

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 2030 3.0A: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS
Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30am-11:30am – Vanier College 135
S1 - 2022

Instructor: Dr Rebecca Jubis

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

Office Hours: by appointment

Email: 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 or call 416-736-5117

Course Prerequisite:

PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology)

Course Credit Exclusions: please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

Course website: eClass.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 (8th edition). Toronto: John Wiley and Sons Inc.

An electronic version of the text or hard-copy 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

Chapter 12 - Small N Designs
Reliability and validity – see Chapter 4, pages 101-105 only.
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:

NOTE: this is a condensed course so tests and assignments are scheduled in very close succession.

Assignment #1	due Thurs, May 19 by noon	5% (posted on May 17)
Test 1	Tues, May 24	30% Chap 5 ,6, 7
Assignment #2	due Thurs, June 2 by noon	10% (posted on May 31)
Test 2	Tues, June 7	30% Chap 8, 9,10, sampling (pg 94-96)
**Assignment #3	due Tues, June 14 by noon	5% (already posted)
Test 3	Thurs, June 16	20% Chap 12, 1, 2, 3, reliability/validity (pg 101-105); research reports (pg 384-394)

Deadline to notify your TA that you want to discuss tests/assignment - June 16

****IMPORTANT:** Assignment #3 is a library assignment where you'll need to search for peer-reviewed journal articles/book using assigned key words. To help you with the process, I will be posting a pre-recorded library workshop conducted by a research librarian, as soon as it's available. This assignment is only due on June 14, but you might want to get it out of the way

asap because it's "sandwiched" between Test 2 and Test 3. This is an assignment that is independent of lectures, so you can be working on it any time.

INFORMATION ABOUT COURSE ASSESSMENTS:

TESTS:

ALL TESTS WILL BE IN-PERSON ONLY.

Photo ID (YU-card preferable) is required to write all tests.

There will be 3 non-cumulative in-person 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 the content from "Research Examples" and "Boxes" that can be found in most chapters. Nevertheless, reading these sections might help you better understand the chapter content.

Missed Tests and Make-Up Test Session:

Students with a documented reason for missing a test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is **confirmed by supporting documentation**, may request accommodation from the course director.

If you miss a test for medical reasons, your physician must complete an **Attending Physician Statement** which can be found on eClass or at:

<http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf> 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 teaching assistant by email NO LATER THAN 48 HOURS after the test and COPY ME ON THAT EMAIL (jubis@yorku.ca). Failure to do so will render you ineligible to write a make-up test. There will be ONE make-up session at the end of the term for any student who missed a test (details available at a later date).

IMPORTANT: IF YOU MISS MORE THAN ONE TEST, YOU WILL BE ASSIGNED A 0% FOR THE SECOND MISSED TEST.

Please note that make-up tests are not necessarily the same as the original tests.

TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignment #1 – posted on Tues, May 17 and due by noon on Thurs, May 19

Assignment #2 – posted on Tues, May 31 and due by noon on Thurs, June 2

Assignment #3 – already posted and due by noon on Tues, June 14

You must work on these assignments independently. The use of online “learning” and assignment-completion services is prohibited, and if used, will be considered cheating.

There will be a penalty for late submission.

For Assignments #1 and 2, you will be required to “put into practice” some of the research concepts that we have covered in class. Assignment #3 will 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 prerecorded library workshop will be posted as soon as it’s available.

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Let me start off by saying that, not only can this be a challenging course, but it is also condensed. For these reasons, it’s important to keep up with readings and seek help right away if you are having difficulty understanding material. I strongly encourage you to attend in-person lectures.

All lectures will be in-person, but pre-recorded Zoom lectures will still be available on eClass. However, **pre-recorded lectures should not be considered a substitute for attending in-person lectures.** The specific topics covered in a pre-recorded lecture will be indicated directly below the lecture link.

Each eClass “topic box” will correspond to a particular text book 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 recorded 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, you can meet in person or via Zoom. If you need to meet with me, we can do so after the lecture (just give me advance warning). 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

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 June 6.

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Summer 2022 Important Dates](#)

	S1
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	May 13
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	May 20
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	June 6
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)	June 7-20

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) 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 A STUDENT WITH ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION, YOU SHOULD SCHEDULE ALL TESTS WITH STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES IMMEDIATELY.

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 2030A 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](#).