

York University, Faculty of Health

Course Outline

What: Psychology 2021: Statistical Methods I, Fall 2015, Section A

Prerequisite / Co-requisite: AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.00 (with a minimum grade of C when used as a prerequisite).

Where: CLH E

When: 2:30 - 5:30pm

Who

Course Director: Dr. Jessica Kay Flake
Office: 214 BSB
Email: jflake@yorku.ca
Phone: 416-736-2100, ext 33899
Office Hours: Wednesdays 4:00-5:00pm
**in person or via phone or Skype*
Skype Name: jkflake

PASS Leader: Jacob Schlosser
Office: TBA
Office Hour: Monday 1:00-2:00pm
PASS Sessions in Stong 201:
Tuesdays 1:00-2:30 and Wednesdays 9:30-11:00am
Teaching Assistant 1: Gregory Giovanni
Office: 037 BSB
Email: gregorex@yorku.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays 5:00-7:00pm
Teaching Assistant 2: Melissa Ferland
Office: 043 BSB
Email: melfer@yorku.ca
Office Hours: Thursday 12:00-2:00pm

What is PASS?

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) involve upper level academically successful students who facilitate study sessions in courses that are known to be challenging. PASS leaders have extensive training on how to help students strengthen their study skills and build academic success. The PASS leader conducts two sessions, each an hour and half in length, for a total of three hours per week. The sessions are held at a time convenient for students in the class. During these sessions, the PASS leader uses interactive learning strategies that encourage involvement, comprehension and synthesis of subject content. In addition, the PASS leader facilitates an online discussion board using Facebook and holds an office hour once a week. Please check the website for the schedule and link to the Facebook group:
calumet.yorku.ca/pass

Required Course Materials

Textbook: Gravetter, F.J., & Wallnau, L.B. *Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences* (9th ed.) with Mindtap online supplement

****Mindtap is required and can be bought in a bundle with the book. However, if you do not want a hard copy of the textbook, you can buy Mindtap alone, which includes an e-copy of the book. The minimum you will need for this course is Mindtap****

Mindtap Online Login Link (required): <https://login.nelsonbrain.com/course/MTPP-XWDP-5T22>

Course Website (sign up for a Moodle account, this is required): moodle.yorku.ca

Course Objectives, Description, and Format

This course serves as an introduction to statistical concepts necessary to describe and understand data from psychological research. By the end of the course students will be able to use descriptive statistics to summarize and visualize data. Students will also be able to describe and interpret introductory inferential statistics, such as t-tests, correlations, and chi square. All course topics are listed in the course schedule and learning objectives are described in detail in Mindtap.

The class format is a mix of lecture, interactive demonstration, and group activities. **Learning is an active process that requires engagement, attention, feedback, and motivation.** This class is designed around that fact and requires attendance and active participation. Class time will primarily serve as a place for students to further engage with the material via practice and group problem solving, thus it is expected that students read the assigned chapters and attempt the problem set *before* class.

Course Schedule

Week and Date	Topic	Chapter
1: 9/14	Overview, Demo Mindtap, Introductory Activities	None
2: 9/21	Introductions to Statistics and Frequency Distributions	1&2
3: 9/28	Central Tendency	3
4: 10/5	Variability, Z-scores	4&5
5: 10/12	***Thanksgiving, no class***	
6: 10/19	Review, Probability, Sampling Distribution	6&7
7: 10/26	Hypothesis Testing, Power	8
8: 11/2	***Midterm***	None
9: 11/9	Midterm Debriefing, Intro to t statistic ***Last day to drop without receiving a grade***	9
10: 11/16	Independent and Dependent t-tests	10&11
11: 11/23	Correlation and Regression	15&16
12: 11/30	Chi-Square and Big Picture	17&19
13: 12/7	Review Class, Groups Led Sessions	None
EXAMS 12/9-12/23	https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/curexam	

Course Requirements and Grading

Course Components	Weight
Weekly Homework by Chapter	30%
Participation via Group Activities	15%
Participation via Course Feedback	5%
Midterm Exam	20%
Cumulative Final Exam	30%

Weekly Homework

The material covered in each class will also be covered in weekly homework, to be completed outside of class. The homework will be administrated, completed, turned in, and graded online, through the Mindtap software that accompanies the textbook. The homework for each class can be attempted up to three times and your best average score will be counted toward your final grade. Each week you should read the book chapters and attempt the corresponding homework **before** class, and then you can further your learning through lecture and in-class activities, and re-attempt the homework. The homework for each week is due the **Sunday after class, by midnight. There will be no extensions and you will not be allowed to turn in the homework after the weekly due date, even for technical difficulties. Missed homework will be counted as zero toward your final grade, you will not be able to make them up.** There are homework questions for each book chapter covered in this class, making each chapter's set of questions worth ~2% of your final grade.

More information about Do No Harm grading within Mindtap (taken from website):

*Grading option for this course is set to **Do No Harm**. This applies to assignments with multiple attempts. This option will only include a score in the averaging process if it does not lower the current average.*

Participation via Group Activities

At the start of the term you will be assigned to a working group. In each class you will work with your group on various activities. This work will be turned in and you will get credit for completion of the work. To get credit for your group's work you must be present for the activities. During each class we will collect the group work and keep track of who was present, each in class activity is ~ 1.5% of your final grade.

Participation via Course Feedback

In such a large class it is hard to gauge how you (the students!) are feeling about the learning environment, materials, and instructor. Three to four times throughout the semester you will be asked to answer some questions about your experience in the class, I will use this information to improve and change the class, as needed. This will be done within Moodle and take less than 10 minutes. I will announce when to complete the survey in class and you will then be given 72 hours to complete it. The survey will not contain any sensitive information and is not graded. Your responses are confidential, you will enter you student ID number only to get credit, your credit will be based on completion. Please answer as honestly as possible so that I can improve the course. Completing all surveys is required, and counts as 5% of your final grade.

Midterm and Final Exam

The midterm will be completed in class and the final exam during exam week. You will need a basic calculator (more advanced calculators, such as graphing calculators, are not allowed during exam time), writing tools, and two pieces of ID. You will also be permitted to bring one

standard page worth (cannot be bigger than 8.5 x 11 inches) of handwritten notes to the exam. You should include any relevant formulae on your note page, but will be provided with statistics and/or probability tables if needed. The midterm (20%) and final (30%) are worth a total of 50% of your final grade.

York University Grading Scheme

Grade	Grade Point	Per Cent Range	Description
A+	9	90-100	Exceptional
A	8	80-89	Excellent
B+	7	75-79	Very Good
B	6	70-74	Good
C+	5	65-69	Competent
C	4	60-64	Fairly Competent
D+	3	55-59	Passing
D	2	50-54	Marginally Passing
E	1	(marginally below 50%)	Marginally Failing
F	0	(below 50%)	Failing

Missing an Exam Policy

Regarding the Midterm

You are expected to take the midterm in class on the specified date. **There will be no make-up exam, except under exceptional circumstances that can be supported by documentation.** If these **extreme and documented circumstances arise**, you must contact me in person or by phone within 48 hours and provide the supporting documentation. The procedures for this process are described below and come from the Department of Psychology Website (<http://psyc.info.yorku.ca/misssed-tests-or-examinations/>):

1) The student must contact the course director or the course director's secretary in person or by telephone or email within 48 hours of the test or examination. You must clearly state the following:

- your name (it helps to spell your last name)
- your student number, course and section
- phone number at which you can be reached time best to call you back

2) If you cannot contact the secretary or the course director during this 48 hour period, subsequent documentation accounting for the delay must be provided.

3) Appropriate documentation verifying the circumstances for the missed test or examination must be provided at the time specified by the instructor. Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in a grade of F on the missed test.

What is appropriate documentation?

a) medical circumstances – tests/exams missed due to medical circumstances must be supported by an attending physician’s statement or a statement by a psychologist or counselor. The physician’s statement must include the following:

- i. full name, mailing address, telephone number of the physician.
- ii. state the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered), and
- iii. an indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have SERIOUSLY affected the student’s ability to study and perform over the period in question.

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

b) non-medical circumstances – tests/exams missed due to non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/bus ticket/receipt for emergency travel (with date of booking on ticket), etc. Airline/train/bus ticket/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure, and return dates. Having to work at the time of a test is not considered a valid excuse for missing the test.

4) The manner in which the missed test (which has been legitimately documented) is handled will be at the discretion of the course director, and should be outlined by the instructor within the first two weeks of the course.

Eg.,

In the case of a make-up test/exam, the student must be prepared to write the test at a date set by the instructor (this may be as early as a week following the missed test). Although the content to be examined will be the same, the format may or may not follow that of the original test/exam. YOU must check with the course director’s secretary or teaching assistant for the date and time of the make-up. 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). The course instructor may choose to set the deferred test/exam on a “common date” determined by the Department of Psychology (See details below). You should be aware that if you miss the tests before the official drop date, you will not have the requisite 10% feedback on your course work to determine if you need to drop the course or not. As a result, it is in your best interest to write the tests at the time they are scheduled by the course director.

NOTE: Only extremely unusual circumstances would warrant a second chance at a make-up.

Regarding the Final Exam

If you miss the final exam, scheduled during the final examination period, you must apply for a deferral: <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/exams/deferred/>

Other Important Information

Distractions in Class

I have zero tolerance for talking and distractions (e.g., noises from cell phones or computers) during the class time. If you are detracting from the learning environment you will be asked to leave. I recommend that you do not use a tablet, laptop, or phones during class, even to take notes. Using your laptop or other portable device detracts from learning ([CLICK HERE TO READ THE RESEARCH THAT SUPPORTS THIS STATEMENT](#)). If you are seen using these devices for non-class related activities you will be asked to leave, to prevent you from distracting others.

Link to research that shows that laptops in the classroom detract from learning of self and others: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360131512002254>

Cheating/Plagiarism/Impersonation

The University does not look favorably on cheating of any kind and the penalties for doing so are very harsh. Become familiar with the rules and regulations regarding cheating/plagiarism. You can find them listed in the Undergraduate Psychology Supplemental Calendar. In summary, you can avoid problems by following some simple rules.

- a. Do your own work and present your own ideas in your own words. Do not merely repeat or reword sections from other sources.
- b. Don't copy from friends or neighbors and don't let friends or neighbors copy from you.
- c. If you have any doubts about the appropriateness of what you are doing — ASK.

Information for Students about Academic Integrity and Honesty

<http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.htm>

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

Information for Students with Disabilities

<http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-policy/>

Information for Students Observing a Religious Holiday

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 within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed at home, scheduled later in the term poses

such a conflict, contact the Course Director immediately. Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination period in April, students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from Student Client Services, Student Services Centre, or online at:

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

Information on Important Dates (start/end dates, drop dates)

<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/>

Information on Student Rights and Responsibilities

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=202>