

PSYC 2030C – Introduction to Research Methods

Fall 2014 | Wednesdays 2:30p–5:30p | CLH-G

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Text:	Goodwin, C. J. & Goodwin, K. A. <i>Research in Psychology: Methods and design.</i> (7 th ed.)
Moodle Website:	https://moodle.yorku.ca/
Prerequisites:	AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 2410 6.00, with a minimum grade of C. Prerequisite or corequisite: One of AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2020 6.00, AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2021 3.00, AK/HH/PSYC 2510 3.00.
Credit Exclusions:	ES/ENVS 2010 6.00 (prior to Summer 2003), EN/ENVS 3009 3.00, AS/SC/KINE 2049 4.00, AK/PSYC 2530 3.00 (prior to Summer 2002), GL/PSYC 2520 3.00.

Please read this syllabus closely, both the student and the instructor are expected to follow the policies described in this document.

Learning Objectives

This course will introduce students to the scientific method and various forms of research design, including case studies, correlational, and experimental approaches. The strengths and weaknesses of these different approaches to research will be discussed. At the end of this course, students should be able to locate empirical psychological research reports, comprehend them, and evaluate them critically. More specifically, students will be able to evaluate different forms of measurement, understand issues pertaining to sampling and sample size, be able to apply the concepts for basic statistical tests, and evaluate the ethical issues surrounding a research study.

Evaluation

Assignment	% of Total
<u>6 Weekly Assignments.</u> Assignments will be given at the end of the first 6 lectures, to be completed before the following lecture or whenever else noted. These assignments will include, but are not limited to, completion of online quizzes, small written assignments, and library searches. Altogether, these 6 assignments will be worth 20% of the total, but may differ in individual value.	20%
<u>Term Test 1.</u> All term tests will be composed of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. The majority of the material will be noncumulative, but a small proportion of questions will integrate past material (~20% of the questions). You must bring your York University photo ID to all tests.	30%
<u>Term Test 2.</u>	30%
<u>Last Day to Drop without receiving a grade.</u>	Nov. 7
<u>Term Test 3.</u>	20%

Policy Regarding Assignment and Tests

Late Assignments. Assignments received after the deadline will be given a grade of 0.

Missed Tests. Students who miss a test due to illness or severe distress must **e-mail the instructor and TA within 24 hours**, and follow the Faculty of Health guidelines for missed tests or examination. Exams missed on the ground of medical circumstances must be supported by an Attending Physician's Statement. Also acceptable is a statement by a psychologist or counselor. Students are not expected to disclose the nature of the illness, but the document must specify (1) the date of consultation, (2) contact information for the health provider, and (3) a statement that the student would not have been able to attend class (or write a test/exam) during the relevant period of time. For other types of emergencies, appropriate official documentation must also be provided (e.g., death certificate, obituary notice, automobile accident report; notes from parents and relatives will not be accepted). **The documentation must be dated on the same day of the exam/test or earlier, or it will not be accepted.** This documentation should be placed in the instructor's mailbox (main floor of BSB) and sent as a PDF/JPG via e-mail. **Failure to provide appropriate documentation for a missed test will result in a grade of 0.**

The Attending Physician's Statement can be found here:

<http://psyc.info.yorku.ca/files/2012/11/ps.pdf>

If this missed test is prior to the drop date, regardless of reason, the student has waived the right to have a specific percentage of graded feedback available to them prior to the drop date.

If appropriate documentation is provided, then the other tests may be re-weighted or the student may have to write a make-up test or complete a make-up assignment. Please note that the make-up test or assignment may not resemble the original test, but instead be a series of essay questions or a take-home essay assignment.

Policy Regarding Academic Honesty, Student Conduct, and Accommodations

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards web page: <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.htm>

Further information can be found here:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>

Information on plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty is provided in the Department of Psychology Supplemental Calendar and the York University Academic Integrity web site. See for example: <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.htm>

It is also useful to complete the tutorial on academic integrity:

http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/

Policy Regarding E-mail

The course code (PSYC2030C) must appear in the subject-heading of all e-mails, to prevent messages from being discarded as spam. As well, all e-mails should begin with a salutation or address indicating to whom the message is directed (e.g., "Dr. Mar") and close with your full name and student number (e.g., "John Smith, 211995552"). Please format your e-mails properly, if you expect them to be answered. Students can expect a response to a legitimate inquiry within 48 hours, not including weekends. If you don't receive a reply in this time period, please re-send your message.

Please read the syllabus closely before asking a question via e-mail. Questions that are answered in the syllabus will be given low priority.

Resources

A number of important resources are available to students of the York University.

Most directly relevant to this course is the Writing Center. For details, please visit their website: <http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/centre/>

As well, the university offers both academic and crisis counseling services. For details, please visit the Counseling and Development Centre website: <http://www.yorku.ca/cds/>

Students who feel that there are extenuating circumstances that may interfere with the successful completion of any course requirements are encouraged to discuss the matter with the Course Director as soon as possible to make appropriate arrangements.

Students with physical, learning or psychiatric disabilities who require accommodation in teaching style or evaluation methods should discuss this with the Course Director early in the year so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Course Schedule

Date	Lecture/Reading	Assignment
Sept. 10 Week 1	1: Course Introduction and Overview - Chapter 1	
Sept. 17 Week 2	2: The Scientific Method (in Psychology) - Chapter 1, Chapter 3. Library Tutorial.	Weekly Assignment due
Sept. 24 Week 3	3: Sampling, Measurement, and Descriptive Statistics - Chapter 12 (pp. 417-21; 425-432). Chapter 4 (pp. 111-135).	Weekly Assignment due
Oct. 1 Week 4	4: Inferential Statistics and Research Ethics - Chapter 4 (pp. 135-147), Chapter 2	Weekly Assignment due
Oct. 8 Week 5	Term Test 1	30%
Oct. 15 Week 6	5: Small sample observations, large sample surveys - Chapter 11, Chapter 12 (pp. 403-417; 421-425; 432-439).	Weekly Assignment due
Oct. 22 Week 7	6: Correlational Research - Chapter 9	Weekly Assignment due
Oct. 29 Week 8	* READING WEEK*	
Nov. 5 Week 9	Term Test 2	30%
Nov. 7	Last date to withdraw without receiving a grade	
Nov. 12 Week 10	7: Introduction to Experimental Research - Chapter 5	Weekly Assignment due
Nov. 19 Week 11	8: Controls in experimental research - Chapter 6	
Nov. 26 Week 12	9: Single-Factor and Factorial Experiments - Chapter 7, Chapter 8	
Dec. 3 Week 13	Term Test 3	20%

Grades

For information on grades and GPAs, please visit:
<http://www.yorku.ca/laps/students/gpa.html>

The following allows for conversion between letter-grades and percentages:

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
90-100	A+	Exceptional
80-89	A	Excellent
75- 79	B+	Very Good
70- 74	B	Good
65- 69	C+	Competent
60- 64	C	Fairly Competent
55- 59	D+	Passing
50- 54	D	Marginally Passing
Just below 50	E	Marginally Failing
Below 50	F	Failing