

**UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA**

**SEMESTER:**

**PSY 1110: EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**CREDIT: 3 UNITS**

**DAY/TIME:**

**VENUE:**

**LECTURER:**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course is an introduction to the scientific method as used in psychology. It includes the formulation of hypothesis, design of research, conduct of one or more studies, statistical analysis of data, and report writing. Critical interpretation of research findings will be emphasized.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Articulate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings.
2. Apply basic research methods in psychology including design, data analysis and interpretations
3. Apply creative thinking, inquiry and scientific approach problems related to behaviour and mental process
4. Employ psychological principles in personal, social and organizational issues.
5. Evaluate evidence, tolerate ambiguity and act ethically

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the end of the course the student will be able to:-

Formulate hypotheses

Design and conduct a study

Analyze research data

Effectively report research findings

**COURSE CONTENT**

**I. Introduction: General overview**

**Week 1**

Fundamentals of Research

Experimental Psychology and Scientific Method

Research ethics

Readings

Ch .1

Ch.2

**Week 2**

Non-Experimental Approaches: Case studies,

Observational studies, Field Studies

Correlation and Quasi-Experimental Designs

Ch.3

Ch 5

<b>Week 3</b> Hypotheses Their characteristics and formulations Assignment 1	Ch 6
<b>Week 4</b> <b>II. Method: The Basics of Experimentation</b> Types of variables Identifying variables Operational definitions Evaluating operational definitions	Ch 7
<b>Week 5</b> Evaluating the experiment: Internal Validity Experimental Designs: One independent variable (Two-group Designs) Two Independent groups and Two matched groups	Ch.7
<b>Week 6</b> Experiments with more than two groups: Multiple-Group Designs Between Subjects Factorial Designs; More than one independent variable	Ch7 Ch 10
<b>Week 7</b> <b>MID QUARTER EXAMS</b> Within subject design Advantages and disadvantages of within subject Designs	Ch 11
<b>Week 8</b> Solving problems Extraneous variables and their controls	Ch 11
<b>Week 9</b> <b>III. Results: Why we need statistics</b> Statistical interferences Test statistics Organization and summarizing data	Ch 13
<b>Week 10</b> Data analysis-Two group experiments -Multiple group experiments	Ch 14-15

Drawing conclusions

#### **IV: Conclusion Summary & Report Writing**

##### **Week 11**

Writing the research report:

Purpose and format

Major sections in report writing

Ch 16

##### **Week 12**

Writing Research: Methodology

Summary and Conclusion

Ch 16

##### **Week 13**

**Project Presentations**

##### **Week 14**

**END OF TERM EXAMINATION**

#### **COURSE TEXT**

Ann Myers (2006), *Experimental Psychology*, 6th ed.(New York: D Van Nostrand Company.)

#### **COURSE EVALUTION.**

Assignments and Quizzes	20 %
Class attendance and participation	5 %
Term paper/practical project	15%
Group presentation and report	10%
Mid-Semester Exam	20 %
Final Exam	30 %
Total	100 %

#### **GRADING**

A 90-100

A- 87-89

B+ 84-86

B 80- 83

B- 77-79

C+ 74-76

C 70-73

C- 67-69

D+ 64-66

D 62-63  
D- 60-61  
F 0-59