

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 2030 3.0A: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS (Fall 2023)
Mondays, 8:30-11:30am in Vari Hall - C

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.

You can get instant access to your text through **York University's Day1Digital E-Book Program**. You can find that link and instructions on eClass.

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
Reliability and validity – see Chapter 4, pages 101-105 only.

Material for Test 3

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, Appendix A in text)
Chapter 2 - Ethics in Psychological Research

COURSE ASSESSMENTS:

Test 1	Oct 16	25%	Chap 5 ,6, 7
Assignment #1	due Oct 30 by 11:00pm	10%	
Test 2	Nov 13	25%	Chap 8, 9,10, sampling (Chap 4, pg 94-96); reliability/validity (Chat 4, pg 101-105)
Assignment #2 (in-class)	Nov 20	18%	
Test 3	Dec 4	20%	Chap 12, 1, 2, 3, research reports (pg 384-394, Appendix A)
URPP		2%	

Deadline to notify your TA that you want to discuss/view tests/assignments - Dec 4

INFORMATION ABOUT COURSE ASSESSMENTS:

TESTS:

ALL TESTS ARE 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.

DETAILS ABOUT MISSING A TEST

If you miss a test, it must be for a valid reason and you must have appropriate documentation to support your absence.

If you miss a test for medical reasons, your physician must complete an **Attending Physician’s Statement (APS)** which can be found at:

<http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf> (or downloaded from eClass). To be deemed valid, it must contain the **doctor’s signature, office stamp** and be **dated close to the time** of illness. **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) NO LATER THAN 48 HOURS AFTER THE TEST. (If you fail to do so, you will not be eligible to write a make-up test).**

***As soon as you have obtained your completed APS, email it to your TA and copy me on that email (jubis@yorku.ca).**

***If you miss a second test, you will be given 0% for that test.**

THERE WILL BE ONE SESSION FOR MAKE-UP TESTS AT THE END OF THE TERM and details will be provided at a later time.

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

ASSIGNMENTS:

A) ASSIGNMENT #1: TAKE-HOME LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT (Oct 30; worth 10%)

This assignment is already posted. You’ll need to search for peer-reviewed journal articles/books using assigned key words. To prepare you, a pre-recorded library workshop conducted by a research librarian will be posted. The assignment is due by 11pm on Oct 30 but you might want to get it out of the way asap before things get busy. This assignment is independent of lectures so you can complete it any time.

B) ASSIGNMENT #2: IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENT (Nov 20; worth 18%)

Owing to the rampant use of prohibited online sources/services in recent years, this assignment will now be completed in class. You are able to bring notes and text material to class, but cell phones and computers are prohibited. The assignment will require you to apply information that you learned from Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 (correlations). Given that you will have already studied

and been tested on this material, you should be well-prepared to complete the assignment. I will be providing hints about the type of questions to expect at a later date.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PARTICIPATION POOL (URPP)

There are two options: research participation or the “paper stream” option.

A link to URPP information will be set up on our course website as soon as that information becomes available. It will provide you with instructions about how to register with URPP, important URPP rules, as well as important dates and deadlines.

Research Participation

The Department of Psychology requires that 2030 students earn 2% of their final grade by participating in research or by analyzing a published research report (see below). This research is conducted by faculty and graduate students and has received ethical approval. This 2% is earned by participating in a total of 2 hrs of research. Each hour of participation is worth 1 credit = 1%. If you participate in an in-person study (rather than an online one), you will automatically get an extra .5 credits for that study. If you don't complete the full 2 credits, you will be given marks for what you actually completed.

You are strongly encouraged to partake in this research. Not only does it give you the opportunity to experience what types of studies are conducted in Psychology, but 2% can make a difference in your letter grade! Do not wait until the last minute to participate because your choices might be limited, and all available studies might be filled.

URPP opens on Sept 12 and the last day to participate is Dec 12.

“Paper Stream” Alternative

For this alternative, you must summarize/analyze a published psychology research article that will be assigned to you by the URPP office after you **notify them of your preference for this option**. You can earn up to 2% but the actual grade that you will receive will depend upon the quality of your paper.

IMPORTANT: If you choose this option, you must notify URPP (urpp@yorku.ca) of your choice by Oct 16. The due date for the paper is Dec 5.

It is your responsibility to ensure that URPP has assigned you the proper credits (you can simply check your URPP account), and report any discrepancies to urpp@yorku.ca directly.

Be sure to provide your **correct course section** when you register with URPP. Otherwise, you will not receive credit for your participation because they won't recognize you.

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Lectures will be in-person and there will not be any posted lecture recordings. Each eClass “topic box” will correspond to a particular text book chapter and within each topic box you will find a pdf file of printable lecture notes that pertains to the chapter. However, **these lecture notes should not be considered a substitute for attending in-person lectures.** I will not be covering every single thing that’s covered in the text, but the majority of test questions will be from material that I lectured on. Nevertheless, I would strongly advise you to read the assigned chapters and to not rely solely on lecture notes.

For some chapters, optional practice exercises are posted.

Zoom meetings:

Should you need to meet with your TA, you can meet in person or via Zoom. However, if you want to view your tests/assignments, it must be in-person and you will have to provide photo ID. 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:

Tests/assignments will be assigned a numerical value (%) but the final grade will be assigned a letter grade that follows the university system: 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 Nov 8.

<https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/2023-2024/fall-winter>

	Fall (F)	Year (Y)	Winter (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept 20	Sept 20	Jan. 22
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept 28	Sept 28	Jan 21
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 8	Feb. 8	March 11
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 9- Dec. 5	Feb. 9 – April 8	March 12- April 8

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 A DOCUMENTED DISABILITY AND HAVE SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS, YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY SCHEDULE ALL TESTS AND THE IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENT WITH THE ALTERNATIVE EXAMS CENTER to ensure that everything is in place when the time comes.

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 this course at York University and are the intellectual property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. **You are forbidden to post any of my course materials on any information-sharing site.**

I am the copyright holder for all slides and course recordings. Students do not have permission to duplicate, copy and/or distribute the recordings outside of the class (these acts can violate not only copyright laws but also [FIPPA](#) and intellectual property rights).

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](#).

Calumet and Stong Colleges' Student Success Programming:

[Calumet](#) and [Stong](#) Colleges aim to support the success of Faculty of Health students through a variety of **free programs** throughout their university career:

- [Orientation](#) helps new students transition into university, discover campus resources, and establish social and academic networks.
- [Peer Mentoring](#) connects well-trained upper-year students with first year and transfer students to help them transition into university.
- [Course Representative Program](#) supports the academic success and resourcefulness of students in core program courses through in-class announcements.
- [Peer-Assisted Study Sessions \(PASS\)](#) involve upper-level academically successful and well-trained students who facilitate study sessions in courses that are historically challenging.
- [Peer Tutoring](#) offers one-on-one academic support by well-trained Peer Tutors.
- Please connect with your Course Director about any specific academic resources for this class.
- Calumet and Stong Colleges also support students' [Health & Wellness](#), [leadership and professional skills development](#), [student/community engagement and wellbeing](#), [Career Exploration](#), [Indigenous Circle](#), [awards and recognition](#), and [provide opportunities to students to work or volunteer](#).
- For additional resources/information about Calumet and Stong Colleges' Student Success Programs, please consult our websites ([Calumet College](#); [Stong College](#)), email scchelp@yorku.ca, and/or follow us on Instagram ([Calumet College](#); [Stong College](#)), Facebook ([Calumet College](#); [Stong College](#)) and [LinkedIn](#).

Are you receiving our weekly email (Subject: "Calumet and Stong Colleges - Upcoming events")? If not, please check your Inbox and Junk folders, and if it's not there then please contact ccscadm@yorku.ca, and request to be added to the listserv. Also, make sure to add your 'preferred email' to your [Passport York personal profile](#) to make sure you receive important news and information.