

# **PSYC 20300 3.0: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS**

**WINTER 2015 Thursdays: 11:30am-2:30pm**

**Location: Curtis Lecture Hall-D**

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**REQUIRED TEXT:** Goodwin, C.J. & Goodwin, K. A. (2012). Research in psychology: Methods and design (7th Edition). New York: Wiley.

**Prerequisite(s):** PSYC 1010 6.0 with a minimum grade of C

**Prerequisite or Corequisite(s):** One of PSYC 2020 6.0 or PSYC 2021 3.0 or equivalent.

**Degree Credit Exclusion(s):** AS/SC/KINE 2049 4.0 and ES/ENVS 2010 6.0. Not open to students who have passed or are taking AK/AS/SC/PSYC 3010 3.0 or equivalent

**Course website:** <https://moodle.yorku.ca>

## **Learning Objectives**

This course introduces students to the various research designs used by psychologists, including experiments, quasi-experiments, surveys, and case studies. We will evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each of these approaches, the philosophy of science supporting them, and the ethical issues they raise. By the end of this course, students should be able to locate empirical psychological reports in the academic literature, comprehend their design, and critically evaluate the findings. Students will learn how to assess different forms of psychological measurement, the nature of sampling, and research ethics.

## **Evaluation**

Test 1	30%	February 5
Test 2	30%	March 5
Test 3	20%	April 6
Take Home Assignment	20%	March 19

### **Test policy**

Students are expected to write each test on the dates specified. There will be 3 in-class midterm tests in this course. The first 2 in-class tests are worth 30% of your final grade. The final test is worth 20% of your final grade. The tests are based on the assigned textbook chapters and the class lectures. The first two tests are non-cumulative. The final test while include a small selection of cumulative short answer questions.

There will be **no make-up tests**, except under extraordinary documented circumstances. **If you miss a mandatory test or assignment for no documented reasons, you will receive a grade of zero.**

### **Important information about make-up tests or exams**

If you have a legitimate reason (e.g., death in the family, severe illness, etc.) for being excused from a test/exam, and have documentation to verify your absence, you may take a make-up test/exam in lieu of the missed test/exam. I am very strict about the conditions that will allow you to write a make-up examination – nonetheless, you should contact me regardless of your reason if you have or will miss an examination. You must email me and your course TA within **48 hours** of the exam/test and provide documentation in order to be permitted to take a make-up exam/test. **In this email, please (a) outline the reason for your absence, and (b) confirm that you have medical or other relevant documentation to support this reason. Again, be sure to note your course section and your full name and student number in the subject header of your email.**

Please note that there will be *one* set date for the make-up test/exam. If you are unable to make this date, other arrangements will not be possible so please make every effort to make this date and we will do our best to provide graded feedback before the drop date. Please also note, however, that if you miss a test(s) and the make-up of the test prior to the drop date, regardless of your reason, you have waived the right to have a specific percentage of graded feedback available to you prior to the drop date.

### **Documentation when missing an exam/test**

If you produce a valid medical document, signed by a physician, **stating that you were medically unable to take the exam/test for a specific time period**, you will be able to take a makeup exam/test. If you miss an exam/test for non-medical reasons, you still must produce supporting documentation (e.g., death certificate, obituary notice, automobile accident report, airline ticket for emergency travel, etc.). Missing an exam/test for a vacation, etc., is not an acceptable reason. If you are ill or facing extreme personal circumstances and are unable to get the required documentation, I highly recommend that you consider dropping the course and taking it at another time.

Once you have contacted me and your TA, you will need to have completed the attending physician's statement found at <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/exams/deferred/>. This should be brought to your instructors' mailbox (located on the first floor of the BSB rm 101; if the mail room is closed try the undergraduate office) or faxed to the psychology department (with Attention *Michael Pettit*) at 416-736-5814. You will need to receive

confirmation of the make-up examination date from your TA; you should be back in touch within a few days with your TA if you have not heard back. It is your responsibility to find out the information about when the make up test/exam is and ensure that you are set to write the make-up test/exam.

**Academic honesty policy**

Please note the following from York University’s Senate Policy on Academic Honesty:

“Academic honesty requires that persons do not falsely claim credit for the ideas, writing or other intellectual property of others, either by presenting such works as their own or through impersonation. Similarly, academic honesty requires that persons do not cheat (attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation), nor attempt to actually alter, suppress, falsify or fabricate any research data or results, official academic record, application or documents.”

<http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/policy.htm>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
January 8	Course Introduction and House-keeping	
January 15	The Philosophy of Psychological Science	Chapter 1 & 3
January 22	Measurement, Reliability, and Validity	Chapter 4
January 29	Experimental Design I: Variables	Chapter 5
February 5	Test 1	
February 12	Experimental Design II: Control	Chapters 6 & 7
Reading Week		
February 26	Experimental Design III: Factorial Designs	Chapters 8 & 10
March 5	Test 2	
March 12	Correlational and Survey Research	Chapters 9 & 12
March 19	Qualitative Methods	Chapter 11
March 26	Ethics	Chapter 2 & App. B
April 6	Test 3	