

**YORK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, FACULTY OF HEALTH
PSYCHOLOGY 3010 3.0 O: INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH METHODS
WINTER 2014**

Lectures: Wednesday, 19:00 – 22:00, in B10, HNE

Course director: Xin(Reno) Zheng, PhD

Office: to be announced

Office hours: by appointment

Email: xzheng@yorku.ca

Phone number: to be announced; cell, 289-407-6467 (emergency only)

Secretary: Agnes Levstik, BSB 281

Office: 281 BSB

Email: alevstik@yorku.ca

Phone number: 416-736-5125 (voicemail)

Textbook: Any undergraduate textbook on Research Design and Methods

Recommended: American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th Ed.)*. Washington, DC: APA. There are two copies on reserve at Scott Library.

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. NCR note: No credit will be retained for this course for students who have successfully completed or who are currently enrolled in AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 4000 6.00, AS/SC/PSYC 4170 6.00, AK/HH/PSYC 4700 3.00, or AK/HH/PSYC 4800 6.00.

Course Description

Based on the knowledge that you had acquired previously in PSYC 2030, this intermediate research course will provide you with an opportunity to design a research project of your own interest. As a result, students will gain first-hand experience with the processes involved in conducting scientific research, starting with the formulation of a research question and finishing with the communication of research findings. The course is writing-intensive and will prepare students for their Honours thesis projects and potentially for their future graduate work.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Develop a testable research question
- Conduct a critical analysis of the literature on a research topic
- Design an adequate research project to address a research question
- Develop an ethics protocol that meets Tri-council ethical standards
- Use SPSS to analyze data, and write a Results section in APA style.
- Demonstrate the ability to present research orally and to constructively critique the work of peers

- Write a research proposal (including Introduction, Methods, Planned Analyses, and Discussion) in APA style

Evaluation

Assignment #1 (due Jan. 22): 5%

Assignment #2 (due Feb. 5): 10%

Assignment #3 (due Feb. 26): 20%

Presentation of research proposal: 20%

- 5% for the presentation handout (due the Sunday before the presentation date)
- 15% for the oral presentation and the handling of the questions from the audience

Written proposal/research package (due April 4): 40%

- 10% for REB application, an informed consent form, a debriefing statement and successfully completing a Tri-council TCPS-2 Core ethics tutorial
- 30% for the written research proposal

Class participation: 5%

Assignments (35%)

Assignment #1: Develop a testable research question

Assignment #2: Analysis of literature on the research topic (must include at least 10 references).

(Note that this can be used later as the Introduction of your final written research proposal)

Assignment #3: Use SPSS to analyze data and report results in APA format.

Presentation (20%)

1. Each student has 15 minutes to give a PowerPoint presentation on their research topic, followed by a 5 – 10 minute Q & A session. The performance will be evaluated based on the quality of the presentation as well as how well a presenter answers the questions.
2. Each presenter is required to pick at least two questions raised during the presentation, and discuss them in his/her final written proposal.
3. In order for the rest of the class to become familiar with the research topic that will be presented and to think about what questions to ask during the presentation, a presentation outline must be submitted the Sunday prior to the presentation date.
4. After viewing the presentation outlines, each student has the option to submit his/her questions at the beginning of a class. Please note that submitting questions is NOT required, but is only offered as another way to get students involved in class discussion, especially considering that there may not be enough time for every student to express his/her ideas during the lecture.

Written Proposal/Research Package (40%)

The proposal will consist of a literature review, research question(s), hypotheses, a detailed description of the method, a description of how you plan to analyze the data, anticipated results, discussion of the issues raised by the audience during the oral presentation, the implication of the research, and references cited in the proposal. In addition, the whole package should also include a completed *Department of Psychology/Faculty of Health Ethics FORM 2: Individualized Research Protocol* (<http://www.psych.yorku.ca/ethics>), an informed consent form, and a debriefing statement. Students are also required to complete the Tri-council TCPS-2 Core ethics tutorial (<http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/education/tutorial-didacticiel/>) and to submit a proof that the tutorial is successfully completed.

Assignment Submission and Lateness Penalty

All the work (assignments, presentation handout, and final research proposal) **must** be handed in **no later than the due date** to either course director or to Agnes Levstik (secretary). Any work received later than the due date will be penalized (10% of the value of the work for the first day and 5% for any subsequent day). Extensions **may** only be given in extreme circumstances (e.g., illness) and need to be supported with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note). Please also remember to keep a copy (electronic or photocopy) of the submitted work.

Last date to drop courses without receiving a grade: March 7, 2014

Additional Considerations

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information.

- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty:
<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>
- Academic Accommodation for students with disabilities
<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=68>
- Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities:
<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=202>
- Senate Policy on Research Involving Human Participants
<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=94>
- Senate Policy on Religious Observance
<https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs>

Course Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture Topic</i>	<i>Task to do</i>
Jan. 8	Introduction, review of research process, developing research ideas	Develop research questions, while reviewing literature (Assignment 1)
Jan. 15	Library workshop & consultation on developing research ideas	
Jan. 22	Research design and measurement (Assignment 1 due)	1. Work on the Introduction of the research proposal (Assignment 2)
Jan. 29	Consultation on research design	2. Design a study or an experiment to address your research questions
Feb. 5	Review of statistics and SPSS (Assignment 2 due)	Refine your research design
Feb. 12	Review of statistics and SPSS (continued)	1. Work on the SPSS assignment
Feb. 15 – 21	Reading week – no lecture	2. Finalize your research design
Feb. 26	Ethics/Writing a research paper (Assignment 3 due)	1. Work on the oral presentation 2. Work on the final research proposal and get the research package ready
Mar. 5	Presentation of research proposals	
Mar. 7	Last date to drop courses without receiving a grade	
Mar. 12	Presentation of research proposals	
Mar. 19	Presentation of research proposals	
Mar. 26	Presentation of research proposals	
Apr. 2	Individual consultation on final research proposal	Finalize the research proposal and the research package
Apr. 4	Written proposal/research package due	