# . - Research Methods in Psychology 1

## Prof. Michela Zambelli, Prof. Semira Tagliabue

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with basic knowledge of the scientific research process. More specifically, the critical junctions of psychological research planning will be considered, with particular attention to scientific communication, research cycle, measurement and ethics. The main descriptive statistics analyses will also be addressed.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* know and understand the basic concepts of the research methodology: research cycle, objectives, hypotheses, measurement, ethics, communication;
* apply this knowledge, in particular by reading and critically analysing scientific articles;
* analyse data using descriptive statistics, and produce and interpret tables and graphs in Excel.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Unit 1: Psychology as a scientific discipline

* 1.1 Methods of knowledge
* 1.2 Scientific and non-scientific communication
* 1.3 Searching for and reading scientific research
* 1.4 The sections of scientific articles
* 1.5 Types of communication

Unit 2: The scientific method

* 2.1 The research cycle
* 2.2 Research objectives
* 2.3 Research hypotheses

Unit 3: Measurement in Psychology

* 3.1 The concept of variable
* 3.2 The classification of variables
* 3.3 Measurement scales
* 3.4 Constructs and operationalisation
* 3.5 The measurement tools used in psychology

Unit 4: Descriptive statistics

* 4.1 The creation of the dataset
* 4.2 Frequency tables
* 4.3 Central tendency indices
* 4.4 Variability indices
* 4.5 Contingency table
* 4.6 Tables and graphs

Unit 5: The ethics of research

* 5.1 The historical origins
* 5.2 The code of ethics of the AIP and the APA
* 5.3 The general principles
* 5.4 Institutional approval
* 5.5 Informed consent
* 5.6 Incentives to participate
* 5.7 Use of deception
* 5.8 Debriefing
* 5.9 Ethics and publication
* 5.10 Data processing

***READING LIST***

 Reference texts

D. Howitt –D. Cramer, *Metodologia della ricerca in psicologia* (Italian edition by M. Lanz, G., S. Tagliabue), Pearson, Milan, 2020, chapters and paragraphs 1.1, 1.2, 2, 3, 6.

*Materiali per il corso di metodologia della ricerca psicologica I*, EDUCATT 2023

Remote online workshop contents available online on the Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures and practical classes; distance workshops that will allow students to put into practice the theory they have learnt in lectures by working on short examples of research and conducting analyses on quantitative data. Part of the workshop teaching will be carried out in the classroom.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

A written exam, with the possibility, at the request of the Exam Commission and/or the student, of a more in-depth supplementary oral exam to be carried out according to the procedures established by the Commission. The written exam comprises two sections: multiple choice questions and a practical part. The multiple choice questions will assess the student's knowledge of the basic concepts presented in the manual and during the lectures (maximum 14 and 9 being the minimum grade for accessing the second part); the practical part will evaluate the skills developed in the remote workshop, the ability to integrate the knowledge acquired, autonomy in evaluating a research study, the ability to analyse the data, and to interpret and reprocess the information contained in a research study (maximum 16). If a student achieves the maximum in both sections, he/she will receive a distinction (lode). The final grade of the written exam must reach the minimum score. The exam cannot be divided.

***NOTES***

Students must possess a basic knowledge of the concepts of logic and mathematics.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.