Chapter 2 Vocab (Part 2)

# correlational design

Researchers gather information on individuals, generally in natural life circumstances, and make no effort to alter their experiences; look at relationships between participants’ characteristics and their behavior or development

# correlation coefficient

A number that describes how two measures, or variables, are associated with each other

# experimental design

Permits inferences about cause and effect because researchers use an evenhanded procedure to assign people to two or more treatment conditions

# independent variable

The variable the investigator expects to cause changes in another variable

# dependent variable

The variable the investigator expects to be influenced by the independent variable

# confounding variable

So closely associated that their effects on an outcome cannot be distinguished

# random assignment

Investigators increase the chances that participants’ characteristics will be equally distributed across treatment groups

# quasi-experiment

Groups of participants are carefully chosen to ensure that their characteristics are as much alike as possible

# longitudinal design

Participants are studied repeatedly at different ages, and changes are noted as they get older

# biased sampling

The failure to enlist participants who represent the population of interest

# selective attrition

Participants may move away or drop out for other reasons, and those who continue are likely to differ in important ways from those who drop out

# Cohort effects

Longitudinal studies examine the development of cohorts – children developing in the same time period who are influenced by particular cultural and historical conditions

# cross-sectional design

Groups of people differing in age are studied at the same point in time

# sequential design

Conduct several cross-sectional or longitudinal investigations; might study participants over the same ages but in different years, or they might study participants over different ages but during the same years

# informed consent

People’s right to have all aspects of a study explained to them that might affect their willingness to participate