

**Faculty of Health**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**PSYC 2030 3.0 C: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS**  
**Friday/11:30-14:30/Vari Hall C**  
**Fall/2022-2023**

---

This course is scheduled to take place in-person. Should there be any changes to public health recommendations that affect the in-person delivery of this course, we will be moving to an online format. Classroom attendance is not mandatory, as there are no evaluation components that take place in the classroom, but it is strongly encouraged.

**Instructor and T.A. Information**

Instructor: Dr. Jorida Cila  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Email: [joridac@yorku.ca](mailto:joridac@yorku.ca)

|                           |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| <b>T.A.</b>               | <b>George Tomou</b>                                  | <b>Shaochen Huang</b>                                  |
| <b>Email</b>              | <a href="mailto:gtomou@yorku.ca">gtomou@yorku.ca</a> | <a href="mailto:shuang5@yorku.ca">shuang5@yorku.ca</a> |
| <b>Office Hours</b>       | By appointment                                       | By appointment   |
| <b>Student last names</b> | A – Lav  | Law – Z  |

**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:** [eClass](#)

Course materials will be available on the course eClass site, including syllabus, lecture slides, and term paper instructions.

**Course Description**

This course will introduce students to the scientific method and various forms of research design, including various experimental and non-experimental approaches. The strengths and weaknesses of these different approaches to research will be discussed. You will also learn how to locate empirical psychological research reports, comprehend them, and evaluate them critically. Specifically, students will learn how to evaluate different forms of measurement, understand issues pertaining to sampling and sample size, and evaluate the ethical issues surrounding a research study. A good grasp of research methods will prove helpful throughout your studies, in particular for those courses that involve writing research papers.

## **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**

1. Locate peer-reviewed research using a variety of sources (e.g., PSYCInfo, Web of Science, Google Scholar)
2. Synthesize information from published research papers
3. Identify hypotheses, operational definitions of variables, research design and/or measurement strategy from research examples
4. Create hypotheses, operational definitions, research design, and measurement strategy for a given research question
5. Write a research proposal on a topic of interest

## **Required Text**

The following textbook is required in the “Connect” version, which is required for this course, as weekly SmartBook assignments will be held on Connect. You can purchase either a hard copy or the eBook version, provided that you also purchase a Connect access code. You can purchase the book either through the York University Bookstore or directly through the publisher’s website: <https://www.mheducation.ca/methods-in-behavioural-research-9781259654770-can-group>

Cozby, P. C., Mar, R. A., & Rawn, C. D. (2020). *Methods in behavioural research* (3rd Canadian ed.). McGraw-Hill Ryerson. ISBN: 125965477X · 9781259654770

## Course Requirements and Assessment:

| Assessment                         | Date of Evaluation                                | Weighting   |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Smartbook assignments (on Connect) | Various   | 20%         |
| TCPS 2 Tutorial on Research Ethics | September 30, 2022                                | 5%          |
| Draft of research proposal         | October 17, 2022                                  | 8%          |
| Test 1                             | October 21, 2022                                  | 20%         |
| Research proposal                  | November 21, 2022                                 | 25%         |
| Test 2                             | December 2, 2022                                  | 20%         |
| URPP                               | December 13 (Dec 10 for paper stream – see below) | 2%          |
| <b>Total</b>                       |   | <b>100%</b> |

### Description of Assignments

**SmartBook Assignments (20%):** As a student in this course, you will be required to login to the Connect portal provided by the textbook publisher, McGraw-Hill in order to complete weekly SmartBook Assignments. These assignments offer an adaptive learning experience, and therefore are a great way to enhance your learning. A total of 10 SmartBook assignments are planned for this course (each worth 2%). Individual deadlines are available on the Connect platform. These assignments are not timed, so you can take as long as you need to complete them. As long as you complete the entire assignment, you will receive the maximum 2 marks per assignment, independent of how many answers you get correct. Please note that there will be no extensions or make-up options for these assignments, and they should be completed independently.

**TCPS2 Tutorial (5%):** 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. Once you complete the modules, you will be provided with an online certificate. Please upload this certificate on eClass by the due date to receive credit. If you have completed this tutorial for another class or lab work and your certificate was issued no earlier than September 30, 2021, you can submit your existing certificate for full credit. If your uploaded certificate was issued before September 30, 2021, you will receive a zero for this assignment. You can access the tutorial here: <https://www.tcps2core.ca/welcome>

**Research proposal (33%):** Please note that this assignment has two parts, each with a different deadline: a draft of your research proposal (8%) will be submitted first for TA feedback, followed by the final paper (25%) which should incorporate the received feedback.

For your term paper, you are free to choose a topic of interest, provided the topic is psychological in nature (if in doubt about your topic, consult with me or your TA). You are expected to work on a research proposal, which includes a thorough literature review, and a proposal for an experimental, quasi-experimental, or longitudinal study. The paper needs to be prepared following APA’s Publication Manual, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. It is very important to remember that all work submitted needs to be in your own words. Final papers will be submitted through Turnitin, a plagiarism-detection software. It is recommended you submit your final paper as a PDF file, as eClass does not always retain the formatting of Word files. Detailed instructions for the paper will be provided at a later date.

**Test 1 (20%):** Test 1 will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions and will take place during regular class time. The test will be based on the textbook and lecture materials.

**Test 2 (20%):** Test 2 is not cumulative (i.e., you will not be tested on material covered in Test 1). The test will take place during the last class on December 2, and the test will have the same format as Test 1.

**URPP (2%):** As part of the evaluation for this course, you will be asked to participate in studies through the Undergraduate Research Participant Pool (URPP). The URPP opens on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and you will need to sign up in order to be able to participate in eligible studies. The URPP closes on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – this is the last day you can participate in studies to earn credits toward this course. You can participate in either online or lab studies. Lab studies are worth an extra 0.5 credits. You can earn your 2 credits by participating in online studies, lab studies, or a combination of the two. The URPP will be providing more detailed information at a later date. Those students who do not wish to participate in the URPP, will have the option to sign-up for the paper-stream option. If you want to sign up for the Paper Stream you need to do so by October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and the paper needs to be submitted by December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. More information on the paper-stream option will be provided by the URPP at a later date.

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

Class attendance is not mandatory for this course, though it is strongly encouraged.

### **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 2022-23](#)

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

**Late submissions for the draft of your research proposal** will be accepted up until two days after the deadline, subject to a 5% penalty per day. **Late submissions for the final paper** will be subject to a 5% penalty per day, and will be accepted up until 7 days past the deadline (subject to a 35% penalty). If you find yourself in a situation where you cannot turn in your paper on time because of extreme circumstances, you must contact the course instructor right away. These situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis, and the determination of whether or not points are deducted will be left to the discretion of the instructor.

**If you miss Test 1 or Test 2**, you MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office:

<https://psychology.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=16179>

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. At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician's

Statement (APS) is not required, however, a **valid reason** for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided. If the test falls on a religious holiday you observe, you must inform the instructor via email no later than October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. Please note that there will be only one opportunity for a make-up test. If you miss the make-up test, you will receive a zero for that test.

### Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2022-23 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. 20         | Sept. 20           | Jan. 22             |
| Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)               | Oct. 4           | Oct. 25            | Feb. 6              |
| Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)          | Nov. 11          | Feb. 10            | Mar. 17             |
| Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below) | Nov. 12 - Dec. 7 | Feb. 11 - April 11 | March 18 - April 11 |

### 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

The final paper will be submitted on eClass through the plagiarism detection software Turnitin. More information on the paper and Turnitin will be provided in class. Please note that suspected cases of plagiarism will be dealt with following procedures outlined in the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty (see section below).

### Electronic Device Policy

Laptops in class should be used for note-taking purposes only. Did you know that research has found that multi-tasking with a laptop (e.g., taking notes while also searching the web) results in poorer course grades, not just for the person doing the multi-tasking but for those sitting behind and within view of the screen. Be considerate to others and do not multi-task if you choose to use a laptop. Along similar lines, if someone's laptop-use is distracting you, feel free to ask him/her to stop. Use of cellphones is not allowed during lectures. If you must use your phone during a lecture, please leave the classroom to do so.

### **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 2030 C 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](#).

### Course Schedule

|                     |  |                        |
|---------------------|--|------------------------|
| <b>September 9</b>  | Intro to the course &<br>What is scientific research and why do we need it?  | Chapters 1 & 2         |
| <b>September 16</b> | Ethics in psychological research & conducting<br>literature search           | Chapter 3 & Appendix D |
| <b>September 23</b> | Fundamentals of Research & Measurement                                       | Chapters 4 & 5         |
| <b>September 30</b> | Observational Methods & Qualitative Methods                                  | Chapter 6              |
| <b>October 7</b>    | Survey Research & Draft proposal   | Chapter 7              |
|                     | <b><i>No class – Reading week (Oct 8 – 14)</i></b>                           |                        |
| <b>October 21</b>   | <b>Test 1 (in-class)</b>   |                        |
| <b>October 28</b>   | Experimental design  | Chapter 8              |
| <b>November 4</b>   | Conducting studies & Research paper discussion                               | Chapter 9 & Appendix A |
| <b>November 11</b>  | Complex experimental designs & Research designs<br>for special circumstances | Chapters 10 & 11       |
| <b>November 18</b>  | Descriptive statistics & Final words on research paper                       | Chapter 12             |
| <b>November 25</b>  | Inferential statistics & Generalizing results                                | Chapters 13 & 14       |
| <b>December 2</b>   | <b>Test 2 (in-class)</b>   |                        |