Course Description

An introduction to the use of experimental and non-experimental research methods by psychologists in the study of behaviour. Topics such as research design, external and internal validity, sources of bias, APA style and ethics are considered.

Course Instructor

Curtis Phills
321H BSB
phills@yorku.ca
Office Hours: Thursday, 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Teaching Assistants

Ashley Chung
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Office: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

James Watson-Gaze
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Office Hours: TBA

Course Information

Official title: HH/PSYC 2030 3.0, Introduction to Research Methods

Classroom: CSE B

Meeting time: Thursdays 7pm to 10pm

One three hour class will be held each week consisting of lectures, occasional films, and class discussions.
Prerequisite
AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 2410 6.00, with a minimum grade of C.

Prerequisite or Corequisite

NCR Note
No credit will be retained for this course for students who have passed or are taking AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 3010 3.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 3180 3.00 (prior to Summer 2002).

Course Credit Exclusions
ES/ENVS 2010 6.00 (prior to Summer 2003), EN/ENVS 3009 3.00, AS/SC/KINE 2049 4.00, AK/PSYC 2530 3.00 (prior to Summer 2002), GL/PSYC 2520 3.00.

Course Textbook
This textbook is available from the York Bookstore. ISBN: 0495602310

Evaluation
The final grade for the course will be based on the following items weighted as indicated follows. Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.
### Dates/Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 29, 2011</td>
<td>20% Exam 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 20, 2011</td>
<td>10% Assignment 1 due in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 3, 2011</td>
<td>20% Exam 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1, 2011</td>
<td>20% Assignment 2 due in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Period</td>
<td>30% Exam 3</td>
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### Grading

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.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04_5_acadinfo.pdf](http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04_5_acadinfo.pdf))

Please note that it is important to show up for all exams on time. To be fair to other students and to prevent cheating, students who are late will not be allowed to write the exam. Please ensure that your cell phone is turned off during the exam.

### Missed Tests

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor’s letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Students will only be allowed to write a missed exam if they notify the instructor within 48 hours of the scheduled exam date. Legitimate reasons include death in the family and illness. Missing an exam for vacation or work related reasons are not valid excuses.

Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.
Assignment Submission

You are expected to work on all course assignments independently.

You are expected to hand in your assignments to your teaching assistant in class. Late assignments will be accepted until the following Monday at noon but there will be a 10% penalty. No assignments will be accepted after this time. Please slip late assignments under the door of 321H BSB.

Important Information for Students

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) -

http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm

http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity

http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/

York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
Student Conduct Standards
Religious Observance Accommodation
Course Schedule

Thursday September 8, 2011

Reading Material:

• Chapter 1: Experimental Psychology and the Scientific Mind
• Chapter 6: Formulating the Hypothesis

Thursday September 15, 2011

Assignment 1 handed out

Reading Material:

• Chapter 7: Basics of Experimentation

Other Material:

If possible, bring a laptop to class.

Thursday September 22, 2011

Reading Material:

• Chapter 3: Alternatives to Experimentation: Nonexperimental Designs
• Chapter 4: Alternatives to Experimentation: Surveys and Interviews
• Chapter 5: Alternatives to Experimentation: Correlational and Quasi-Experimental Designs

Other Material:

If possible, bring a laptop to class.
Thursday September 29, 2011

Exam 1

Thursday October 6, 2011

Reading Material:

• Chapter 8: Solving Problems: Controlling Extraneous Variables

Other Material:

Go to: https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/ and complete at least two IATs. One should be the Race IAT.

Thursday October 13, 2011

Reading Week - No Class

Thursday October 20, 2011

Assignment 1 due beginning of class

Reading Material:

• Chapter 9: Basic Between-Subjects Designs

• Chapter 10: Between-Subjects Factorial Designs

Thursday October 27, 2011

Assignment 2 handed out

Reading Material:

• Chapter 11: Within-Subjects Designs

• Chapter 12: With-Subjects Designs: Small N
Thursday November 3, 2011

Exam 2

Thursday November 10, 2011

Reading Material:
- Chapter 2: Research Ethics

Thursday November 17, 2011

Reading Material:
- Chapter 16: Writing the Research Report

Thursday November 24, 2011

Reading Material:
- Chapter 13: Why We Need Statistics
- Chapter 14: Analyzing Results

Thursday December 1, 2011

Assignment 1 due beginning of class

Reading Material:
- Chapter 15: Drawing Conclusions: The Search for the Elusive Bottom Line