

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 2030 3.0C: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS
Wednesday/2:30-5:30pm/ Vari Hall B
Fall/2017

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Michael Pettit
Office: BSB 210
Office Phone: 416-736-2100 ext. 20759
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1pm-2pm
Email: mpettit@yorku.ca

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| T.A. | Ashley Weinberg (A-K) | Iris Yusupov (L-Z) |
| Email | alweinb@yorku.ca | Irisy@yorku.ca |
| Office | BSB 314C | BSB 269 |
| Office Hours | Wednesdays 1pm-2pm | Fridays 12pm-1pm |

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 Credit Exclusions

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

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 qualitative methods. 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.

Program Learning Outcomes

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

1. Distinguish between experimental and non-experimental designs.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking in identifying strengths and weaknesses of different research designs
3. Define hypotheses, independent and dependent variables, validity and reliability.
4. Demonstrates an ability to locate and identify valid, credible, and rigorous psychological research.
5. Identify the problems that arise during sampling, measurement, and making inferences from data
6. Understanding ethical obligations of researchers.

Topics Covered

1. Basics of the scientific method
2. Finding scientific articles
3. Understanding the methods in a scientific article
4. Samples and populations
5. Measurement (reliability, validity, measurement error)
6. Basics of descriptive & inferential statistics
7. Case studies
8. Observational studies (naturalistic & participant)
9. Correlational survey studies
10. Qualitative studies
11. Basics of experimental & quasi-experimental designs
12. Experimental control (threats to internal and external validity)
13. Research ethics and questionable research practices

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 (if known) | Weighting |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Test 1 | October 4 | 25% |
| Test 2 | November 1 | 35% |
| Test 3 | November 29 | 20% |
| Takehome Assignment | November 17 | 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 - [Grading Scheme for 2017-18](#))

Test Policy

Students are expected to write each test on the dates specified. There will be 3 in-class tests in this course. The in-class tests are worth 25%, 35%, 20% of your final grade respectively. 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 or extra credit assignments**, except under extraordinary documented circumstances. **If you miss a mandatory test or assignment for no documented reasons, you will receive a grade of zero.**

Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

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://myacademicrecord.students.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.

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. Please 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.

Important New Information Regarding Missed Tests

For any missed tests or late assignments, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the test/assignment.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2017-18 - Important Dates](#)

| | FALL (F) | YEAR (Y) | WINTER (W) |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines) | Sept. 20 | Sept. 20 | Jan. 17 |
| Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines) | Oct. 4 | Oct. 18 | Jan. 31 |
| Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines) | Nov. 10 | Feb. 9 | March 9 |
| Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below) | Nov. 11 - Dec. 4 | Feb. 10 - Apr. 6 | March 10 - Apr. 6 |

***Note:** *You may withdraw from a course using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as "W". The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.*

Information on Plagiarism Detection

Students are expected to complete the tests and takehome assignment independently. The takehome assignment will be submitted via the moodle website and scanned with the Turnitin.com software.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all lectures.

Academic Integrity for Students

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#).

Test Banks

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. 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/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam 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: 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 Materials Copyright Information

These course materials are designed for use as part of the Psyc 2030 3.0 course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

Course Schedule

| Date | Topic | Reading |
|--------------|---|----------------------------------|
| September 13 | Introduction | |
| September 20 | How to Think about Psychology | Chapter 2 |
| September 27 | Measurement, Reliability, and Validity | Chap 3 (pg. 34-43) & 6 (127-141) |
| October 4 | Test 1 | |
| October 11 | Experimental Design I: Hypothesis Testing | Chapter 8 (pg. 212-38) |
| October 18 | Experimental Design II: Variables | Chapter 3 (pg. 43-64) |
| October 25 | Experimental Design III: Control | Chapter 4 |
| November 1 | Test 2 | |
| November 8 | Correlational and Survey Research | Chapters 5 & 9 |
| November 15 | Qualitative Methods | Chapter 12 |
| November 22 | Ethics | Chapter 14 |
| November 29 | Test 3 | |