

MODULE CODE: ECAP4006
TITLE: An Introduction to Research Methods
DATED: 26/04/2018

LEVEL: 4
CREDITS: 20

JACS CODE: C810

AIM(S)

- To develop an awareness of terminology, methods and scientific techniques involved in the study of human behaviour.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- demonstrate the ability to identify and apply specific terminology, key concepts and research methods used in scientific psychology;
- demonstrate their knowledge of the practical and ethical issues that arise in psychological research;
- analyse, present and evaluate quantitative data and evaluate research findings using a variety of psychological tools and SPSS;
- take responsibility for their own learning and skill development; including effective personal planning, self-reflection and project management skills.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

- A description of the language used in scientific psychology, theoretical and research-based terminology.
- An exploration of drawing on relevant theory and research.
- A practical introduction to a range of experimental research methodologies used in psychological research.
- An examination of the practical and ethical issues involved in psychological research.
- An introduction to the concept of hypothesis testing, data analysis and report writing.

LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY

Weekly lectures will introduce the students to the concepts and principles of research design, ethics and statistical analysis. These lectures are supported by workshops which will introduce practical examples of research design and associated ethical issues. Through these workshops, students will become familiar with the statistical package SPSS and will be supported by early data analysis requirements for study reports.

The study time for the module is divided as follows:

Activity type	Hours	Percentage
Scheduled learning	30	15%
Independent learning	170	85%
Placement learning	0	0%
TOTAL	200	100%

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Component 1

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Report	1,000 words	25%

Assessment Component 2

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Report	1,500 words	35%

Assessment Component 3

☒ Written exam ☐ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
In class open book test	1 hour	30%

Assessment Component 4

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Written assignment	500 words	10%

Assessment Summary

Activity type	Percentage
Written exam	30%
Coursework	70%
Practical	
TOTAL	100%

This module is a core requirement for Graduate Basis for Chartership (GBC) accreditation with the British Psychological Society (BPS) as set out in documentation to the BPS February 2018.

READING LIST

Module Code	ECAP4006	
Module Title	An introduction to Research Methods	
Classification	Reading List entry	Electronic*
Essential	Brace, N., Kemp, R., & Snelgar, R. (2012). <i>SPSS for psychologists</i> (5th ed.). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.	☐
Essential	Coolican, H. (2014). <i>Research methods and statistics in psychology</i> (Sixth ed.). London: Psychology Press.	☐
Essential	Field, Andy P, & Field, Andy P. (2013). <i>Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS Statistics: And sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll</i> (4th ed.). Los Angeles: Sage.	☐
Essential	Haslam, S., & McGarty, C. (2014). <i>Research methods and statistics in psychology</i> (Second ed., Sage foundations of psychology series).	☐
Essential	Howitt, D., & Cramer, D. (2014). <i>Introduction to research methods in psychology</i> (Fourth ed.). Harlow, England: Pearson.	☐
Essential	McBride, D. (2016). <i>The process of research in psychology</i> (3rd ed.).	☐
Further	APA (2010). <i>Publication manual of the American Psychological Association</i> (6 th ed.). APA: Washington, DC.	☐
Further	Beech, J. (2009). <i>How to write in psychology: A student guide</i> . Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.	☐
Further	Breakwell, G., Smith, J., & Wright, D. (2012). <i>Research methods in psychology</i> (4th ed.). Los Angeles: SAGE.	☐
Further	Pallant, J. (2010). <i>SPSS Survival Manual A Step by Step Guide to Data Analysis Using SPSS</i> (4.th ed.). Maidenhead: McGraw-Hill Education.	☒
Further	Salkind, N. (2014). <i>Statistics for people who (think they) hate statistics</i> (5th ed.). Los Angeles: SAGE.	☐