

PSYC 2030 3.0 N
INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
WINTER 2017

Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Jubis

Office: Rm 251 B.S.B.

Office hours: by appointment

Secretary: Agnes Levstik, located in Rm 281 BSB (416-736-5125)

Email: jubis@yorku.ca (Be sure to indicate that you are a 2030 N student).

Teaching Assistants:

Teresa Marin (for students whose last name begins with A-L)

Email: tmarin@yorku.ca

Office location: 031 BSB **Office hours:** by appointment

Guilia Rinaldi (for students whose last name begins with M-Z)

Email: grinaldi@my.yorku.ca

Office location: 013 BSB **Office hours:** by appointment

Course Website:

Go to <https://moodle.yorku.ca>

Login with your Passport York account and click on “My Courses”

If you require assistance with accessing this website, please contact ithelp@yorku.ca or call 416-736-5800 (I will not be able to help)

Lectures: **Time:** Fridays 11:30-2:30 **Location:** CLH-F

Required Text:

C. James Goodwin and Kerri A. Goodwin (2013). Research in Psychology: Methods and Design (7th edition). Toronto: John Wiley and Sons Inc.

Please note that we’re using the “modified version” of the 7th edition, whereby chapters that we’re not covering have been excluded from the textbook, resulting in a substantial reduction in price. The earlier “unmodified” version of the 7th edition is perfectly fine, the only difference being that the numbering of some of the chapters is different. (eg, Chap 5 in the original, unmodified version is called Chap 4 in the modified version).

Study Guide and on-line resources:

<http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&itemId=1118360028&bcsId=7688>

Prerequisite: Psyc 1010 6.0 with a minimum grade of C.

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: either Psyc 2020 6.0 (Statistical Methods I and II) or Psyc 2021 3.0 (Statistical Methods I)

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the basics of research and will provide you with a good foundation for conducting your own research in higher-level courses. You will be

introduced to different research methodologies, and the advantages and limitations of each will be discussed. Also, you will gain experience at effectively locating, reading and evaluating published research in psychology.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Distinguish between experimental and non-experimental designs.
2. Demonstrate understanding that various research designs.
3. Define hypotheses, independent and dependent variables, validity and reliability.
4. Use traditional and electronic sources to locate psychological findings.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the basics of scientific writing.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the basics of referencing using APA style.
7. Understand ethical principles in the CPA code of ethics.

Course Outline (in order of instruction):

Chapter 4 - Introduction to Experimental Research
Chapter 5– Methodological Control in Experimental Research
Chapter 6 - Experimental Design I: Single-Factor Designs
Chapter 7 - Experimental Design II: Factorial Designs
Reading and writing empirical reports (pg 453-462 in text)
Library Workshop
Chapter 8 - Correlational Research
Chapter 10 - Observational and Survey Research Methods
Reliability and validity (posted on Moodle)
Chapter 9 - Small N Design
Chapter 1 - Scientific Thinking in Psychology
Chapter 3 - Developing Ideas for Research in Psychology
Chapter 2 - Ethics in Psychological Research

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Tests:

There will be 3 non-cumulative tests that will each consist of 5-6 short-answer questions, and multiple-choice questions. For testing purposes you are responsible for assigned chapters in the text and material presented in lectures. The vast majority of test questions will relate to material that I covered in class, and most of what I cover in class is in the textbook. If you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to obtain pertinent material.

Take-Home Assignment (due in lecture on Mar 17):

You are expected to work on this assignment independently.

You will be required to “put into practice” some of the research concepts that we have covered in class. Your assignment will also allow you to gain experience at conducting a

library search for psychology-related topics. To help you with this process, you will first be offered a Scott Library workshop that will be held in class.

If the assignment is submitted on Mar 17, but after class, there will be a 5 mark penalty and if it's handed in on Mon., Mar 20 there will be a 10 mark penalty. Assignments will not be accepted after Mar 20. Late assignments should be submitted to my secretary, Agnes, in Rm 281 BSB and must be stamped by her. **Do NOT leave your assignment under my office door or under any other door.**

Important Dates:

		weighting	
Test 1	Feb 3	30%	Chap 4,5,6
Library Workshop	Feb 10		
Test 2	Mar 10	30%	Chap 7,8,10, reliability and validity
Assignment due <u>in lecture</u>	Mar 17	20%	
Test 3	Mar 31	20%	Chap 9, 1, 3, 2, Empirical reports (pg 453-462)

Take note that two tests and the assignment take place during the last few weeks of classes. It will be a busy time – plan accordingly.

Missed Tests:

If you are unable to write a test for medical reasons or personal crisis, **you must notify your teaching assistant** by email **within 48 hours** after the test (official university policy). Also, you must have appropriate documentation for your absence. **If you miss a test for medical reasons, your physician must complete the specific “Attending Physician’s Statement” (the Feb 2016 version that is posted on Moodle). Alternative medical notes will not be accepted.** The form must be signed by the doctor around the time of your illness – not retroactively, and must have an office stamp. Be sure to look over the completed form before leaving the doctor’s office because if it is incomplete or inaccurate, it will not be accepted. Hand in your documentation to your teaching assistant at the time of the make-up test. I would strongly advise against writing a test if you are ill, because grades will not be adjusted after-the-fact to compensate for such circumstances.

IF YOU MISS ONE TEST (it must be for a valid reason), YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MISS A SECOND TEST AND IF YOU DO, YOU WILL BE ASSIGNED 0% FOR THAT TEST.

Test Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities:

If you are registered with the Counselling and Disability Services (CDS) and will be writing your tests through “alternative exams” (arranged by the Registrar’s Office), you must provide me with your letter of accommodation at the beginning of the course. It is important that, at the beginning of the term, you schedule ALL tests with that office. If you miss a test, you must make arrangements to write a make-up test, and you must provide me with your documentation for missing the test unless it is directly related to

your disability. **Be sure that you understand all rules and procedures** and any questions should be directed to your counsellor.

Learning Disability Services (LDS)

Location: W128 Bennett Centre for Student Services

Tel: 416-736-5383

Website: lds.info.yorku.ca

Mental Health Disability Services (MHDS)

Location: N110 Bennett Centre for Student Services

Tel: 416-736-5350

Website: mhds.info.yorku.ca

The [York University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus (it provides tools, assistance and resources).

Marking Scheme used in this Course:

A+ 90 and above	A 80-89
B+ 75-79	B 70-74
C+ 65-69	C 60-64
D+ 55-59	D 50-54
E 40-49	F below 40

On-Line Open-Forum Discussion: (accessed through the course website)

You are encouraged to participate in this general discussion forum where you are free to discuss with classmates, course-related issues or any psychology-related topic or concern.

Important Deadline Dates:

-The last day to withdraw from the course (or any winter half-course) such that your grade will not appear on your transcript is March 10, 2017. You can drop using the enrolment system.

- The Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a “W” on your transcript) is from Mar 11-Apr 5, 2017. You can withdraw from the course from Mar 11 to Apr 5 using the enrolment system but, because it’s after Mar 10, it will result in a “W” on your transcript. The “W” will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

- Please note that financial deadlines for refunds when you drop course are different (see <http://sfs.yorku.ca/refunds/tables/> for refund tables.

Please Note:

If you require a particular grade in this course, please work now towards attaining it. This course does not offer extra assignments or tests at the end of the course to accommodate students who are a few marks short of their desired grade.

A letter grade will be “rounded up” when calculating your overall final grade if your final percentage ends in .50 or higher. For example, if your final grade is 74.50% it will be

rounded up from a B to a B+. However, if your final percentage is 74.38% for example, your letter grade will remain a B. You must draw the line somewhere and .50% is the designated cut-off.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: CHEATING

Don't even consider it...it's not worth it! York University considers cheating and plagiarism a serious offence and penalties can be harsh. I HAVE A ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY and if I have good reason to believe that someone has cheated, I assure you that I will pursue the case following the university's official procedures for dealing with potential breaches of academic honesty (see <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/policy.htm>).

Test Banks:

The use of test banks is NOT permitted in this course and may be considered a breach of academic honesty (cheating). This includes, but is not limited to, buying or selling test banks or attempting to do so.

Electronic Devices During Tests:

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag, which is to be placed under the chair while a test is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device while in the classroom when a test is taking place may be reported to the Psychology Department for a potential breach of academic honesty. If for any reason you need to touch your phone during a test (you forgot to turn it off etc), permission is required.

Academic Honesty for Students:

York University takes academic dishonesty very seriously. To familiarize yourself with the issues and procedures surrounding cheating, please visit **SENATE POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY** at:

<http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

The following links will assist you in gaining a better understanding of academic honesty and point you to resources at York that can help you improve your writing and research skills:

- [Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity](#)
- [Information for Students on Text-Matching Software: Turnitin.com](#)
- [Beware! Says who? A pamphlet on how to avoid plagiarism](#)
- [Resources for students to help improve their writing and research skill](#)

Course Materials Copyright Information:

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