

INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS PSYC 2030 3.0M (WITNER 2011)
YORK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
MONDAYS 7-10:00PM, VH-B

COURSE INSTRUCTOR:

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Note: Please use PSYC2030 in the subject line; otherwise, emails will be will be deleted unread.

REQUIRED TEXT: Goodwin, C.J. (2009). Research in psychology: Methods and design (6th 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: <http://researchmethods.yolasite.com/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course is designed to provide a general introduction to research methodologies used in contemporary psychological research. We shall consider a range of alternative research methods, including observation, archival research, questionnaire surveys, case studies, and experimentation. We will also consider the ethics of psychological research with human and non-human subjects. It is hoped that by the end of the course, you will have sufficient competence (a) to design and carry out your own research, (b) to critically assess the research of others, and (c) to be a more intelligent appraiser of claims made in the media.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

IN-CLASS EXAMS: There will be 2 in-class exams. Exam 1 (Feb. 27) is worth 20% of your final grade & Exam 2 (March 19) is worth 25% of your final grade. The exams will consist of multiple choice. Material presented *in-class* and *required readings* from the textbook will be included on the exams. Although not all text material will be covered in class, **students will be responsible for all text material on examinations.** It is important that you show up for all exams on time, as no late students will be allowed to write the exam following any student's departure from the exam room.

LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT (due: Jan. 30). This assignment, worth 5%, is focused on database searching, including Internet and online library catalogues. Be sure to provide FULL references for this

assignment and to use the American Psychological Association formatting style for all references. **You are expected to complete this assignment independently.**

CRITICAL REVIEW OF PSYCHOLOGICAL JOURNAL ARTICLE (due: April 2): For this assignment, worth 20%, you will be required to analyze a empirical psychological journal article according to several concepts. **You are expected to complete this assignment independently. Do not quote.** If you quote that indicates to me that you do not understand the concepts you are presenting. If you understand the concepts you should not have to quote. Five percentage points will be deducted from your assignment grade for each day that your assignment is late. Assignments will **not be accepted after April 6. Assignments should be typed (12 point font) and double spaced.**

FINAL EXAM: The final exam has a similar format to the in-class exams and is worth 30% of the course grade. The **final exam is cumulative**; that is, it will contain material from the textbook covered in the previous exams. The final exam is held during the exam period (April 4-23), scheduled by the Office of the Registrar.

POLICY ON MISSED TESTS AND EXAMS

Students are expected to write each test on the dates specified. Make-up exams will be granted ONLY under EXCEPTIONAL DOCUMENTED CIRCUMSTANCES, such as **serious** illness, or death in the immediate family. If you miss a mandatory piece of course work for no documented reasons, you will receive a grade of zero. Please note that I am extremely strict about the conditions that will allow you to write a make-up examination.

It is the student's responsibility to contact the teaching assistant (or instructor) in person, by telephone, or by email, within 48 hours of the missed exam. 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 - – so please make every effort to make this date. A conflict in another course during the time of the make-up is not an acceptable reason for missing the make-up (unless there is an examination in the other course at that time). No individualized testing is available unless arranged formally through one of the offices at the University (e.g., Counselling and Disability Services (CDS)).

The TA will arrange a date and time for the make-up exam. 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.

Documentation when missing an exam/test

- A. Tests or examinations missed on the grounds of *medical circumstances* must be supported by an Attending Physician's Statement from the Office of the Registrar. (NO other forms will be accepted). The Attending Physician's Statement can be downloaded from:

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attend_physician_statement.pdf

NOTE: the physician's office may be contacted to verify that the forms were completed by the physician.

- B. Tests or examinations missed on grounds of *non-medical circumstances* must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/train/bus tickets/receipt for emergency travel, etc. Airline/train/bus ticket/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure, and return dates.

Missing an exam for a vacation etc. is not an acceptable reason for a make-up exam. Having to work at the time of a test is not considered a valid excuse for missing the test.

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.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Regular class attendance is strongly recommended. Reading the textbook and listening in class are essential for successful performance in this course. If you miss a lecture, it is your own responsibility to find out what you have missed (e.g. by asking a fellow classmate for their notes); the **instructor and teaching assistant do not provide lecture notes for students**.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are encouraged to read carefully the Faculty of Arts Policy on Academic Dishonesty (http://www.yorku.ca/health/psyc/policies/academic_honesty.htm)

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	CHAPTER
Jan. 9	Introduction	
Jan. 16	What is science? Scientific explanation and method. Steps in a research program	Chapter 1
Jan. 23 Guest Librarian	Literature Search, Structure of a Paper, APA format	Appendix A
Jan. 30 Library Assignment Due	Developing ideas for research in psychology	Chapter 3
Feb. 6	Ethical issues in psychological research	Chapter 2, & Appendix B
Feb. 13	Issues related to measurement, and data analysis	Chapter 4
Feb. 20	READING WEEK – NO CLASS	
Feb. 27	Exam (weight 20%)	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, & Appendix A & B
March 5 ***	Experimental research I	Chapters 5 & 6
March 12	Experimental research II	Chapters 7 & 8
March 19	Exam (weight 25%)	Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8
March 26	Quasi-experimental, & Applied Research	Chapter 10
April 2	Observational & Survey Research Methods	Chapters 9 & 12
Final Exam Period (April 4-23)	Scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (weight 30%)	Textbook (cumulative) Lecture (non-cumulative)

Any Changes to the Syllabus will be announced in class. Students are responsible for obtaining information on any changes.

***** Last Date to Drop a Course without receiving a final grade is March 9.**