

Faculty of Health  
Department of Psychology

PSYC 2030 3.0 **Section M: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS**

Fridays 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

Room: Vari Hall B (VH B)

Winter 2022

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**Instructor: Alisha Salerno**

Office hours: By appointment

Email: [Sal3rnoa@yorku.ca](mailto:Sal3rnoa@yorku.ca)

**Teaching Assistants:**

Surname	A - L	M - Z
TA	Laura Bandi	Marette Abdelmaseh
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Office Hours	TBD	TBD

**Email Protocol:** When you email the course directors or teaching assistants please include your full name in the body of your email, with "PSYC 2030 Intro to research methods" in the subject line. Please read the syllabus before contacting the course instructors or teaching assistants. Please allow *two business days* for a reply. Emails regarding issues covered in the syllabus will not be answered.

**Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced**

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

**Course Credit Exclusions**

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

**Course website: [E-class](#)**

eClass will be your central access point for all course materials including important announcements from the instructor, weekly content-based slides, weekly Q&A discussion forums, assignment instructions and submissions, and information regarding TA and instructor office hours.

**\*\*\* It is absolutely necessary that you regularly access eClass to be successful in this course.** This means that you should be logging on to eClass every week. "I didn't know it was on eClass" or "I don't know how to use eClass" are not acceptable excuses for missing

any course component. It is the student's responsibility to review and become comfortable with using eClass for the purposes of this course. \*\*\*

### **Course Format**

This is an in-person course. Lectures will be held in Vari Hall C (VH B) every Friday from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm.

### **Office Hours:**

Email your TA(s) in advance to schedule a meeting during their posted office hours (or by appointment). They will respond by email with a specific timeslot. Meetings may be in person or over Zoom (at the TAs discretion). Meetings are 15-minutes.

### **Course Description**

This course will introduce you to the different stages of the research process followed by psychological researchers. We will discuss how to find and read research articles, how to come up with a research idea and hypothesis, how to design a research study, issues pertaining to measurement and sampling, and ethical research practices. We will also cover in-depth the advantages and disadvantages of a number of research designs and methods used in psychology including non-experimental (correlational), experimental, Quasi experimental, and qualitative approaches, as well as how statistics are inherently connected to research design. This course emphasizes students' application of knowledge such that by the end of term students will be able to propose their own hypothetical research study.

### **Program Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Distinguish between experimental and non-experimental designs.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking in identifying strengths and weaknesses of different research designs
3. Define hypotheses, independent and dependent variables, validity and reliability.
4. Demonstrates an ability to locate and identify valid, credible, and rigorous psychological research.
5. Identify the problems that arise during sampling, measurement, and making inferences from data
6. Understanding ethical obligations of researchers.

### **Specific Learning Objectives**

In this course, I hope to provide you with a basic knowledge of commonly used research methods in psychology. More importantly, I hope that you can flexibly and fluently apply the concepts and methods learned in this course to novel scenarios or studies. I hope to provide you with a basis of knowledge that will allow you to seek out and comprehend

additional information on your own. I also hope to provide you information that is timely and current, by using popular media as reference points and by inviting researchers as guest speakers.

### Required Text

- Cozby, Mar, & Rawn. (2020). *Methods in Behavioural Research* (3rd Canadian Edition). McGraw-Hill Ryerson Ltd.

Please note that this is the third and Canadian edition of this textbook. We do not know whether the first or second version of the textbook is comparable or adequate for this course. If you choose to use another version of the textbook, you do so at your own risk. Please do not contact the TAs or the course instructors to ask whether the first version of this textbook is adequate.

### Course Requirements and Assessment:

**Technical Requirements:** Several platforms will be used to support this course (eClass, Zoom, Turnitin). These platforms will allow you to interact with the course materials, the course director/teaching assistant, as well as with one another.

**E-class: All course materials (e.g., lecture slides, handouts) will be available on the course e-class site, unless otherwise indicated by the course directors. The lectures will not be recorded. This site will be your central access point for course information and materials.**

**Turnitin:** To promote academic integrity in this course, you will be required to submit your written work (i.e., mini-assignment, exam answers) through Turnitin (within the course Moodle). Turnitin reviews textual similarity and helps in the detection of possible plagiarism (see below). By using this software, you are allowing your submitted material to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used only for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. Terms applying to the University's use of the Turnitin service are described on Turnitin.com.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Test 1	February 4, 2022	25%
Test 2	March 11, 2022	25%
Assignment	TBD	16%
Applied reflections	Due on a weekly basis	10%
Test 3	April 8, 2022	20%
TCPS2 tutorial on Research Ethics	Due February 9, 2022	4%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

### Course Evaluations:

**Tests:** Tests will be based on course material associated with the section of the course that is being tested. This includes the lectures and associated content (e.g., podcasts, videos etc.) as well as the assigned chapters in the textbook. There will be three tests. The first two tests are worth 25% of your final grade, and the final test is worth 20%.

**Written Assignment:** You will have one written assignment for this course. This paper is worth 16% of your final grade. The deadline for the ONLINE submission will be April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (online submission to Turnitin). More information regarding the paper will be provided later in the term.

**Applied Reflections:** Each week after our lecture, an applied reflection pertaining to the activity we did in class will be posted to the forum on e-class. You can earn participation marks through responding to the forum with a minimum 250-word response. To earn participation marks, you must participate in the forum discussion before the following lecture is made available. This means that you must post your response by Thursday evening. There are no late submissions permitted and there is no exception to this rule. The forum closes Thursday evening, meaning it is not possible to submit after the deadline. Each applied reflection is worth 1.25%. There are 9 applied reflections in total, complete 8 to earn full marks.

**TCPS2 Tutorial:** As part of this class, you will be asked to complete the TCPS2 online tutorial "Course on Research Ethics" (CORE). This is a self-paced tutorial with 8 interactive modules. This tutorial takes an average of 3 hours. Completion of this tutorial is worth 4%. You can access it here: <http://tcps2core.ca/welcome>

**Reviewing Exams and Assignments:** Requests to review exams or assignments should be made within two weeks of the grade posting. Note that grade changes will be made only in exceptional circumstances. After the two-week period, there will be no opportunity for revisions to grades.

### **Class Format and Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all lectures. In place of attendance, students will be graded on their weekly applied reflections, as detailed above.

### **Grading as per Senate Policy**

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 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - [Grading Scheme for 2021-22](#)

### **Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment:**

**Late Assignments:** Assignments have a 2-day grace period where students can submit after the deadline at no penalty. The grace period only applies to assignments, not to any participation component or exams. Assignments submitted beyond this 2-day grace period will be given a grade of 0. There are no exceptions to this rule.

**Missed Tests:** Students who miss a test due to illness or severe distress must email the instructor and TA within 24 hours and follow the Faculty of Health guidelines for missed tests or examinations. If this missed test is prior to the drop date, regardless of reason, the student has waived the right to have a specific percentage of graded feedback available to them prior to the drop date.

Students who miss an exam will have their final exam re-weighted, with the missed test's value added on to the final exam (e.g., a student who misses one test will write a final exam worth 50%). Please note that students who miss one or both tests may write a different final exam, which may not necessarily be in the same format as the original exam, to reflect the material missed.

**N.B.** This means that there will be no makeup exams offered in this course.

For any missed quiz or late assignment, students **MUST** complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician's Statement (APS) is not required, however, a reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the missed quiz or late assignment.

### Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2021-22 Important Dates](#)

	Fall (Term F)	Year (Term Y)	Winter (Term W)
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 21	Sept. 21	Jan. 23
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 5	Oct. 26	Feb. 7
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 12	Feb. 11	18-Mar
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 13 - Dec. 7	Feb. 12 - April 10	March 19 - April 10

### Add and Drop Deadline Information

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are **different**, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.

After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

You may [withdraw from a course](#) using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as 'W'. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

### **Information on Plagiarism Detection**

Turnitin and other software may be used to detect plagiarism. Any student found to be engaging in plagiarism or other academically dishonest behaviour will be reprimanded in accordance with university policy.

### **Electronic Device Policy**

This course will be delivered in an online format and therefore electronic devices (e.g., tablets, laptops) are permitted during class time for course-related purposes. **No exam in this course is open-book** and so you are expected to complete the exams without the use of any external aid.

### **Academic Integrity for Students**

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#)

### **Test Banks**

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as "Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation" (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or "encouraging, enabling or causing others" (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

## **Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with ***Student Accessibility Services (SAS)*** to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. **Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.**

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

### **Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

### **Course Materials Copyright Information**

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC 2120 course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g., uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

