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“It’s difficult, if not impossible, to think of a facet of life where psychology is not involved.

Psychologists employ the scientific method — stating the question, offering a theory and then constructing rigorous laboratory or field experiments to test the hypothesis. Psychologists apply the understanding gleaned through research to create evidence-based strategies that solve problems and improve lives.

The result is that psychological science unveils new and better ways for people to exist and thrive in a complex world.”
(APA, 2014)

Course content

Scientific literacy is a fundamental attribute that supports researchers in both psychological research and research writing. In the course, students are guided through the independent quality assessment and writing of a research paper, according to a scheme in which a paper is built up around the results. Through reading and critical discussion of published papers, students develop a framework of knowledge that helps them assess the effectiveness of their own writing. They are supported throughout the course, in reading and writing, by the instructor’s knowledge of the research topics and methodologies.

Learning objectives

Students must have the ability to:

- Skim the article and identify its structure (IMRD structure)
- Distinguish the main points
- Generate questions and be aware of their understanding
- Draw inferences
- Assessing the quality of research studies

Characteristics of class meetings

This is a lecture-lab course in which topics are presented by the instructor, topics are explained and discussed together. The students will be actively involved in reading, discussing and writing parts of psychology research articles. Students are required to take their own laptops.

Final exam

Students will have to submit parts of a research article, to be developed in small groups during the class meetings.

Schedule

- Monday 29th April, 10.10-13.30
- Friday, 3rd May, 10.10-13.30
- Monday 6th May 10.10-13.30