



Psychology (PSYC) 304

Research Methods in Psychology (Revision 4)

Status: Replaced with new revision, see the **course listing** [↗](#) for the current revision **✖**

Delivery mode: Individualized study online [↗](#) with eText [↗](#)

Credits: 3

Areas of study: Arts, Science, or Social Science

Prerequisites: It is recommended that students have received credit for Athabasca University's **PSYC 289** and **PSYC 290** (or an equivalent) before taking this course. A course in research methods is required for all undergraduate psychology majors in Canadian universities. To ensure transferability of credits, the content of *Psychology 304* is very similar to that of other university courses in research methods in psychology.

Precluded: Credit cannot be granted for *Psychology 304* if credit has already been granted for Athabasca University's *Psychology 404* or **Social Science 366**. Considerable overlap exists between this course and *Social Science 366: Research Methods in the Social Sciences*. The emphasis

of *Psychology 304*, however, is on discussing research methods in the context of psychology. Program students are advised to take **MATH 215** concurrently with, before, or soon after taking this course.

Challenge: PSYC 304 has a challenge for credit option.

Faculty: [Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

Overview

Psychology 304: Research Methods in Psychology is to introduce you to the principles of the scientific method and the research designs and techniques used in psychology. The course should help you become a more critical research consumer, increase the knowledge of those of you working in research-related occupations, and provide you with the background necessary for further undergraduate and graduate studies in psychology.

Outline

- Unit 1: Introduction: Psychology and Science
- Unit 2: Principles of the Scientific Method: Theory and Measurement
- Unit 3: Principles of the Scientific Method: Validity and Control
- Unit 4: Ethical Issues in Psychological Research
- Unit 5: Non-Experimental Research: Observational, Archival, and Case-Study Research
- Unit 6: Non-Experimental Research: Survey Research

- Unit 7: Single-Subject Experimental Research
- Unit 8: Group Experimental Research: Single-Factor Designs
- Unit 9: Group Experimental Research: Factorial Designs
- Unit 10: Quasi Experimentation
- Unit 11: Reporting Research Results
- Unit 12: Conclusions: Bias and Limitations of Experimental Psychology (Epilogue)

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for PSYC 304, you must pass the final exam and achieve an overall course grade of **D (50 percent)** [↗](#) or better. If you receive less than D (50 percent) on your exam, your exam mark will become your overall course grade. The course assignments and their weightings are as follows:


Activity	Weight
Quizzes (three quizzes)	15%
Assignment 1	8%
Assignment 2	7%
Assignment 3	10%
Assignment 4	10%
Assignment 5	15%
Final Exam	35%

Activity	Weight
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be taken online with an AU-approved exam invigilator at an approved invigilation centre. It is your responsibility to ensure your chosen invigilation centre can accommodate online exams. For a list of invigilators who can accommodate online exams, visit the **Exam Invigilation Network** [↗](#).

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#).

Materials

White, T. L. & McBurney, D. H. (2013). *Research methods* (9th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.  (eText)

eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on **electronic textbooks** [↗](#), please refer to our **eText Initiative site** [↗](#).

Other Resources

The course is delivered entirely online using a Student Manual, Course Information, Assignment Manual, and Study Guide.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** [↗](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the PSYC 304 challenge registration, you must score at least 50 percent on the exam and obtain a composite mark of at least **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) to pass. If you fail the exam, your exam mark will become the final grade for the challenge.

Activity	Weight
Questionnaire items development	20%
Media report critique	15%
Research Report	25%
Exam	40%
Total	100%



Challenge for credit course registration form

Important links

- › **Academic advising** [↗](#)
- › **Program planning** [↗](#)
- › **Request assistance** [↗](#)
- › **Support services** [↗](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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View **previous revision** [↗](#)
