

COURSE ASSIGNMENT – AS/PSYC 2030 3.0 CRITICAL REVIEW OF PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Purpose: One main objective of the course is for you to learn how to critically evaluate the research of others. The main purpose of the assignment is to give you an opportunity to critique published research in psychology. A second purpose of the study is to familiarize you with literature retrieval, as well as reading and understanding research published in scholarly journals.

Instructions: You will be assigned a psychological study that is published in a scholarly journal. In order to find out which article has been assigned to you, you will need to consult a list posted on the course website. On this list, the last 5 digits of your student number will be accompanied by the complete reference details of the research article. You will then be responsible for obtaining the article and answering the questions below. If the article reports on a number of studies (i.e., Study 1, Study 2, etc.), please choose one key study to review for the assignment. Please remember that **you are expected to complete this assignment independently, and direct quotations should not be taken from the article.**

Please attach a copy of the article to your critical review assignment. In addition, your assignment should be typed (12 point font) and double-spaced throughout. In writing up your assignment, clearly label your responses as #1 then answer, #2 then answer, etc. Your answers must be in sentence form (i.e., not point form). Marks will be deducted if your assignment is not in the appropriate format. The assignment is worth 20% of the final grade

Five percentage grades out of 100% will be deducted for each day late.

1. Describe the research topic of the study in general. What do the authors attempt to contribute to the field of psychology? (2 marks)
2. Does the author provide a hypothesis? If so, what is the study's purpose? Does the main hypothesis or purpose follow logically from the past research reviewed? (2 marks)
3. Who were the participants in this study? How were they selected (i.e., random, convenience sampling, etc.)? Describe the strengths and weaknesses of this type of sampling procedure. Do you think the sample characteristics was appropriate for the research question? (3 marks)
4. What type of research design was used (i.e., correlational, experimental, grounded theory, etc) in the study? Describe the advantages and disadvantages of the research design used in the article. (3 marks)

5. What was/were the main independent or predictor variable(s)? Was/were it/they clearly and operationally defined? Indicate the measurement scale used (i.e., nominal, ordinal, interval, or ratio) (1 mark)
6. What was/were the main dependent or criterion variable(s)? Was/were it/they clearly and operationally defined? Indicate the measurement scale used (i.e., nominal, ordinal, interval, or ratio) (1 mark)
7. Did the researchers control for any extraneous variables? Were these controls sufficient? Are there any uncontrolled variables that could affect the results of the study? (2 marks)
8. Describe the general procedures used in conducting the study? Did the authors provide you with enough information to allow you to replicate the study exactly? Did you notice any problematic features of the procedures? (2 marks)
9. Clearly state the main findings in this study. Were the results consistent with the hypotheses? (2 mark)
10. What limitations of the study did the authors identify? List one original potential problem or limitation you noticed about this study. (2 marks)
11. What future research studies did the authors suggest? Provide one original suggestion for future research that would build on and enhance the current study (i.e., replication with extension). (2 marks)
12. Were there any ethical limitations in this study? If yes, were they mentioned in the article? How would you deal with the ethical limitations in future research? (2 marks)
13. Write the citation for the article in APA style. (1 mark)