

**York University**  
**Faculty of Health**  
**PSY2030 B (Phillips)**  
**RESEARCH METHODS**  
**Fall 2015**

**Course Director:** K. Phillips, Ph.D.  
Rm. 253 BSB  
Office Hours: Mondays 1:30 - 2:30  
e-mail: [phillips@yorku.ca](mailto:phillips@yorku.ca)  
\*\*\*\*\*you MUST put the course number in the subject line for all e-mail communications and use your York account\*\*\*\*\*

**Teaching Assistants:** *For students with last names A-L*  
Matthias Berkes, MA ([mberkes@yorku.ca](mailto:mberkes@yorku.ca)) TEL 5030H  
*For students with last names M-Z*  
Alex Porthukaran ([alexp12@yorku.ca](mailto:alexp12@yorku.ca)) BSB 307C

**Secretary:** Barbara Thurston, Rm. 283 BSB, (416) 736-2100 ext. 66253

**Class Time and Location:** Mondays 2:30 -5:30 CLH-F

**Required Text:** Rosnow, R.L. & Rosenthal, R. (2012). *Beginning behavioral research: A conceptual primer* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Pearson Prentice Hall

**Prerequisites:** AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 2410 6.00, with a minimum grade of C. Prerequisite or corequisite: One of AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2020 6.00, AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2021 3.00, AK/HH/PSYC 2510 3.0

**Course Description:**

This course will provide a comparative analysis and critical evaluation of the major methodologies employed by researchers in the behavioural sciences including: observational techniques, surveys and questionnaires, correlational methods, and experimentation. Important considerations in the design of research studies such as ethics, sampling procedures, reliability and validity of psychological measures, and the interplay between theory and data will be addressed

**Procedures:** Classes will meet for lectures of approximately 2.5 hours. The balance of the sessions will comprise informal discussions or (in-class) tutorials. In-class tutorials are designed to supplement various topical areas and will provide additional opportunities for questions and discussion. Students are advised to read assigned materials and prepare questions concerning problematic material in advance of the tutorials. The TA will also be available for individual consultation by appointment. Students are advised to check Moodle frequently for course announcements

**Evaluation:** Evaluation is based on 2 written assignments, one midterm exam and a final exam weighted as follows:

Assignment 1	10%	Assignment 2	15%
Midterm	35%	Final Exam	40%

Exams will be non-overlapping in terms of course material and will consist of multiple-choice items based on the text material, lectures and tutorial presentations **There will be no make up tests for missed midterms. In the event that the midterm is missed for legitimate reasons (see website below), students will write a cumulative final exam covering ALL course materials, the structure of which is determined by the course director.** Students who miss Midterm 1 waive the right to have graded feedback prior to the drop date. A grade of 0 will be assigned to missed midterms in instances where students fail to provide appropriate supporting documentation.

All students must write the Final Exam. **Opportunities to write a Final Exam make up will be provided only to those students with legitimate reasons (see website below) and appropriate supporting documentation.** Deferred final exams are held on a single common date determined by the Department of Psychology. No individualized testing opportunities will be available. **It is expected that students will consult the Guidelines for Missed Tests and Exams posted at <http://psyc.info.yorku.ca/missed-tests-or-examinations/>.**

**Grading:** The grading scheme for this course will conform to the 9-point grading system outlined in the York University Undergraduate Calendar. With increasing frequency, students have requested grade adjustments at the end of term, in service of enhancing their GPA standings. Grade adjustments, when warranted, will be applied to ALL students in the class, rather than on an individual basis. This practice is designed to ensure fairness.

**Information on Academic Honesty, Student Conduct Standards, Religious Observance Accommodation and Accommodations for Students With Disabilities:** It is also expected that students are familiar with the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards web page:

([http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate\\_cte\\_main\\_pages/ccas.htm](http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm)). Information on plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty is provided in the Department of Psychology Supplemental Calendar and the York University Academic Integrity web site:

(<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>)

### LECTURE SCHEDULE

- September 14: Introduction (Chapter 1)
- September 21: Paradigms, Theories and Data (Chapter 2)
- September 28: Ethics in Psychological Research (Chapter 3 text and the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct which may be found on the APA website at: [www.apa.org/ethics/code/principles.pdf](http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/principles.pdf)  
\*\*Students should download and peruse this document prior to lecture.
- October 5: **In-class Library Tutorial:** Using PsycInfo and other databases (guest librarian)  
Assignment 1 will be distributed (due beginning of next class). Late assignments will NOT be accepted.
- October 12: **Thanksgiving - no classes- University closed**
- October 19: Methods of Measurement (Chapters 4 & 5)  
**Tutorial : Scaling**
- October 26: Reliability and Validity (Chapter 6)
- November 2: **MIDTERM**
- November 9: The Experiment I: Logic (Chapters 7 & 8)  
**November 9: \*\*\*\*Last day to drop course without penalty\*\*\*\***
- November 16: The Experiment II: Research Designs (Chapters 7 & 8)  
**Tutorial: Variables and Confounds**
- November 23: Survey Research (Chapter 9)
- November 30: Correlational Techniques (Chapter 11)  
**Chi Square Tutorial** Assignment 2 will be distributed (due beginning of next class).  
Late assignments will NOT be accepted
- December 7: Making Inferences (Chapter 12)
- December 9- 23 Final Exam Period**

