

# COGS 14A: Introduction to Research Methods

Fall 2018

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## Teaching Team

Seung Kyung Kim, PhD (Instructor)

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Office Hours: Mon 11am – 12pm, Wed 12pm – 1pm, or by appointment (CSB 134)

Weiqi (Vicky) Zhao (TA)

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IAs don't hold fixed office hours but are available by appointment.

## When & Where

Lectures:

Mon, Wed, Fri at 4:00 – 4:50 pm in Manderville Center (MANDE) B-210

Sections:

A01 Mon 2:00 – 2:50 pm in Pepper Canyon Hall (PCYNH) 120

led by Klarissa & Michael

A02 Wed 6:00 – 6:50 pm in Cognitive Science Building (CSB) 004

led by Anton & Christine

A03 Fri 12:00 – 12:50 pm in Cognitive Science Building (CSB) 005

led by Vicky

Final exam:

Tue, Dec 11 at 3:00 – 5:59 pm in TBA

## Materials

Textbook: Schweigert, W. A. (2012). *Research methods in psychology: A handbook* (3rd ed.). Waveland Press: Long Grove, IL. (ISBN 13: 978-1-57766-719-3)

## Course Goals

- Understand how research is *conducted* and *evaluated* in cognitive science
- Understand basic *types of research designs*
- Be able to identify situations when certain research designs are more or less *appropriate*
- Become sensitive to *potential pitfalls* of different types of research
- Identify different *types of research claims*
- Develop skills to *evaluate research claims* encountered in research papers and in the media

## Course Details and Policies

### Readings

- Readings are required. You will be responsible for the materials covered in the lectures and in the textbook. (In other words, you can be tested on the materials covered in the textbook but not in the lecture, and vice versa.) You are expected to do your reading before the class.

## **Lectures**

- Attendance is important for your success. There will be several unannounced in-class polls and surveys throughout the quarter. Your participation in these in-class polls and surveys will be part of your final grade.
- Lecture slides and other course materials and announcements will be posted on TritonEd.
- Lecture slides are not intended as a substitute for attending lectures and engage in the class.
- If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to consult one of your fellow students to get notes. We will not recap lectures in office hours, sections or via email.
- Lectures will *not* be recorded.

## **Sections**

- Sections are required.
- Section attendance will be part of your final grade. You must go to the section you are signed up for. You can miss one section (two, if you are in the Wednesday section) to get full attendance credit for sections.
- Sections start in Week 2.

## **Weekly Quiz**

- There will be 10 weekly quizzes administered online (via TritonEd). The weekly quiz is due by every **Sunday at 11:59 pm**. No late work will be accepted.
- They will consist of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions.
- If you have any questions about the weekly quiz, please email Klarissa.

## **Exams**

- Two midterms and the final exam will consist of short answer questions. Midterms are not cumulative. The final exam is cumulative.
- If you miss an exam, you cannot make it up later. Under very limited special circumstances with written proof (e.g., a doctor's note for a serious ailment), we will work with you.
- If you cannot make the scheduled final exam time, you should not take this class.

## **Extra Credit**

- You can earn extra credit (**up to 3 credits**) by participating in behavioral experiments conducted by UCSD researchers.
- You can sign up for experiments on the UCSD Sona system, an online scheduling system managed by the Psychology department. Visit the Sona page for more information (<http://www.psychology.ucsd.edu/undergraduate-program/undergraduate-resources/sona>).

## **Academic Honesty and Integrity**

- This course does not tolerate academic dishonesty and follows UCSD policy.
- The bottom line is that *your work should be your own*. For more information on academic honesty and integrity, visit the Academic Integrity Office page (<http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity>).

## **Other Important Points**

- When you email the teaching team, please put **[COGS14A]** at the beginning of the subject line.
- If you have a question please email your section leader(s). They will forward your email to Dr. Kim if needed.
- Please refrain from using electronic devices for any non-class purpose. It is disrespectful and distracting to other students.

## Grading Breakdown

- Midterm 1: 20%
- Midterm 2: 20%
- Final Exam: 30%
- Ten weekly online quizzes: 20% (2% each)
- Participation (class and section): 10%
- Extra Credit (up to 3 points on your final grade): SONA experiments (1 SONA credit = 1 point)
- Grade guideline
 

93 – 100	A
90 – 92	A-
86 – 89	B+
83 – 85	B
80 – 82	B-
76 – 79	C+
73 – 75	C
70 – 72	C-
60 – 70	D
0 – 59	F

## Tentative Course Schedule

Schedule can (and probably will) change. It is important you stay updated.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments/Notes
0	Fri Sep 28	Introduction and Welcome	Syllabus	
1	Mon Oct 1	Scientific Method	Ch1	
	Wed Oct 3	Ethics in Research	Ch2	
	Fri Oct 5			<b>Quiz 1 due on Sunday</b>
2	Mon Oct 8	Research Process	Ch3	
	Wed Oct 10			
	Fri Oct 12	Research Resources	Ch4	<b>Quiz 2 due on Sunday</b>
3	Mon Oct 15	Statistics in Research	Ch5	
	Wed Oct 17			
	Fri Oct 19	Introduction to Experimentation	Ch6	<b>Quiz 3 due on Sunday</b>
4	Mon Oct 22	<b>Midterm 1</b>		
	Wed Oct 24	Between-Groups Design	Ch6	
	Fri Oct 26			<b>Quiz 4 due on Sunday</b> Deadline to change grading options, change units, and drop classes
5	Mon Oct 29	Within-Subjects Design	Ch7	
	Wed Oct 31			
	Fri Nov 2			<b>Quiz 5 due on Sunday</b>
6	Mon Nov 5	Factorial Designs	Ch9	
	Wed Nov 7			
	Fri Nov 9	Correlational Studies	Ch9	<b>Quiz 6 due on Sunday</b>

7	Mon Nov 12	<b>No Class (Veterans Day Holiday)</b>		
	Wed Nov 14	<b>Midterm 2</b>		
	Fri Nov 16	Quasi Experiments	Ch8	<b>Quiz 7 due on Sunday</b>
8	Mon Nov 19	Observation Studies	Ch10	
	Wed Nov 21			
	Fri Nov 23	<b>No Class (Thanksgiving Holiday)</b>		<b>Quiz 8 due on Sunday</b>
9	Mon Nov 26	Surveys and Interviews	Ch11	
	Wed Nov 28			
	Fri Nov 30			<b>Quiz 9 due on Sunday</b>
10	Mon Dec 3	Single-Subject Design	Ch12	
	Wed Dec 5			
	Fri Dec 7	Review		<b>Quiz 10 due on Sunday</b>
11	Tue Dec 11	<b>Final Exam</b>		3pm–5:59pm, Location TBA