

# Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology

## E-114-RATO



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|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Year</b>  | 1                                     |
| <b>Semester</b>  | Fall                                  |
| <b>Type of course</b>  | Core                                  |
| <b>Prerequisites</b>   | None                                  |
| <b>Schedule</b>  | 3 hours per week for 15 weeks, 6 ECTS |
| <b>Lecturer</b>  | Þorlákur Karlsson                     |
| <b>Content</b>   |                                       |
| The role and importance of research and statistics in psychology will be discussed. Students will learn about the major steps of the research process, how to design a simple research project and about the most common and important research methods in psychology, with an emphasis on experiments. Each type of research methodology will be analysed in some detail, revealing its traditions, strengths and weaknesses. Solid measurement and data collection methods will be strongly emphasized, along with basic knowledge of statistics and the SPSS software and its most common applications for data analysis. Students will do an independent group project that integrates the major learning components of the class.   |                                       |
| <b>Learning outcome - On completing the course, each student should be able to:</b>  |                                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe the role of psychological research in the creation of knowledge.</li><li>• Write about the strengths and limitations of the main research methods.</li><li>• Compare the value of different research methods.</li><li>• Provide reasoning for which research method is most effective for different subjects.</li><li>• Plan and carry out research to create knowledge.</li><li>• Process the results of a research using SPSS and describe the results in a report containing the primary chapters of a scientific article.</li><li>• Calculate the main values of central tendency and distribution, as well as calculate correlation and simple statistical inference tests.</li><li>• Interpret the same values, correlation, and inference tests.</li><li>• Evaluate a research based on its method of data acquisition and processing.</li></ul> |                                       |
| <b>Course assessment</b>   |                                       |
| Four in class exams, assignments and final exam. Grades are given on a 0 – 10 point scale. The minimum grade to pass the course is 5.0. The student needs to get a minimum grade of 5.0 in the final exam and a minimum average grade of 5.0 for all course assessment.  |                                       |
| <b>Reading material</b>  |                                       |

- Shaughnessy, J. J., Zechmeister, E. B. and Zechmeister, J. S. (2009). *Research Methods in Psychology* (9. ed). New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Holt, N., Bremner, A., Sutherland, E., Vliek, M., Passer, M., Smith, R. (2012). *Psychology: The Science of Mind and Behavior* (2. ed). Berkshire: McGraw-Hill Education.

**Teaching and learning activities**

Lectures and discussion/exercises.

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| <b>Language of instruction</b> | Icelandic |
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