

PSYC 3010 (N): INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH METHODS
Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
York University, Winter 2014

Welcome to Intermediate Research Methods!

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Class Time and Location: Thursdays, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm, CC 208

Prerequisites

AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 2410 6.00, with a minimum grade of C; AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2030 3.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 2530 3.00; one of AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2020 6.00, AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2021 3.00, AK/HH/PSYC 2510 3.00. Not open to students who have passed or are taking PSYC 4000, 4170, 4700, or 4800.

Course Calendar Description

This is an intermediate course to provide further experience with the design, execution, analysis, interpretation, and communication of psychological studies. Building on the foundation established in AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2030 3.00, the course further prepares students for many types of advanced research and Honours thesis projects.

Course Learning Objectives

- Prepare students to think critically about and evaluate the validity of conclusions in scientific literature.
- Further students' skills in conducting thorough scientific literature reviews.
- Build on skills from introductory research methods to design a research proposal with testable hypotheses.
- Select and obtain measures, stimulus materials, questionnaires, etc. for research proposal.
- Prepare students to articulate research questions, comments, and evaluations orally and in writing.
- Engage students in collaborative, scientific discussions and critiques of other students' ideas.
- Provide a useful foundation for students intending to complete an Honours thesis or Independent Study.

Required Text

Cozby, P & Rawn, C. (2012). *Methods in Behavioural Research*, 1st Canadian edition. USA: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.



Recommended Text

Mitchell, M., Jolley, J. M., O'Shea, R. P. (2013). *Writing for Psychology*, 4th edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. *This is not a required text but would be very useful for this course and future courses.*

Course Website

Student's Passport York account is required to access the course website (<https://moodle.yorku.ca/>). Please check often!

Evaluation

This course will consist of lectures, textbook readings, discussions, written assignments, and class presentations. Students will be evaluated on the following:

1) Assignment 1:	Research Question & Hypotheses	5%
2) Assignment 2:	Description of Measures of Dependent Variable	10%
3) Assignment 3:	Literature Review	15%
4) Assignment 4:	Oral Presentation of Research Proposal	20%
5) Assignment 5:	Final Written Research Proposal	40%

6) Participation: Attendance, class discussion, small assignments 10%

Grading:

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, etc.). Assignments will have either a letter grade or a corresponding number grade (e.g., A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75-79, etc.) For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar: <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2013-2014/>

General Instructions for Assignments 1, 2, 3, and 5 (70% of final grade):

- A hard copy of all written assignments including a title page must be submitted to the Course Director.
- All written work must be in APA style. Errors in style, grammar, and punctuation will result in deductions.
- Assignment 1 is a description of the research question and hypotheses (1 pg. max).
- Assignment 2 is a description of the measures, questionnaires, etc. that will be used to measure the dependent variable in the research proposal (2 pg. max.). *Psychological tests and measures are available in The Psychology Resource Centre, 1st floor of the BSB: (<http://psycentre.apps01.yorku.ca/drpl/>).*
- Assignment 3 is a literature review (i.e., a synthesis and critical evaluation) of research findings of at least 10 peer-reviewed sources related to the chosen research question (4 pg. max.)
- Assignment 5 is the final proposal including an introduction (revised literature review) and method section (participants, design, materials, measures, and procedure). A hard copy should be submitted to the Course Director and an electronic copy should be submitted to *Turnitin* on Moodle (5-pg. max.). Please note that you can only submit to *Turnitin* once.

General Instructions for Assignment 4 - Oral Presentation (20% final grade):

- Each oral presentation will be 20 minutes (15 minutes to present, 5 minutes for questions and discussion).
- Presentations will be stopped at the 15-minute mark so it is important to do timed practices.
- Each student will provide written feedback on their classmate's presentations, which will contribute to each their Class Participation grade.

Class Participation (10% of final grade):

Students will be required to sign the attendance sheet and participate in class discussions, small tasks for classes (e.g., online tutorials), and peer evaluations in order to receive full participation marks. For each class missed without a valid reason (i.e., debilitating illness with supporting documentation), 1% will be deducted from the total class participation.

Assignment Submission

Assignments must be submitted to the Course Director on the due date specified. **Late assignments will be penalized 2% per day late.** Exceptions may be made for valid reasons (as described under Class Participation).

Religious Observance Policy

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs of all members of the community and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for in-class examinations pose such a conflict for you, contact the Course Director within the first three weeks of class.

Senate Policy on Academic Honesty

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offenses. Students are urged to read the section on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty in the Academic Calendar. Any case of suspected academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures and regulations set down by the University Senate. Please review policies here: <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69> and here: <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.htm>.

York University Student Rights and Responsibilities

Please review the code here: <http://www.yorku.ca/oscr/pdfs/CodeofRightsandResponsibilities.pdf>

Policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities (whether physical, medical, systemic, learning or psychiatric) may need accommodation in teaching style, evaluation methods, and other course requirements. Students are encouraged to notify the Course Director of their needs in a timely manner to arrange for academic accommodation. Please review the following: <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=68>.

DATE	TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS, TESTS	READINGS*
Jan. 9, 2014	Introduction to the Scientific Process & Studying Behaviour Discuss Assignment 1 <i>**Be prepared to discuss research ideas for Assignment 1 next class.</i>	Ch.1, 2, & 4 (Cozby & Rawn)
Jan. 16, 2014	Measurement & Conducting Experiments Informal discussion of research ideas Sign up for in-class presentation dates (Assignment 4) <i>**Download and review Section 8, Research and Publication of APA Code of Ethics http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx for class.</i>	Ch. 5 & 9 (Cozby & Rawn)
Jan. 23, 2014	Ethics in Research Discuss Assignment 2 <i>**Assignment 1 Due</i> <i>**Complete tutorial at http://tcps2core.ca/. Hand in certificate next class.</i>	Ch. 3 (Cozby & Rawn) Section 8 (APA Code)
Jan. 30, 2014	Types of Research: Observational, Survey, Single-Case, Quasi-Experimental and Developmental Discuss Assignment 3 <i>**Complete APA Tutorial:</i> <i>http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx</i> <i>**Certificate from TCPS due</i>	Ch. 6, 7, 11 (Cozby & Rawn)
Feb. 6, 2014	Experimental Design <i>**Assignment 2 Due</i>	Ch. 8 & 10 (Cozby & Rawn)
Feb. 13, 2014	Understanding Results Discuss Assignment 4	Ch. 12 & 13 (Cozby & Rawn)
Feb. 20, 2014	No Class: Reading Week	
Feb. 27, 2014	Generalizing Results <i>**Assignment 3 Due</i>	Ch. 14 & Appendix A (Cozby & Rawn)
Mar. 6, 2014	In-Class Presentations	
Mar. 7, 2014	Last Day to Withdraw from Course Without Receiving a Grade http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/	
Mar. 13, 2014	In-Class Presentations	
Mar. 20, 2014	In-Class Presentations	
Mar. 27, 2014	In-Class Presentations	
Apr. 3, 2014	TBA <i>**Assignment 5 Due</i>	Review Appendix A (Cozby & Rawn)

*Supplementary Readings will be supplied in class or on the course website.

**Assignment or due date