

## Psychology 2030M 3.0: Introduction to Research Methods

**General description:** Psychology 2030 is an introduction to the use of experimental and non-experimental research methods by psychologists in the study of behaviour, cognition, and emotion. Topics such as research design, external and internal validity, sources of research bias, APA style, and ethics are considered.

The emphasis in Section M will be on learning to read and analyze published accounts of research in Psychology. We will consider a wide range of topics under the heading of research methods, including work that is historical and conceptual in nature.

### Instructors

#### Course Director:

Ron Sheese, S342 Ross Building, [rsheese@yorku.ca](mailto:rsheese@yorku.ca)

#### Teaching Assistants:

Eric Oosenbrug, [eric.at.york@gmail.com](mailto:eric.at.york@gmail.com)

Sarah Ritvo, [sarah.ritvo@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.ritvo@gmail.com)

#### Discussion Facilitators:

Joey Hoyda, Tennille Jacobs, Leah Krakowitz, Martina Moravcikova, Gaelle Nsamba Luabeya, Anika Rak, Serge Ruel, Carla Rumeo, Shangavy Sackthivel, Natasha Wortzman

### Required reading

#### Textbook:

Coolican, H. & Kelly, O. (2015). [\*Research Methods in Psychology\*](#), Canadian Edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

#### Articles:

[Allport, G.](#) (1940). The psychologist's frame of reference. *Psychological Bulletin*, 37(1), 1-28

[DeLoache, J. S., Miller, K. F. & Rosengren, K. S.](#) (1997). The credible shrinking room: Very young children's performance with symbolic and nonsymbolic relations. *Psychological Science*, 8(4), 308-313.

[Gergen, K. J., Josselson, R., & Freeman, M.](#) (2015). The promises of qualitative inquiry. *American Psychologist*, 70(1), 1-9.

### Course Reading Schedule

The course will be organized into three sections with an exam at the conclusion of each section. These sections are as follows:

**January 5 – January 26:** Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 in the textbook *and* two articles - the one by DeLoache, Miller, & Rosengren and the one by Allport.

**January 26 – March 8:** Chapters 14, 5, 6, 7, 8 in the textbook *and* two articles - the one by DeLoache, Miller, & Rosengren and the one by Gergen, Josselson, & Freeman.

**March 8 – March 29:** Chapters 9, 10, 12, 13, 15 in the textbook.

The specific material to be discussed in each week's class will be announced and posted on the website at least one week in advance.

## **Course Format**

The course meets on Tuesdays at 11:30 am. We will typically begin by breaking into small groups for discussion of a set of questions related to the assigned readings. The questions will be available in advance, and each student will write a response on the website discussion forum to at least one of the questions before the class meeting. The small-group discussion will be followed by a lecture/discussion session, which will conclude about 2:00 pm. The Course Director will remain available in the classroom until 2:30 pm to deal with any student questions or concerns that were not addressed in the class.

The Coolican & Kelly book provides a number of resources to help students develop their understanding of the material, including multiple-choice quizzes for each chapter. Students are encouraged to make use of these resources and to bring questions about them to the class meetings. A number of exercises will be assigned during the term in which students will be asked to apply the course material to published psychology articles (or excerpts from articles). Students will work in small groups to prepare an annotated bibliography of psychology articles on a specific topic. The annotations will consist of analytic commentary on the research approaches and methods described in the articles.

## **Course Evaluation**

Course work will be recorded and/or evaluated in each of the following categories and weighted as indicated in assigning the final mark:

- 06% Completion of assigned exercises
- 09% Participation in small-group discussions in class
- 10% Participation in on-line discussion forums
- 10% Annotated bibliography assignment (April 5)
- 15% Exam 1 on January 26
- 20% Exam 2 on March 8
- 30% Comprehensive Final Exam (April 7, 7:00pm, 109ACW).

The York University grading system, including the generic [letter grade definitions](#) used in the system, is described in the University Calendar.