

**Faculty of Health  
Department of Psychology  
PSYC 2030 3.0 (M)  
INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS  
Winter 2023**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

**This document contains two sections. Section I contains information compiled and disseminated by the Department of Psychology. All rules, regulations, and procedures in this section apply to and will be strictly enforced in PSYC2030 (A). Section II contains information specific to PSYC2030 (M), with K. Phillips.**

**SECTION I: DEPARTMENTAL COURSE OUTLINE**

**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:** \*\*\*\*

**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.

**Topics Covered**

- Basics of the scientific method
- Finding scientific articles
- Understanding the methods in a scientific article
- Samples and populations
- Measurement (reliability, validity, measurement error)
- Basics of descriptive & inferential statistics
- Case studies
- Observational studies (naturalistic & participant)
- Correlational survey studies
- Basics of experimental & quasi-experimental designs
- Experimental control (threats to internal and external validity)
- Research ethics and questionable research practices

**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 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

For a full description of York grading system see the following:

<https://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2022-2023/grades-and-grading-schemes>

## Late Work/Missed Tests or Exam

For any missed tests or late assignments, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. Reason(s) 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 test/assignment.

**\*\*\*\*Make- up opportunities will be provided ONLY FOR THE FINAL EXAM (not missed midterms). See Section II for specific policies in PSYC2030 taught by K. Phillips.**

## Add/Drop Deadlines- Important Dates

For a list of all important dates please refer to: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/2022-2023/fall-winter>

	<b>Fall (F)</b>	<b>Year (Y)</b>	<b>Winter (W)</b>
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. 24Feb. 6	
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 11	Feb. 10	March 17
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a "W" on the transcript )	Nov. 12- Dec. 7	Feb.11- April 11	March 18- April 11

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.

## 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 the instructor 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 PSY3420 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.](#)

## SECTION II: COURSE OUTLINE FOR PSY2030 (M)

**Course Director:** K. Phillips, Ph.D.

Rm. 253 BSB

Office Hours: Fridays 10:30 - 11:30

e-mail: [phillips@yorku.ca](mailto:phillips@yorku.ca)

\*\*\*\*you MUST put the course number in the subject line for all e-mail communications and use your York account\*\*\*\*

**Teaching Assistants:** *For students with last names A-L*

Kristina Cordeiro ( [krismc85@yorku.ca](mailto:krismc85@yorku.ca) )

*For students with last names M-Z*

Mariami Bimm ( [mkhou3@yorku.ca](mailto:mkhou3@yorku.ca) )

**Class Time and Location:** Fridays 11:30-2:30, Vari Hall C

**Required Text:** Rosnow, R.L. & Rosenthal, R. (2012). *Beginning behavioral research: A conceptual primer* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Pearson Prentice Hall

### Course Description:

This course will provide a comparative analysis and critical evaluation of the major methodologies employed by researchers in the behavioural sciences including: observational techniques, surveys and questionnaires, correlational methods, and experimentation. Important considerations in the design of research studies such as ethics, sampling procedures, reliability and validity of psychological measures, and the interplay between theory and data will be addressed.

**Procedures:** Classes will meet for lectures of approximately 2.5 hours. The balance of the sessions will comprise informal discussions or (in-class) tutorials. In-class tutorials are designed to supplement various topical areas and will provide additional opportunities for questions and discussion. Students are advised to read assigned materials and prepare questions concerning problematic material in advance of the tutorials. The TAs will also be available for individual consultation by appointment. Students are advised to check eClass frequently for course announcements

**Evaluation:** Evaluation is based on 2 written assignments, one midterm exam, weekly experiential learning participation exercises and a final exam weighted as follows:

Assignment 1	10%	Assignment 2	15%
Midterm	30%	Final Exam	35%
Participation	10%		

Exams will be non-overlapping in terms of course content and will consist of multiple-choice and TF items based on the text material, lectures, films, and tutorial presentations. There will be no make up tests for missed midterms. In the event that the midterm is missed for legitimate reasons (and supporting documentation is provided), students will write a cumulative final exam covering ALL course materials, the structure of which is determined by the course director. Students who miss the Midterm waive the right to have graded feedback prior to the drop date. A grade of 0 will be assigned to a missed midterm in instances where students fail to provide appropriate supporting documentation. TAs must be notified of absence within 48 hrs. of the midterm. A grade of 0 will be assigned to missed midterms in instances where students fail to provide appropriate supporting documentation. The Participation component is based on submitted responses to reflection questions and exercises posted weekly. *The deadline for reflection submissions is noon on Sunday following each class (no exceptions).*

All students must write the Final Exam. Opportunities to write a Final Exam make up will be provided only to those students with legitimate reasons and appropriate supporting documentation. Deferred final exams are held on a single common date. No individualized testing opportunities will be available.

\*\*\*\*There is an opportunity for all students in PSYC2030 to earn a bonus 2% through participation in the URPP. See details on eClass under Syllabus.

**ALL TESTS AND EXAMS WILL BE DELIVERED ON-LINE** to minimize close physical contact between students, contact with exam papers etc.

**Grading:** As noted in Section 1, the grading scheme for this course will conform to the 9-point grading system outlined in the York University Undergraduate Calendar. With increasing frequency, students have requested grade adjustments at the end of term, in service of enhancing their GPA standings. Grade adjustments, when warranted, will be applied to ALL students in the class, rather than on an individual basis. This practice is designed to ensure fairness.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

- January 13: Introduction (Chapter 1)
- January 20: Paradigms, Theories and Data (Chapter 2)
- January 27: Ethics in Psychological Research (Chapter 3 text and the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct which may be found on the APA website at: <https://www.apa.org/ethics/code/ethics-code-2017.pdf>  
\*\*Students should download and peruse this document prior to lecture.
- February 3: Methods of Measurement (Chapters 4 & 5)  
**Tutorial : Scaling**
- February 10: **ONLINE Library Tutorial:** Using PsycInfo and other databases (guest librarian)  
Assignment 1 will be distributed. **Due date: February 17, 11:30am.** Late assignments will be penalized 2 raw score points per day.
- February 17: Reliability and Validity (Chapter 6)
- February 24: READING WEEK- no classes**
- March 3: **MIDTERM**
- March 10: The Experiment I: Logic (Chapters 7 & 8)
- March 17:** The Experiment II: Research Designs (Chapters 7 & 8)  
**Tutorial: Variables and Confounds**
- March 24: Correlational Techniques (Chapter 11)  
**Chi Square Tutorial** Assignment 2 will be distributed. **Due date April 2, 11:59am.**  
Late assignments will be penalized 2 raw score points per day.
- March 31: Survey Research (Chapter 9)
- April 7: Making Inferences (Chapter 12)
- April 12-27: FINAL EXAM PERIOD**