Module 2 Lecture - Psychological Research

Introductory Psychology

Quinton Quagliano, M.S., C.S.P

Department of Psychology

Table of Contents

1 Overview and Introduction

1.1 Textbook Learning Objectives

- Explain how scientific research addresses questions about behavior
- Discuss how scientific research guides public policy
- Appreciate how scientific research can be important in making personal decisions
- Describe the different research methods used by psychologists
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of case studies, naturalistic observation, surveys, and archival research
- Compare longitudinal and cross-sectional approaches to research
- Compare and contrast correlation and causation
- Explain what a correlation coefficient tells us about the relationship between variables
- Recognize that correlation does not indicate a cause-and-effect relationship between variables
- Discuss our tendency to look for relationships between variables that do not really exist
- Explain random sampling and assignment of participants into experimental and control groups
- Discuss how experimenter or participant bias could affect the results of an experiment
- Identify independent and dependent variables
- Discuss how research involving human subjects is regulated
- Summarize the processes of informed consent and debriefing
- Explain how research involving animal subjects is regulated

1.2 Instructor Learning Objectives

- Understand the critical role research plays in solidifying psychology as a science
- Understand the pitfalls and dangers of unethical research
- Be able to identify the core components and features of a described research design