

PSYCHOLOGY 4170 6.0 A, 2015-2016  
**ADVANCED RESEARCH IN PSYCHOLOGY**

**Course Website:** 1) Go to <https://moodle.yorku.ca/>  
2) Log in via Passport York.  
3) Select Psychology HHPSYC 4170A from your courses.

**Time and Place of Lecture:** Wednesdays 7p.m to 10 p.m., R S205

**Instructor:** Paul Kohn, Ph.D. (275 BS; (416)736-2100, X. 66157;  
Email: [pkohn@yorku.ca](mailto:pkohn@yorku.ca); office hours: Wednesday, 5 p.m.-6p.m.)

**Teaching Assistant:** Massimo Di Domenico (268 BS; email: [mdidomen@yorku.ca](mailto:mdidomen@yorku.ca);  
office hours: TBA.)

**Prerequisites:** AK/AS/HH/SCPSYC 1010 6.0 or AK/PSYC 2410 6.0, with a minimum grade of C; AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2030 3.0 or AK/PSYC 2530 3.0 or substitute; AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2020 6.0 or substitutes; AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2020 6.0 or substitutes. Students must be in an Honours Program in Psychology and have completed 84 credits (excluding Education courses).

**Course Credit Exclusions**

AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 4000 6.0, AK/PSYC 4700 3.0, AK/PSYC 4800 6.0, GL/PSYC 4000 6.0.

**COURSE STAFF**

Paul Kohn's current research interests centre on stress and coping, social support and emotional palliation. Previous work has been on cognitive consistency, attitude change and persuasion, authoritarianism and rebelliousness, factors in drug and alcohol use, stimulus-intensity modulation and the therapeutic potential of stand-up comedy training for the mentally ill. His statistical experience beyond the usual (t-tests, ANOVA, correlation and regression, chi-square) includes exploratory factor analysis, parallel analysis, path analysis, confirmatory factor analysis, structural-equation modeling, hierarchical log-linear analysis, and logistic regression. In terms of research design, most of his work has been correlational, including test development and validation, but he has experience with experimentation. Notable areas of *inexperience* include qualitative research (beyond content analysis) and work with children.

Massimo Di Domenico's research interests are broadly focused on the romantic relationships of adolescents. Specifically, his work looks at the occurrence and cause of dating violence during

this period of development in normative, high risk, and clinical populations through a variety of theoretical contexts (ecological, individual, cognitive). His statistical experience includes the usual set of analyses (t-tests, ANOVA, correlation and regression, chi-square) as well as more advanced techniques such as logistic regression and multiple regression. While not an expert, he also has experience with structural equation modelling, exploratory factor analysis, and qualitative analysis. Most of his research has used multiple regression.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ORGANIZATION**

This course has five major objectives:

- 1) to enable students to formulate, plan, execute, analyze, and report independent research;
- 2) to have them produce one completed piece of such work;
- 3) to enable students to assess the research plans and reports of others in a constructively critical way;
- 4) to enable students to deal constructively with such critical input from others;
- 5) to enable students to discuss methodological issues in psychology comfortably, while using the technical vocabulary appropriately.

To ensure achievement of these objectives, we plan to run the course in three overlapping phases:

- 1) development of conceptual and practical background to conduct research and analyze data via textbook, occasional supplementary readings, lectures, minor assignments, and hands-on experience;
- 2) written and oral preparation and presentation of student research proposals for discussion and probable modification;
- 3) execution, analysis, and reporting of research.

Evaluation will be as follows:

Written proposal (second draft)	20%
Exam on Phase I	25%
Final paper	40%
Presentations, assignments, and participation	15% (5% for timely and conscientious completion of otherwise unmarked assignments; 5% for oral presentation; and 5% for SPSS assignments)

Please note that the following conventions apply to transformations of percentage to letter grades and *vice versa*:

### **Conversion Table from Percentage to Letter Grade**

90-100	A+
80- 89	A
75- 79	B+
70- 74	B
65- 69	C+
60- 64	C
55- 59	D+
50- 54	D
40- 49	E Marginally failing
<40	F Failing

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grade-distribution profiles, although this is unlikely.

*Note: The withdrawal deadline for this course is February 5, 2016. To learn of potential financial penalties for course withdrawal, consult the following website: <http://www.yorku.ca/sfs/refunds/tables/>*

### **TEXT**

Cozby, P. C. & Rawn, C. D. (2012). *Methods in behavioural research (Canadian Edition)*. New York: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

Additional readings may be assigned or recommended during the course.

### **Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests**

**Grading:** For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - [http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04\\_5\\_acadinfo.pdf](http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04_5_acadinfo.pdf)

**Assignment Submission:** Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Assignments are to be handed in in class ordinarily and in 101 BS when this is not possible. **Please put your name, your TA's name and your course section on all submitted work.**

**Lateness Penalty:** Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized by 2.5% of the value of the assignment for each day late. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor's letter, death certificate).

**Missed Tests:** Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., if (and only if) confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor's letter, death certificate) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Arrangements for a make-up test should be made with the instructor or TA. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

### **E-mail Etiquette**

The Undergraduate Director of the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Health has requested that Course Directors include a statement on e-mail etiquette in their course outlines. To me, the key issue in student-faculty communication is clarity. If Massimo or I misunderstand what you compose, we can't respond appropriately. This would likely result in a two- or three-round exchange of e-mails in which we attempt to understand so that we can respond appropriately and you attempt to clarify.

You can help the process along by taking the following measures in the first place:

- 1) clearly stating your general purpose in the subject line and including reference to the course;
- 2) keeping your message clear, brief and on point;
- 3) including clear reference to the response you expect, e.g. approval or disapproval of a change of topic for your research project;
- 4) avoiding use of abbreviations and acronyms of the kind commonly used in texting or social media, e.g. LMFAO;
- 5) identifying yourself by full name. (Your first name may not be unique in the course list.)

If you want more detailed suggestions on e-mail etiquette, "industrial strength" ones, which would be suitable for post-graduation career purposes, you could consult the following source: <http://www.businessinsider.com/email-etiquette-rules-everyone-should-know-2014-9?op=1>

### **IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS**

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards:

<http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust20121.pdf>

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards

- Religious Observance Accommodation

They are also expected to hand in a certificate of successful completion of York's Academic integrity tutorial (10 right/10—100% on the final quiz) by Sept. 23, 2015. This tutorial appears online at [http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic\\_integrity/index.html](http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/index.html)

As well, a certificate of successful completion of the Tri-Council Ethics Tutorial is required. by Sept. 30, 2015. The latter tutorial appears online at <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/education/tutorial-didacticiel/>

### Course Topics and Schedule

**Please be sure to secure the following computer accounts by Sept. 23, 2015: FAS computer account and Passport York account.**

**Topic 1: How to get going and why bother** (Sept. 23, 2015; academic integrity certificate due)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby & Rawn, Chapters 1 and 2

**Topic 2: Ethical issues in behavioural research** (Sept. 30, 2015; PsycINFO assignment due)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby & Rawn, Chapter 3

**Topic 3: Psychological measurement** (Oct. 7, 2015; status report due)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby & Rawn, Chapters 4 to 7

**Topic 4: The experimental method** (Oct. 14, 2015; Tri-Council ethics certificate due)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby & Rawn, Chapters 8 to 10

**Topic 5: Writing it up** (Oct. 21, 2015)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby & Rawn, Appendix A

**Topic 6: Choosing statistical methods** (Oct. 28 (first draft of proposal due); Nov 4; Nov. 11, Nov. 18, 2015)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby & Rawn, Chapters 12 and 13, Appendix B

**Topic 7: Sampling: Whom and how many?** (Nov. 25, 2015; final draft proposal due)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby & Rawn, Chapter 7

**Topic 8: Quasi-experiments, small-N studies and developmental research** (Dec. 2, 2015)

*Assigned reading:* Cozby & Rawn, Chapter 11

**Topic 9: Computer analysis of data with SPSS Windows** (HNES B02 lab; Jan. 6, 20, 27; Feb. 3, 2016)

*Assigned reading:* TBA, if any

**In Class Final Exam: Jan. 13, 2016.**

**Student Project Reports and Problem Clinics: Feb. 10, 24; Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2016.**

**Due date for final reports: April 4, 2016.**