



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

A View to Psychological Sciences: Decision-Making - 51130

Last update 08-09-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Psychology

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Dvorah Marciano

Coordinator Email: deborah.marciano@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Deborah Marciano

Course/Module description:

In this course, we will offer a preliminary introduction with the scientific process and its main scientific and academic product - the scientific article. During the course, students will search, read, understand, analyze, criticize and present scientific articles in class, that target various topics in the field of judgment and decision-making.

Course/Module aims:

The main aim of the course is to train students to search, read, understand and present scientific articles, with the assistance and guidance of the instructor. The course is designed to help students develop the ability to independently search and understand scientific articles as they continue their studies in the psychology department.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- *efficiently search articles on specific topics in various databases.*
- *evaluate and determine (based on content-related and bibliometric parameters) during their literature search which articles are more central and deserve in-depth reading.*
- *define, identify, and understand the background, rationale, methods, results and conclusions in a scientific article.*
- *summarize the key aspects of an article mentioned above, while distinguishing central points from tangential ones.*
- *build a presentation of the background, rationale, methods, findings and main conclusions of an article and present it in class.*
- *explain which previous articles led the authors of a paper to their research question.*
- *based on the previous point, build a presentation that summarized, demonstrates, and explains the historical development of a research question over several decades of research in the field.*

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The first three classes will include frontal lectures. In these lectures, we will learn about the scientific world, from

research grants to publishing scientific articles. We will also learn about the structure, goals, and methods of searching for scientific articles, and the basic principles of scientific writing. The remaining lessons will be based on students' presentations, as detailed below. In addition, students will hold group and individual meetings with the instructor.

Course/Module Content:

After the first three lessons, in which we will learn about the structure, goals and principles of academic writing and search methods, the course will include several tasks, as detailed below.

Task 1: before each class, students will read a review paper on a specific topic in judgment and decision-making.

Task 2: students will divide into groups of 4. In each class, one group will be responsible for leading a class discussion on an article. The group will prepare a series of questions on key topics in the article. Questions will refer to the article content directly, but also target integration and understanding. General questions are also allowed (e.g., what is the main scientific question the article is trying to address? How did the research begin? which methods were used to study the research question? what are the implications of this research?). The group should prepare a presentation that includes all the correct responses to each question and be prepared to address questions for other students.

Task 3: Each pair in the group will read an empirical paper that is related to the review paper and present the rationale, main research questions, methods, key results and their meaning in a 20-min presentation.

Task 4: A written assignment that follows the roots and history of the scientific ideas in a current scientific article. First, group members should select an article on judgment and decision-making that was published in the past two years in a leading scientific journal. After reading and understanding the article, group members should: (a) Summarize the main questions and topics the article deals with, the key findings and conclusions (up to 1/2 page in print). (b) Select the main article from the reference list that provided the rationale for the current research. present and justify that selection in writing (up to 1/2 page in print). (c) Gain access to the article selected in (b) and repeat the process three more times, until you reach the earliest article that inspired this research line. (d) Present the entire historical development of the research in an integrative way.

Required Reading:

A list will be sent at the beginning of the year.

Additional Reading Material:

Will depend on students' selection.

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 50 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %

Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture 40 %

Additional information:

The lesson will be offered every other week.

First-year students are required to enroll in one of the Get to Know the Science courses.