

**Intermediate Research Methods
PSYC 3010 3.0 (WINTER 2012)
YORK UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HEALTH
FRIDAYS 8:30-11:30 N201**

COURSE INSTRUCTOR:

Lisa Fiksenbaum
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Note: Please use PSYC3010 in the subject line; otherwise, emails will be will be deleted unread.

Secretary: Agnes Levstik, 281 BSB

Telephone: (416) 736-5125
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REQUIRED TEXT:

Devlin, A. S. (2006). Research methods: Planning, conducting, and presenting research. Toronto: Thomson Wadsworth.

RECOMMENDED/OPYION TEXTS:

American Psychological Association (2009). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th edition). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Schwartz, B. M., Landrum, R. E., & Gurng, R. A. R. (2011). An Easy Guide To APA Style. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage

Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1010 6.0 with a minimum grade of C; one of PSYC 2020 6.0 or PSYC 2021 3.0 or equivalents and PSYC 2030 3.0.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

The goal of this course is to further students' skills in evaluating research in psychology. Students will build upon the skills and knowledge that they acquired in their introductory research methods class in order to design a research study. Students will conduct literature reviews and critically evaluate research articles in order to design their research study with testable hypotheses. All students will be required to select and obtain their own measures, stimulus material, questionnaires, etc. The Psychology Resource Centre on the first floor of the BSB (<http://psycentre.apps01.yorku.ca/drpl/>) has a number of psychological tests and measures available (with some restrictions). At the end of the term, each student will submit a formal research proposal (in proper APA format), which will include a full introduction (i.e., literature review and hypotheses) and proposed method sections. Students will also present their research to their peers; this exercise is designed to facilitate dialogue and meaningful exchange, as well as hone one's oral communication skills.

The course will involve readings, discussions, and lectures on research methods and skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION

Students are responsible for keeping a copy (electronic or photocopy) of ALL submitted work. Electronic submission of assignments will NOT be accepted under any circumstances. Assignments not submitted on time will be penalized (10% for the first day and 5% for any subsequent day).

Assignment 1 (due Jan. 20): 5%
Assignment 2 (due Feb. 3): 10%
Assignment 3 (due Feb. 17): 10%
SPSS (March 2): 15%

Student Presentation (March 2, 9, 16, 23): 15%
Written research proposal (due March 30): 35%
Class participation: 10%

Tentative Course Schedule

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	CHAPTER
Jan. 6	Introduction, Review of research process, Hypotheses and constructs	Ch. 1 (pp.1-29)
Jan. 13	Structure of an empirical paper; APA style	Ch. 1 (pp.30-39) & Ch. 7 (pp.205-230)
Jan. 20	Assignment 1 due / Library Session	
Jan. 27	Ethics	Ch. 5 & Appendices A & B
Feb. 3	Choosing measures Assignment 2 due	Ch.3
Feb. 10	Statistics Review/SPSS workshop Assignment 3 due	Ch.2, 6, & Appendix C
Feb. 17	SPSS workshop	
Feb. 24	No Class--Reading Week	
March 2	Student Presentations of Research Proposal SPSS exercise due	
March 9***	Student Presentations of Research Proposal	
March 16	Student Presentations of Research Proposal	
March 23	Student Presentations of Research Proposal	
March 30	Final Paper Due	

***Last date to drop courses without receiving a grade (March 9) ***

OTHER INFORMATION:

Students are responsible for understanding the nature and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are encouraged to read carefully York's Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. Ignorance (www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/)

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for you, contact the Course Director.

Student Conduct

Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom, and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. A statement of the policy and procedures involving disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available on the York website <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/>