

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Research methodology and standards for the elaboration of the doctoral thesis. Ethics and academic integrity outlines

Academic year 2025-2026

1. Programme-related data

1.1. Higher Education Institution	Babeş-Bolyai University
1.2. Faculty	Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
1.3. Doctoral School	Applied Cognitive Psychology
1.4. Field of study	Psychology
1.5. Level of study	Doctorate

2. Course-related data

2.1. Course title	Research methodology and standards for the elaboration of the doctoral thesis. Ethics and academic integrity outlines			Course code	SDPCA2
2.2. Course coordinator	Professor Andrei C. Miu				
2.3. Seminar coordinator	Professor Andrei C. Miu				
2.4. Year of study	I	2.5. Semester	I	2.6. Type of assessment	Viva voce
2.7. Course status	Compulsory			2.8. Course type	Core subject

3. Total estimated time (hours per semester of teaching activities)

3.1. Number of hours per week	4	of which: 3.2. course	2	3.3. seminar/ laboratory/ project	2
3.4. Total of hours in the curriculum	56	of which: 3.5. course	28	3.6. seminar/ laboratory	28
Time allocation for individual study (IS) and self-taught activities (ST)					hours
Textbook, course material, recommended reading and class notes-based learning (IS)					46
Additional library research in and on electronic platforms					150
Preparing seminars/ laboratories/ projects, assignments, reports, portfolios, and essays					46
Tutoring (professional guidance)					4
Assessments					4
Other activities [i.e.: two-way communication with the course coordinator/tutor]					-
3.7. Total hours of individual study (IS) and self-taught activities (ST)				194	
3.8. Total hours per semester				250	
3.9. Number of credits				10	

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1. curriculum-related	Research design in psychology; Statistics
4.2 skills-related	Scientific writing, scientific literature comprehension

5. Specific conditions (where applicable)

5.1. course-related	Computer, projector
5.2. seminar/laboratory-related	Computer, projector

6. Subject-specific learning outcomes

Knowledge

1. Is familiar with the standards for preparing a doctoral thesis in psychology.
2. Is familiar with the principles of writing an empirical article.
3. Understands the principles of writing a theoretical review.
4. Is familiar with the methods for increasing replicability in psychology.
Skills
1. Conducts systematic searches and applies basic skills for carrying out a meta-analysis.
2. Uses the defining elements of scientific writing style in drafting the doctoral thesis and scientific articles.
3. Applies critical thinking in a scientific context.
4. Applies principles of research transparency and open science.
Responsibility and autonomy
1. Works autonomously on writing the doctoral thesis in accordance with the relevant standards.
2. Takes responsibility for complying with ethical principles in psychological research.
3. Critically evaluates research practices in order to support replicability in psychology.

7. Contents

7.1. Course	Teaching and learning methods	Remarks ¹
1. Introductory course	Lecture, presentation, discussions	
2. Standards for preparing the doctoral thesis I	Lecture, presentation, discussions	
3. Standards for preparing the doctoral thesis II	Lecture, presentation, discussions	
4. Writing empirical articles I	Lecture, presentation, discussions	
5. Writing empirical articles II	Lecture, presentation, discussions	
6. Systematic searching	Lecture, presentation, discussions	
7. Systematic synthesis	Lecture, presentation, discussions	
8. Meta-analysis I	Lecture, presentation, discussions	
9. Meta-analysis II	Lecture, presentation, discussions	
10. Ethical issues in contemporary psychological research: Introduction	Lecture, presentation, discussions	
11. Ethical issues in contemporary psychological research: The replication crisis I	Lecture, presentation, discussions	
12. Ethical issues in contemporary psychological research: The replication crisis II	Lecture, presentation, discussions	
13. Study preregistration	Lecture, presentation, discussions	
14. Recent trends in increasing replicability in psychology	Lecture, presentation, discussions	
Bibliography		

¹ For example, organisational aspects, recommendations for students, specific aspects relating to the course/seminar, such as inviting experts in the field, etc.

Borenstein, M., Hedges, L. V., Higgins, J. P., & Rothstein, H. R. (2021). Introduction to meta-analysis. John Wiley & Sons.

Cargill, M., & O'Connor, P. (2021). Writing scientific research articles: Strategy and steps. John Wiley & Sons.

Cuijpers, P. (2016). Meta-analyses in mental health research. A practical guide. Amsterdam, the Netherlands: Pim Cuijpers Uitgeverij.

Gernsbacher, M. A. (2018). Writing empirical articles: Transparency, reproducibility, clarity, and memorability. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*, 1(3), 403-414.

Siddaway, A. P., Wood, A. M., & Hedges, L. V. (2019). How to do a systematic review: a best practice guide for conducting and reporting narrative reviews, meta-analyses, and meta-syntheses. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 70, 747-770.

Silvia, P. J. (2007). How to write a lot: A practical guide to productive academic writing. American Psychological Association.

Sternberg, R. J., & Halpern, D. F. (Eds.). (2020). Critical thinking in psychology. Cambridge University Press.

Torraco, R. J. (2005). Writing integrative literature reviews: Guidelines and examples. *Human Resource Development Review*, 4(3), 356-367.

7.2. Seminar/ laboratory	Teaching and learning methods	Remarks
1. Complementary methods in psychology	Debate, working in teams	
2. Thesis preparation standards – discussion of essential aspects I	Debate, working in teams	
3. Thesis preparation standards – discussion of essential aspects II	Debate, working in teams	
4. Analysis of sample empirical article texts I	Debate, working in teams	
5. Analysis of sample empirical article texts II	Debate, working in teams	
6. Systematic search application	Debate, working in teams	
7. Formulating objectives – systematic synthesis	Debate, working in teams	
8. Comprehensive Meta-Analysis application I	Debate, working in teams	
9. Comprehensive Meta-Analysis application II	Debate, working in teams	
10. Discussion: why do we need ethics in psychological research?	Debate, working in teams	
11. Analysis of viewpoints – the replication crisis	Debate, working in teams	
12. The Many Labs project	Debate, working in teams	
13. OSF study preregistration application	Debate, working in teams	
14. Discussion – critical thinking in contemporary psychology	Debate, working in teams	

Bibliography

Asendorpf, J. B., Conner, M., De Fruyt, F., De Houwer, J., Denissen, J. J., Fiedler, K., ... & Wicherts, J. M. (2013). Recommendations for Increasing Replicability in Psychology. *European Journal of Personality*, 27(2), 108-119.

Asendorpf, J. B., Conner, M., De Fruyt, F., De Houwer, J., Denissen, J. J., Fiedler, K., ... & Wicherts, J. M. (2013). Replication is more than hitting the lottery twice. *European Journal of Personality*, 27(2), 138-138.

Gilbert, D. T., King, G., Pettigrew, S., & Wilson, T. D. (2016). Comment on “Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science”. *Science*, 351(6277), 1037-1037.

Klein, R. A., Vianello, M., Hasselman, F., Adams, B. G., Adams Jr, R. B., Alper, S., ... & Sowden, W. (2018). Many Labs 2: Investigating variation in replicability across samples and settings. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*, 1(4), 443-490.

Open Science Collaboration. (2015). Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science. *Science*, 349(6251).



















Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. (2021). The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. *BMJ*, 372(n71).

Tackett, J. L., Brandes, C. M., King, K. M., & Markon, K. E. (2019). Psychology's replication crisis and clinical psychological science. *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology*, 15, 579-604.

8. Assessment

Type of activity	8.1 Evaluation criteria ²	8.2 Evaluation methods ³	8.3 Percentage in the final grade
8.4. Course	Course material-based applied project	Project	80%
8.5. Seminar/ laboratory	Seminar material-based applied project	Project	20%
8.6 Minimum standard for passing			
Demonstrates a sound understanding of the core theoretical and practical aspects of the course. Presents and discusses the required assignments			

9. SDG labels (Sustainable Development Goals)⁴

 Sustainable Development Generic Label								
								
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
								No label applies
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Date of entry:
April 2026

Signature of course coordinator

Professor Andrei C. Miu

Signature of seminar coordinator

Professor Andrei C. Miu

² The evaluation criteria must directly reflect the learning outcomes targeted at the level of the degree programme respectively at the level of the subject. More specifically, the learning outcomes set out in the expected learning outcomes are assessed.

³ Both final evaluation methods and ongoing evaluation strategies should be established.

⁴ Select a single label which, according to the [Implementation of SDG labels in the academic process](#), best matches the subject. If the subject addresses sustainable development in a generic manner (i.e. by presenting/introducing the general framework of sustainable development, etc.), then the Sustainable Development generic label may be applied. If none of the labels describe the subject, select the last option: "No label applies."

Date of approval in the department:
April 2026

Signature of the head of department

Professor Oana Benga