

Faculty of Health  
Department of Psychology  
PSYC 2030 3.0 Section B  
**INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS**  
Fall 2016  
**Mondays 2:30-5:30pm, Curtis Lecture Hall E**

---

**Instructor and T.A. Information**

Instructor: Michael Pettit

Office: BSB 210

Office Phone: 416-736-2100 ext. 20759

Office Hours: Monday 12-1pm

Email: mpettit@yorku.ca

T.A.	Ian Davidson	Susannah Mulvale
Email	ianjd777@yorku.ca	Smulvale@yorku.ca
Office	BSB 150A	BSB 072E
Office Hours	Monday 12:30-2pm	Monday 1-12pm
	Last Name A-K	Last Name L-Z

**Course Prerequisite(s):** Course prerequisites are strictly enforced.

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

**Course Prerequisite or Corequisite(s); One of:**

- HH/PSYC 2020 6.00 (Statistical Methods I and II)
- HH/PSYC 2021 3.00 (Statistical Methods I)

**Course website:** [Moodle](#)

**Course Description**

This course introduces students to the various research designs used by psychologists, including experiments, quasi-experiments, surveys, case studies, and discursive approaches. We will evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each of these methods, 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.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Distinguish between experimental and non-experimental designs.
2. Demonstrate understanding of various research designs.
3. Define hypotheses, independent and dependent variables, validity and reliability.
4. Use traditional and electronic sources to locate psychological findings.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the basics of scientific writing.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the basics of referencing using APA style.
7. Understand ethical principles in the CPA code of ethics.

## Required Text

Haslam, S. A. & McCarty, C. (2014). *Research Methods and Statistics in Psychology*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE.

Available at the York University Bookstore, on Amazon.ca, and digital versions available for purchase for most devices.

## Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Test 1	October 3, 2016	25%
Test 2	November 7, 2016	35%
Test 3	December 5, 2016	20%
Take Home Assignment	November 18, 2016	20%
Total		100%

## Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests\* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - <http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2016-2017/academic-and-financial-information/academic-services/grades-and-grading-schemes>)

## Late Work/Missed Tests

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at: <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

## Test Policy

Students are expected to write each test on the dates specified. There will be 3 in-class tests in this course. The tests are based on the assigned textbook chapters and the class lectures. On Tests 2 and 3, the majority of the questions are non-cumulative, but a small portion of the questions will ask you integrate material from previous sections.

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

If you have a legitimate reason (e.g., death in the family, severe illness, etc.) for being excused from a test, and have documentation to verify your absence, you may take a make-up test in lieu of the missed test. I am very strict about the conditions that will allow you to write a make-up test – nonetheless, you should contact me regardless of your reason if you have or will miss a test. You must email me and your course TA within 48 hours of the test and provide documentation in order to be permitted to take a make-up 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. 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 test

If you produce a valid medical document, signed by a physician, stating that you were medically unable to take the test for a specific time period, you will be able to take a makeup test. If you miss an 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 a test for a vacation, etc., is not an acceptable reason.

Once you have contacted me and your TA, you will need to have completed the attending physician's statement found at <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>. 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 is and ensure that you are set to write the make-up test.

### Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: Important Dates

	Fall (F)
<b>Important dates</b>	
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 21
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 5
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 11
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a "W" on the transcript)	Nov. 12 - Dec. 5

### Information on Plagiarism Detection

The take home assignment will be submitted through moodle and scanned with the Turnitin plagiarism detection software.

### Electronic Device Policy

The use of laptop computers for note-making are permitted, but discouraged. Please keep your phones on silent and out of sight.

### Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend lectures regularly and participate in class discussion. The tests include material not directly covered by the textbook.

## Academic Integrity for Students

York university takes academic integrity very seriously, please visit [an overview of Academic Integrity at York University](#) from the Office of the Vice-President Academic.

The following links will assist you in gaining a better understanding of academic integrity and point you to resources at York that can help you improve your writing and research skills:

- [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#)
- [Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity](#)
- [Information for Students on Text-Matching Software: Turnitin.com](#)
- [Beware! Says who? A pamphlet on how to avoid plagiarism](#)
- [Resources for students to help improve their writing and research skill](#)

## Test Banks:

The use of test banks is not permitted in this course and may be considered a potential breach of academic honesty. This includes but is not limited too; buying or selling test banks.

## Electronic Devices During a Test:

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic devise during a test may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

## Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The [York University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources. [Policy Statement](#)

**Policy:** York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses.

Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

For Further Information please refer to: [York university academic accommodation for students with disabilities policy](#)

**Course Schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
September 12	Introduction	
September 19	How to Think about Psychology	Chapter 2
September 26	Measurement, Reliability, and Validity	Chap 3 (pg. 34-43) & 6 (127-141)
October 3	Test 1	
October 10	THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS	
October 17	Experimental Design I: Hypothesis Testing	Chapter 8 (pg. 212-38)
October 24	Experimental Design II: Variables	Chapter 3 (pg. 43-64)
October 31	Experimental Design III: Control	Chapter 4
November 7	Test 2	
November 14	Correlational and Survey Research	Chapters 5 & 9
November 21	Qualitative Methods	Chapter 12
November 28	Ethics	Chapter 14
December 5	Test 3	