



Psychology (PSYC) 304

Research Methods in Psychology (Revision 5)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode:

[Individualized study online](#) . Delivered via Brightspace.

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.

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*

Precluded:

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%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any

invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#)  section of the Calendar.

Materials

Digital course materials

Links to the following course materials will be made available in the course:

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

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%

Activity	Weight
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 at AU](#)

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.

Opened in Revision 5, June 8, 2023

Updated October 17, 2025

View **previous revision**