

**Faculty of Health - Department of Psychology**  
**PSYC 20300: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS**  
**Wednesdays, 2:30-5:30**  
**Location: Vari Hall – C (if classes are in-person)**  
**Winter 2022**

---

**Classes were intended to be in-person for the winter term but the university since decided that classes will be remote until at least Jan 23. Stay tuned for further information. It's uncertain at this point whether tests will be online or in-person, but be prepared for either possibility. Regardless, tests will take place on the dates indicated in the syllabus.**

**The first class on Jan 12 at 2:30 will be on Zoom, and I'll introduce the course and cover the syllabus. To access live Zoom classes you need to link Zoom to your Passport York account (I have posted a link with instructions). Do this asap.**

**If classes continue to be remote, you should view the pre-recorded lectures that are posted. In addition, there will be question/answer sessions (dates and topics to-be-announced).**

**Instructor:** Dr Rebecca Jubis

**Office:** Rm 251 B.S.B. (Behavioural Sciences Building)

**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Email:** [jubis@yorku.ca](mailto:jubis@yorku.ca) Be sure to indicate your **course**, **section**, and sign with your **full name**. (Please **do not contact me via eClass** messaging because you will not receive a response).

**Teaching Assistants (TAs):** TA contact information is provided on eClass

**Psychology Undergraduate Office:** Rm 291 BSB; [psyc@yorku.ca](mailto:psyc@yorku.ca) or call 416-736-5117

**Course Prerequisite:**

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:** [eClass.yorku.ca](http://eClass.yorku.ca) (formerly moodle.yorku.ca)

**Course Description:**

This course will introduce you to the basics of research and will provide you with a good foundation for conducting your own research in higher-level courses. You will be introduced to different research methodologies, and the advantages and limitations of each will be discussed.

Also, you will gain experience at locating and familiarizing yourselves with APA-style published research in psychology.

### **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. Demonstrate 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. Understand ethical obligations of researchers.

### **General Topics Covered in a Research Methods Course:**

1. Basics of the scientific method
2. Finding scientific articles
3. Understanding the methods in a scientific article
4. Samples and populations
5. Measurement (reliability, validity, measurement error)
6. Basics of descriptive & inferential statistics
7. Case studies
8. Observational studies (naturalistic & participant)
9. Correlational survey studies
10. Qualitative studies
11. Basics of experimental & quasi-experimental designs
12. Experimental control (threats to internal and external validity)
13. Research ethics and questionable research practices

### **Required Text:**

**C. James Goodwin and Kerri A. Goodwin (2017). Research in Psychology: Methods and Design (8<sup>th</sup> edition). Toronto: John Wiley and Sons Inc.**

This is **the most recent edition** of the text book and **tests will be based on this edition**. If you choose to use the older 7<sup>th</sup> edition, “use at your own risk”. The organization of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition is different from the 7<sup>th</sup> edition, and the 8<sup>th</sup> edition contains some material that is different from the 7<sup>th</sup> edition. A hard-copy or electronic version of the text is available at the York University Bookstore: <https://bookstore.yorku.ca/>

**Study Guide and on-line resources** (there's also a link on eClass):

<http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&itemId=1119316316&bcsId=10505>

**CHAPTERS COVERED (IN ORDER OF INSTRUCTION)**

**Material for Test 1:**

Chapter 5- Introduction to Experimental Research  
Chapter 6– Methodological Control in Experimental Research  
Chapter 7 - Experimental Design I: Single-Factor Designs

**Material for Test 2:**

Chapter 8- Experimental Design II: Factorial Designs  
Chapter 9 – Non-Experimental Design I: Survey Method  
This chapter discusses the correlational method and survey method of research. Also, refer to Chapter 4 (pg 94-96) for the different types of sampling procedures used in the survey method.  
Chapter 10 – Non-Experimental Design II: Observational and Archival Methods

**Material for Test 3:**

Reliability and validity – see Chapter 4, pages 101-105 only.  
Chapter 12 - Small N Designs  
Chapter 1 - Scientific Thinking in Psychology  
Chapter 3 - Developing Ideas for Research in Psychology  
Reading and writing empirical reports (pg 384-394 in text)  
Chapter 2 - Ethics in Psychological Research

**COURSE ASSESSMENTS:**

<b>Test 1</b>	Feb 9	30%	Chap 5,6,7
<b>Library Workshop</b>	-posted by Mar 2		
<b>Test 2</b>	Mar 16	30%	Chap 8,9,10, sampling procedures (pg 94-96);
<b>Assignment</b>	due Mar 23	20%	
<b>Test 3</b>	Apr 6	20%	reliability and validity (pg 101- 105 only) Chap 12, 1, 3, 2, empirical reports (pg 384-394)

**Deadline to notify your TA that you want to discuss tests/assignment - Apr 6.**

## **INFORMATION ABOUT COURSE ASSESSMENTS:**

**ALL TESTS, WHETHER THEY BE ONLINE OR IN-PERSON, WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE SCHEDULED LECTURE TIME: WEDNESDAYS, 2:30-5:30pm. BE PREPARED FOR EITHER POSSIBILITY.**

### **TESTS:**

There will be 3 non-cumulative tests that will each consist of short-answer and multiple-choice questions. For testing purposes you are responsible for assigned chapters in the text and material presented in lectures. The vast majority of test questions will relate to material that I covered in lectures, and most of what I cover in lectures is in the textbook. Please note that I will not be testing you on content of “Research Examples” and “Boxes” that can be found in most chapters. Nevertheless, reading these sections might help you better understand the chapter content.

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT TESTS WILL BE ONLINE:**

**IMPORTANT: it’s your responsibility to ensure that you have a good internet connection and that your computer/browser are compatible with eClass.** See:

<https://lthelp.yorku.ca/quizzing/best-practices-for-a-successful-online-quiz> (or the last pages of the syllabus). I suggest that you check this out right away. If you have technical difficulties during an online test, there will be no recourse or alternative test.

**A practice quiz (that will not be counted) will be available from 9am on Jan 19 until 11pm on Feb 3.**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION about ACADEMIC HONESTY for ONLINE TESTS**

Tests are to be completed by you and you alone. You are NOT to discuss or share the questions or potential answers with anyone, and you are NOT permitted to replicate, record or copy test questions (i.e., screen shot, photograph, print, download etc). Aids of any type (text, lecture notes, google, dictionairies, translators etc) are NOT allowed. Violation of any of the above will be considered a breach of academic honesty and will be pursued in accordance to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.

### **DETAILS ABOUT MISSING A TEST**

Students with a **valid reason** for missing a test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by **supporting documentation**, can request accommodation from me. If you miss a test for medical reasons, your physician must complete an **Attending Physician Statement** which can be found at: <http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf> (also a link on eClass). To be deemed valid, the document must be the **original**, contain the **doctor’s signature**, **office stamp** and be **dated close to the time** of illness. Be sure to look over this form before leaving the doctor’s office because if it is incomplete or filled out inaccurately, it will not be accepted. **Alternative medical notes will not be accepted.**

**If you miss a test, you must notify your TA (TA contact information is posted) and COPY ME on that email ([jubis@yorku.ca](mailto:jubis@yorku.ca)) NO LATER THAN 48 HOURS AFTER THE TEST.** Failure to do so will result in a 0% on that test.

**MISSED TESTS WILL NOT BE RE-SCHEDULED FOR ANY REASON.**

To make up for a missed test, you will need to complete an assignment that could involve material from any of the chapters covered in this course (including lecture recordings). That assignment will be provided at the end of the term, before final exams, (date to be announced) and it will be due the following day.

**If you miss a second test, you will be given 0% for that test. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**IF TESTS ARE IN-PERSON, THEN IN-PERSON MAKE-UP TESTS WILL BE SCHEDULED, AND MORE INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED AT A LATER DATE.**

**TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENT:** (due Mar 23):

**You are expected to work on this assignment independently. There will be a penalty for late submission.**

You will be required to “put into practice” some of the research concepts that we have covered in class. Your assignment will also allow you to gain experience at conducting a library search for psychology-related topics. For instance, you will be provided with “key words” and required to search for journal articles and books that incorporate your key words. To help you with this process, **a pre-recorded workshop by a York U librarian will be posted on eClass.**

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION (APPLICABLE IF CLASSES CONTINUE TO BE REMOTE)**

Pre-recorded lectures on Zoom are posted and the specific topics covered in the lecture are indicated directly below the lecture link. This will enable you to follow lectures at your convenience. There will also be occasional live “question and answer” (Q&A) sessions on Zoom, taking place during the scheduled lecture time: Wednesdays 2:30-5:30pm. **The Q&A dates and chapters covered will be announced.**

Although you’re free to do your readings and view lectures at your leisure, I would advise you to get into the habit of devoting the official 3-hr class time to the course.

**IF CLASSES SWITCH TO IN-PERSON, THE PRE-RECORDED LECTURES WILL STILL BE POSTED.**

Each eClass “topic box” will correspond to a particular textbook chapter. Within the topic box,

links to pre-recorded Zoom lectures will be posted. Below the lectures, will be a link to printable lecture notes that were used in the lectures.

I will not be covering every single thing that's presented in the text, but the majority of test questions will be from material that I lectured on. I would strongly advise you to read the assigned chapters rather than relying solely on lecture notes.

For some chapters, optional practice exercises will be posted.

### **Zoom meetings:**

Should you need to “meet” with your TA or myself, we can meet in person (???) or set up a Zoom meeting with you. In case you're not familiar with Zoom and don't know what to expect or how to join a meeting, please check out “Connecting to a Zoom meeting for students”:

[https://lthelp.yorku.ca/94581-zoom/connecting-to-a-zoom-meeting-for-students?from\\_search=48268978](https://lthelp.yorku.ca/94581-zoom/connecting-to-a-zoom-meeting-for-students?from_search=48268978)

### **On-Line Open-Forum Discussion:**

You can participate in a general discussion forum on eClass where you are free to discuss with classmates, course-related issues or any psychology-related topic or concern.

### **Important Information about Grades:**

If you require a particular grade in this course, please work now towards attaining it. This course does not offer extra assignments or tests at the end of the course to accommodate students who are a few marks short of their desired grade.

A letter grade will be “rounded up” when calculating your overall final grade if your final percentage ends in .50 or higher. For example, if your final grade is 74.50% it will be rounded up from a B to a B+. However, if your final percentage is 74.38% for example, your letter grade will remain a B. You must draw the line somewhere and .50% is the designated cut-off.

### **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:

A+= 90-100, A=80-89, B+=75-79, B=70-74, C+=65-69, C=60-64, D+=55-59, D=50-54, E= 40-49, F=below 40

### **Add/Drop Deadlines:**

**The last date to drop this course so that it does not appear on your transcript is Mar 18.**

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

	Fall (F)	Year (Y)	Winter (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. 6	Feb. 7
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 12	Feb. 11	March 18
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 Psychology Department ([psyc@yorku.ca](mailto:psyc@yorku.ca)) 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.

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

**If you are registered with Student Accessibility Services and have “special accommodations”, I MUST HAVE YOUR LETTER OF ACCOMMODATION (LOA) BY JAN 24.**

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.

<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](#).

### **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

### **Course Materials Copyright Information:**

Course materials, lecture notes, assignments etc are designed for use as part of the Psyc 2030M 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](#).

**Important information about taking a eClass online quiz (tests)** (<https://lthelp.yorku.ca/quizzing/best-practices-for-a-successful-online-quiz>)

## Internet connection....your lifeline to the course, the quiz and your success.

*If you're on wireless and you have the ability to physically connect to your internet connection: Do this first.*

We recommend that you use a wired connection over a wireless (WiFi) at all times. If your internet is unstable, that's one thing. If the WiFi is unstable, it could be something as simple as you being in an area where there are multiple WiFi hotspots that are using the same channels. This will cause issues. It is better to be wired in to the router and away from the invisible war for channel supremacy between yours and your neighbours routers.

## Is your browser up to date?

Check that you are using the most up to date version of your Browser. See our [recommended browser setting](#) article for more information.

# Recommended browser settings

## Browser versions

eClass is compatible with most modern web browsers, for the best experience we recommend you keep your browser up to date.

Note: Legacy browsers with known compatibility issues:

- Internet Explorer 10 and below
- Safari 7 and below

## Browser settings

For eClass to function correctly, it is recommended that the following requirements be met:

- Pop-ups are enabled
- Cookies are enabled
- Javascript is enabled
- [Java](#) is installed, up-to-date and enabled
  
- **Firefox help:** <http://support.mozilla.org>
- **Chrome help:** <http://www.google.com/support/chrome/>
- **Internet Explorer help:** <http://support.microsoft.com/en-us/products/internet-explorer>
- **Microsoft Edge help:** <https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/products/microsoft-edge>
- **Safari help:** go to **Safari > Preferences**. The settings are located on the *Security* and *Privacy* tabs.

## **Pay attention to your every move**

When you're clicking around in the quiz, make sure that you see the effect that your click has. If you click too close to a previous answer, you may inadvertently change it. Be careful, and review your answers before you move on.

Ultimately it is you who is responsible for the change that happens. Make sure you double-check your answers before you continue.

## **Time is a funny thing...**

Don't leave it to the last few seconds (or even minutes) to submit your quiz. If you are taking a timed quiz you will see a timer so you can keep track of how much time you have left, but make sure you allow yourself time to submit.

## **Have the power... so to speak**

Make sure that your computer is plugged in to a constant power supply. Obviously for those of you who are at a desktop computer, you're already doing this.

For those of you on a laptop computer, make sure your power supply is plugged in to the wall and connected to your laptop. There is no guarantee that your battery is going to last you to the end of the quiz.

However unlikely, mid-quiz is not the time you want to find out that the battery on your laptop can no longer keep a charge, even though it said it still had 50% left. Even if your quiz had an automatic save, or if you just clicked the save button, the next few minutes you're going to spend trying to get back in to your course may be what you needed to finish on time.