts are available for purchase from the co-op bookshop or for loan from the library (call numbers: Allen & Bennett, HA32.A44 2010; Howell, BF39.H68 2010; Burton, BF76.7.B87 2010; APA manual, BF76.7.P83 2010).

4b Materials and equipment

Students may find a statistical calculator useful for the data analysis section of the unit. Students should bring a data storage device with them to computer laboratories.

**PASW/SPSS:** Access to SPSS software is required. UC computer labs are all equipped with SPSS. You can also get off-campus access by purchasing SPSS Graduate Pack from the bookshop (see details above under 4a).

4c Unit website

[LearnOnline](http://learnonline.canberra.edu.au)

Access to this website is a requirement for students enrolled in this unit.
5: Assessment

5a Assessment overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment item (including exams held in the exam period)</th>
<th>Due date of assignments</th>
<th>Weighting (total to equal 100%)</th>
<th>Addresses learning outcome(s)</th>
<th>Addresses generic skill(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Report – Multiple Regression Analysis</td>
<td>Submit to Moodle by April 8(^{th}) at 6pm.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>(1) critically evaluate research designs in psychology; (2) develop and carry out psychological research designs (3) analyse research data using SPSS</td>
<td>- communication - analysis and enquiry - problem-solving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Report - ANOVA</td>
<td>Submit to Moodle by May 20(^{th}) at 6pm.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>(1) critically evaluate research designs in psychology; (2) develop and carry out psychological research designs (3) analyse research data using SPSS</td>
<td>- communication - analysis and enquiry - problem-solving</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5b Details of each assessment item

Assignment 1: Laboratory Report: Multiple Regression Analysis

Students will be required to analyse a data set and to report their results in the form of a laboratory report (2000 words) presented in APA format. The data analysis must include a hierarchical multiple regression analysis and a meditational analysis. The report should include a statement of hypotheses, Method, Results, a short Discussion, References and an appendix containing SPSS output. The report does not require an Abstract or an Introduction.

Referencing must conform to the format prescribed by the American Psychological Association (APA). For further information on citations and references in psychological writing, students should refer to the recommended text (Burton, 2010) and the 6\(^{th}\) edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (available in the library).

The assignment is worth 50% of the final assessment for this unit. The data set along with further details regarding the assignment will be provided to students in week 4. Criteria to be used in marking the assignment are outlined below:
Marking Criteria for Laboratory Report: Multiple Regression Analysis

- **hypotheses**
  - clear statement of hypotheses to be tested /5

- **method**
  - participants fully described /2
  - measures fully described /4
  - design and procedure fully described /3

- **results**
  - data screening, descriptives /3
  - hierarchical multiple regression analysis /6
  - mediational analysis /6

- **discussion**
  - results and implications interpreted in light of hypotheses /8

- **appendix**
  - appropriate analysis and understanding demonstrated /8

- **format, presentation, spelling, punctuation, language, referencing etc.** /5

**Total:** 50%

**Marks will be deducted for:**
- exceeding word limit (5% for each 100 words over 2,200)
- late submission (5% per day including Saturdays and Sundays)

Laboratory reports **must be submitted electronically via the unit Moodle website.** Students should also ensure that they retain a hard copy of their submitted report. Marked assignments and feedback will be provided to students electronically via the Moodle website. Assignments submitted on time will be returned to students within 3-4 weeks of submission.

**A signed Faculty of Health cover sheet must be included with every assessment item submitted.** A copy of the coversheet is available from the Moodle website. **Assignments cannot be marked until a signed coversheet is submitted.**

**Assignment 2: Laboratory Report: ANOVA**

Students will be required to analyse a data set and to report their results in the form of a laboratory report (2000 words) presented in APA format. The data analysis must include a factorial ANOVA, a repeated measures ANOVA and a SPANOVA. The report should include a statement of hypotheses, Method, Results, a short Discussion, References and an appendix containing SPSS output. The report does not require an Abstract or an Introduction.

Referencing must conform to the format prescribed by the American Psychological Association (APA). For further information on citations and references in psychological writing, students should refer to the recommended text (Burton, 2010) and the 6th edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (available in the library).

The assignment is worth 50% of the final assessment for this unit. The data set along with further details regarding the assignment will be provided to students in **week 10.** Criteria to be used in marking the assignment are outlined below:
Marking Criteria for Laboratory Report: ANOVA

▪ hypotheses - clear statement of hypotheses to be tested /5
▪ method - participants fully described /2
- materials fully described /3
- design and procedure fully described /3
▪ results - data screening, descriptives /2
- Factorial ANOVA /4
- Repeated Measures ANOVA /4
- SPANOVA /6
▪ discussion - results and implications interpreted in light of hypotheses /8
▪ appendix - appropriate analysis and understanding demonstrated /8
▪ format, presentation, spelling, punctuation, language, referencing etc. /5

Total: 50%

Marks will be deducted for:
- exceeding word limit (5% for each 100 words over 2,200)
- late submission (5% per day including Saturdays and Sundays)

Laboratory reports **must be submitted electronically via the unit Moodle website.** Students should also ensure that they retain a hard copy of their submitted report. Marked assignments and feedback will be provided to students electronically via the Moodle website. Assignments submitted on time will be returned to students within 3-4 weeks of submission.

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**EXTENSIONS**

Please read carefully BEFORE contacting the unit convener for an extension.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Assignment extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is required?</td>
<td>A completed “request for extension” form and supporting documentation. Extensions will not be granted without supporting documentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What documentation is acceptable?</td>
<td>Appropriate documentation for extension applications includes the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A death notice or other appropriate documentation for bereavement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where do I get the extension request form?</td>
<td>Obtain a &quot;Request for Extension&quot; form from the Psychology administrative assistant (Room 3B25).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where do I submit the extension request form?</td>
<td>Fill out the form, attach documentary evidence and place in the unit convener’s mailbox or give it to the Psychology Administration Assistant in 3B25.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When will I hear if my extension has been approved?</td>
<td>You will receive an email from the unit convener within 1 week advising whether your extension request is approved or declined.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What grounds are not appropriate for requesting an extension?</td>
<td>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 illnesses occurring after the due date of the assignment or for technical problems. No extensions will be granted without appropriate documentation, and extensions cannot be granted before documentation is provided.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What do I do if it is approved? If the extension is approved, you must paste a copy of the email approval to your assignment when you submit it.

| Submission after the due date | Assignments submitted after the due date, regardless of whether an extension was granted, will be returned at a later date than those submitted on time. |

5c **Special assessment requirements**

In order to pass this unit, students must complete ALL assessment items and achieve an overall mark of at least 50%.

5d **Supplementary assessment**

As this unit forms the first part of a year long unit (along with Research Methods & Professional Ethics PG part B in the Winter Term), there is no supplementary assessment for this unit.
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.

5f **Text-matching software**
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.

### 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 (formerly the Disabilities Office) as soon as possible so the necessary arrangements can be made.

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

6d **Withdrawal**
If you are planning to withdraw please discuss with your unit convener. Please see [this link](#) for further information on deadlines.

6e **Required IT skills**
It is assumed that students have basic computing skills and some knowledge of SPSS/PASW.

6f **Costs**
If students purchase the Allen & Bennett /SPSS bundle, the cost is approximately $170 (see details above under 4a).

6g **Work Integrated Learning:** N/A

6h **Additional information**
Announcements made via lectures 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 a 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).

Student feedback from 2010 indicated that students found the laboratory program particularly helpful and that they would like more time doing lab-based exercises. This year additional laboratories have been added to the program. In addition, students suggested that this full year unit could be restructured to run over semester one and the Winter Term. That change has been implemented this year.

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 then 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.