THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIECNES
Department of Psychology

COURSE OUTLINE (2026/2027, SEMESTER ONE)

1. Basic Course Information

Course Code	PSYC7301
Course Title	Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology
Course Credits	6
Lecture Time	Friday 7:00 –9:50 (see schedule below for the venues)

2. Course Instructor / Course Co-ordinator

Name	Office	Phone	E-mail	Consultation Hour
Henry Ng (Course Instructor)	6.51, JCT	39178205	nghks@hku.hk	By appointment
Wendy Lau (Course Coordinator/ Tutor)	6.13, JCT	39178226	wlau049@hku.hk	By appointment
Justin Or (Tutor)	6.13, JCT	39178226	oknjustin@hku.hk	By appointment
Andrew Yeung (Tutor)	6.17, JCT	39178227	andrewy2@hku.hk	By appointment

3. Course Description

The field of psychology has taken a scientific approach since the beginning of the 20th century (or even earlier). No matter you aspire to become a researcher or a practitioner (e.g., a clinical psychologist), learning the scientific method is a key to your success. This course will go you through a complete research process, including research design, ethics, data collection, data analysis, and writing a research report. You will learn how psychology research is conducted, which is essential to your dissertation and other courses.

4. Course Learning Outcomes

On completing the course, students are expected to be able to do the following:

a. Understand core issues in designing a study, including ethics, validity, and reliability.
b. Understand the logic of statistical inferences.
c. Investigate simple research questions (t-test; simple regression) using statistical analyses with Jamovi on their own.
d. Appreciate the importance of replication in psychological science and be able to carry out a preregistered study as a group.
e. Report statistical analyses in writing.

5. Assessment Methods and Weighting

Assessment methods	Weighting (%)
Individual assignments * 3	30% (10% each)
Mid-term test (optional)	20%
Final test (cumulative)	50% or 70%

6. Required Textbooks

Caldwell, S. (2013). Statistics unplugged (4th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

Navarro D. J., & Foxcroft D. R. (2022). Learning statistics with Jamovi: A tutorial for psychology students and other beginners. (This book can be downloaded online, e.g., via https://www.learnstatswithjamovi.com)

7. Marking scale

Grading will be based on the following table:

Grade Range	Performance (after rounding)
A	87 - 100
B	70 - 86
C	53 - 69
D	40 - 52
F	<= 39

8. Feedback Policy

Students are welcomed to approach the instructor or tutors for any learning challenges encountered in this course or support for their initiatives to learn more advanced contents on top of the course's coverage. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions related to this course, please schedule a time to discuss with the course instructor, coordinator or tutors in person. However, the course instructor, coordinator, and tutors are not expected to reply to queries related to a quiz or an assignment 24 hours before the quiz or the assignment's deadline.

Graded assignments with feedback on answers will be returned to students within two to three weeks after the assignments' due dates. The results of the mid-semester quiz will also be released to students within two to three weeks after the quiz. However, the results of (a) the final assignment, if its due date is too close to the end of the semester, and (b) the final quiz will not be separately released to students – the results will be incorporated in the overall grades. The answer papers of quizzes will not be returned to students. Students can obtain feedback for a quiz by scheduling individual meetings with their tutors within two weeks after the quiz results have been released.

9. Important Notes

a) Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated

Any student who engages in any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, interfering with grading, falsification and fabrication of data in any academic exercise, etc.) will receive a grade of F on the component(s) of assessment concerned or in this course and will be reported to the Department/Faculty Office/University Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary action. There will be no exceptions. If you are not sure what constitutes the academic

offense of plagiarism, check out the webpage at https://tl.hku.hk/plagiarism/. Department of Psychology has formulated departmental polices/guidelines on student misconduct. Visit the website at https://psychology.hku.hk/useful-information-to-current-students/ for more information.

b) **Plagiarism will not be tolerated**

A soft copy is required for all written assignments. The softcopy will be checked for plagiarism against a database of articles, books, webpages, and essays submitted by students at HKU and other universities. No credit will be given for an assignment that contains plagiarized materials. Further penalties will also be applied. These penalties may include a zero mark for participation in course tutorials and a zero mark for the course. Plagiarism will also be reported to the Department/Faculty Office/University Disciplinary Committee for consideration of possible disciplinary action.

c) **Class conduct**

Students are expected to attend all sessions punctually and participate actively in each session, to keep up with the scheduled learning progress. Before each session, students should read the assigned papers and/or textbook chapters. Students must complete their homework assignments independently and submit all assignments on schedule. Students must work independently on all quizzes. Students must complete each quiz entirely on their own and must not communicate with any classmates during the quiz. All quiz materials must be returned, except for online quizzes. Leaving the venue with quiz materials or making copies of the materials are considered academic dishonesty.

d) **Assignment submission**

Each assignment is **due at 11:59 pm** on the day of the deadline **specified in the assignment's instructions** unless otherwise specified. The total mark of a late submitted assignment (if accepted) will be reduced by **5% per calendar day lapsed**. **For all assignments**, **submission more than three calendar days after the deadline will not be accepted** (i.e., if a student does not submit an assignment before the 4th day after its deadline, the assignment will receive zero mark). Exceptional situations (e.g., certified medical conditions) leading to late submission of assignments will be handled with discretion. In any case, no assignment will be accepted once the corresponding answer key has been released.

e) **Test arrangements**

Both tests will require your personal, physical attendance to a test venue on the HKU campus. If you are unable to attend the mid-term test for any reasons, its assessment weight will be added to the final test automatically (i.e., your final test will then be weighted at 70%). **There will be NO make-up test arrangement for the mid-term**, nor do you need to apply for leave of absence.

For the final test, arrangements for a make-up quiz will be considered only for (a) absence from a quiz due to certified medical conditions on the test date, or leave of absence formally approved by the University and (b) if the corresponding medical certification or formal leave-of-absence approval document is provided. Any request for a make-up test should be made by email to the course instructor/coordinator no later than two days after the day of the original test. In case a make-up test is arranged, it will normally be held within one week after the original test. The make-up test may differ in format from the original test and could be slightly more difficult. If it is not feasible to organize a make-up test as intended, the teaching team will decide on an alternative solution in place of the missed test. If a student does not attend a make-up test organized for him/her, no further arrangements will be made for the student to take the test. There will be no make-up test arranged for any make-up test.

f) Use and Disclosure of Generative AI in Written Assignments

For all written assignments, submissions will be automatically checked through Turnitin's built-in AI detection tool. Students are required to maintain documentation demonstrating the development of their work. This includes both:

Work history, including drafts, showing the evolution of the work. Students may use any versioning method but may find Word versioning or Google docs helpful.

If any Generative AI tools are used, complete records of AI interactions must be retained. This includes all prompts, outputs, and relevant timestamps (i.e., full chat history).

If a submission is identified as potentially substantially AI-generated, students will be contacted and expected to produce the above documentation. Evaluation of potential AI-related academic misconduct will be conducted holistically by the course instructor/teaching team, taking into account Turnitin's results and the supporting materials provided. Failure to provide the requested information is grounds for failure, notation in student records, and/or alternative penalties, at the discretion of the instructors.

Date/ Venue	Content	Readings	Assessment
4 Sep CYPP4	L1: An overview of the research process A1: Reading a research paper	SU#1; LSJ#1,2 Journal articles	
11 Sep CYPP4	L2: Describing data and distributions A2: Research ethics	SU#1,2 Journal articles	
18 Sep Recorded lecture	L3: The normal distribution	SU#3,4 LSJ#3,4,5	
25 Sep	Mid-autumn festival – No class		
2 Oct CYPP4	L4: Sampling distribution and z-test **A4: Exploring data with graphs in Jamovi + One-sample test with known population means	SU#5,7 LSJ#11	Assignment 1 (due: 9 Oct)
9 Oct CYPP4	L5: t test **A5: Running t test with Jamovi	SU#7,8 LSJ#11	
16 Oct CYPP4	Reading week L6: Mid-term test (L1 to L5) A6: Class logistics		Mid-term test (L1 to L5)
23 Oct Recorded lecture	L7: Power analysis A7: JPower and GPower	SU#7 LSJ#9	Assignment 2 (due: 30 Oct)
30 Oct CPD3.04	L8: Correlation **A8: Correlation analysis with Jamovi	SU#12	
6 Nov CPD3.04	L9: Simple regression **A9: Simple regression analysis with Jamovi	SU#12	Assignment 3 (due: 20 Nov)
13 Nov CPD3.04	L10: One-way ANOVA **A10: One-way ANOVA with Jamovi	SU#10	
20 Nov CPD3.04	L11: Confidence intervals	SU#6	
27 Nov CPD3.04	L12: Final test (L1 to L11) A12: Class logistics		Final test (L1 to L11)

****These classes will be conducted in smaller groups across two additional venues. Please check which class group you have been assigned to and make sure you go to the corresponding venue.**