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HH/PSYC2030 A - Introduction to Research Methods (Fall 2015-2016)

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Course Outline

Psychology 2030 3.0

Introduction to Research Methods

Calendar description: An introduction to the use of experimental and non-experimental research methods by psychologists in the study of behaviour. Topics such as research design, external and internal validity, sources of bias, APA style and ethics are considered.

Section A addendum: Our emphasis will be on learning to read and analyze published accounts of research in Psychology. We will consider a wide range of topics under the heading of research methods, including work that is historical and conceptual in nature.

Instructors

Course Director: Ron Sheese, S342 Ross Building, rsheese@yorku.ca

Teaching Assistant: Sarah Ritvo, sarah.ritvo@gmail.com

Discussion Facilitator: Samantha Examé

Required reading

Textbook:

Coolican, H. & Kelly, O. (2015). *Research Methods in Psychology*, Canadian Edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Articles:

[Allport, G.](#) (1940). The psychologist's frame of reference. *Psychological Bulletin*, 37(1), 1-28

[DeLoache, J. S., Miller, K. F. & Rosengren, K. S.](#) (1997). The credible shrinking room: Very young children's performance with symbolic and nonsymbolic relations. *Psychological Science*, 8(4), 308-313.

[Gergen, K. J., Josselson, R., & Freeman, M.](#) (2015). The promises of qualitative inquiry. *American Psychologist*, 70(1), 1-9.

Course Reading Schedule

The course will be organized into three sections with an exam at the conclusion of each section. These sections are as follows:

September 10 – October 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 in the textbook *and* the Allport article.

October 1 – November 12: Chapters 14, 5, 6, 7, 8 in the textbook *and* two articles including the one by DeLoache, Miller, & Rosengren and the one by Gergen, Josselson, & Freeman.

November 12 – December 3: Chapters 9, 10, 12, 13, 15 in the textbook.

The specific material to be discussed in each week's class will be announced and posted on the website at least one week in advance.

Course Format

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The course meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm. We will typically begin by breaking into small groups for discussion of a set of questions related to the assigned readings. The questions will be available in advance, and each student will write a response on the website discussion forum to at least one of the questions before the class meeting. The small-group discussion will be followed by a lecture/discussion session, which will conclude by 9:30 pm. The Course Director will remain available in the classroom until 10:00 pm to deal with any student questions or concerns that were not addressed in the class.

The Coolican and Kelly book provides a number of resources to help students develop their understanding of the material, including multiple-choice quizzes for each chapter. Students are encouraged to make use of these resources and to bring questions about them to the class meetings. A number of exercises will be assigned during the term in which students will be asked to apply the course material to published psychology articles (or excerpts from articles). Students will work in small groups to prepare an annotated bibliography of psychology articles on a specific topic. The annotations will consist of analytic commentary on the research approaches and methods described in the articles.

Course Evaluation

Course work will be recorded and/or evaluated in each of the following categories and weighted as indicated in assigning the final mark:

- 10% Participation in small-group discussions in class
- 10% Participation in on-line discussion forums
- 10% Completion of assigned exercises
- 10% Annotated bibliography assignment
- 15% Exam 1 on October 1
- 20% Exam 2 on November 12
- 25% Comprehensive Final Exam in exam period (December 9 -23).

The York University grading system, including the generic [letter grade definitions](#) used in the system, is described in the University Calendar.

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