PSYCHOLOGY 4170 6.0 A, 2012/2013
ADVANCED RESEARCH IN PSYCHOLOGY

Course Website: http://maple.eso.yorku.ca/2012y-hhpsyc4170a-06

Instructor: Paul Kohn, Ph.D. (275 BS; (416)736-2100, X. 66157; email: pkohn@yorku.ca; office hours: Wednesday, 5 to 6 p.m.)

Teaching Assistants: Adam Bebko (031 BS; email bebbie@yorku.ca; office hours by appointment); Rachel Siegal (310 BS; e-mail: rsiegel@yorku.ca; office hours: by appointment)

Time and Place of Lecture : Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.-10 p.m., ACE 007.

Prerequisites: AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.0 or AK/PSYC 2410 6.0, with a minimum grade of C; AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2030 3.0 or AK/PSYC 2530 3.0 or substitute; AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2020 6.0 or substitutes; AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2020 6.0 or substitutes. Students must be in an Honours Program in Psychology and have completed 84 credits (excluding Education courses).

Course Credit Exclusions
AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 4000 6.0, AK/PSYC 4700 3.0, AK/PSYC 4800 6.0, GL/PSYC 4000 6.0.

OBJECTIVES AND ORGANIZATION

This course has five major objectives:

1) to enable students to formulate, plan, execute, analyze, and report independent research;
2) to have them produce one completed piece of such work;
3) to enable students to assess the research plans and reports of others in a constructively critical way;
4) to enable students to deal constructively with such critical input from others;
5) to enable students to discuss methodological issues in psychology comfortably, while using the technical vocabulary appropriately.
To ensure achievement of these objectives, I plan to run the course in three overlapping phases:

1) development of conceptual and practical background to conduct research and analyze data via textbook, occasional supplementary readings, lectures, minor assignments, and hands-on experience;
2) written and oral preparation and presentation of student research proposals for discussion and probable modification;
3) execution, analysis, and reporting of research.

Evaluation will be as follows:

Written proposal 20%
Exam on Phase I 25%
Final paper 40%
Presentations, assignments, and participation 15% (5% for timely and conscientious completion of unmarked assignments; 5% for oral presentation; and 5% for participation in classes)

Please note that the following conventions apply to transformations of percentage to letter grades and vice versa:

Conversion Table from Percentage to Letter Grade
90-100 A+
80- 89 A
75- 79 B+
70- 74 B
65- 69 C+
60- 64 C
55- 59 D+
50- 54 D
40- 49 E Marginally failing
<40 F Failing

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles, although this is unlikely.

Note: The withdrawal deadline for this course is February 15, 2013. To learn of potential financial penalties for course withdrawal, consult the following website: http://www.yorku.ca/sfs/refunds/tables/

Additional readings may be assigned or recommended during the course.

**Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests**

**Grading:** 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)

**Assignment Submission:** Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Assignments are to be handed in in class ordinarily and in 101 BS when this is not possible. *Please put name and section on all submitted work.*

**Lateness Penalty:** Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized by 2.5% of the value of the assignment for each day late. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter, death certificate).

**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, death certificate) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Arrangements for a make-up test should be made with the instructor or TA. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

**IMPORTANT COURSE 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/committees/ascp/index-ascp.html](http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate/committees/ascp/index-ascp.html)

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

They are also expected to hand in a certificate of successful completion of York’s Academic integrity tutorial (10 right/10—100% on the final quiz) by Sept. 12, 2012. This tutorial appears online at [http://www.yorku.ca/health/yquiz/academicintegritytutorial.pdf](http://www.yorku.ca/health/yquiz/academicintegritytutorial.pdf)

Course Topics and Schedule

Please be sure to secure the following computer accounts by Sept. 12, 2012: FAS computer account and Passport York account.

**Topic 1:** *How to get going and why bother* (Sept. 12, 2012; PsycINFO session in HNES B02 lab; academic integrity certificate due)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby, Chapters 1 and 2

**Topic 2:** *Ethical issues in behavioural research* (Sept. 19, 2012; PsycINFO assignment due)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby, Chapter 3

**Topic 3:** *Psychological measurement* (Sept. 26, 2012; status report due)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby, Chapters 4 to 7

**Topic 4:** *The experimental method* (Oct. 3, 2012; Tri-Council ethics certificate due)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby, Chapters 8 to 10

**Topic 5:** *Writing it up* (Oct. 10, 2012)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby, Appendix A

**Topic 6:** *Choosing statistical methods* (Oct. 17 (first draft of proposal due); Oct. 24; Nov 7; Nov. 14, 2012)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby, Chapters 12 and 13, Appendix B

**Topic 7:** *Sampling: Whom and how many?* (Nov. 21, 2012; final draft proposal due)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby, Chapter 7

**Topic 8:** *Quasi-experiments, small-N studies and developmental research* (Nov. 28, 2012)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby, Chapter 11

**Topic 9:** *Computer analysis of data with SPSS Windows* (HNES B02 lab; Jan. 9, 16, 30; Feb 6, 2013)

*Assigned reading:* TBA, if any

**In Class Final Exam:** Jan. 23, 2012.

**Student Project Reports and Problem Clinics:** Feb. 13, 27; Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3, 2013.

**Due date for final reports:** April 3, 2013.