

**Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology**

PSYC 2030 3.0 B: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS

**Mondays, 2:30 – 5:30pm, CLH A
Fall 2018**

Instructor: Jessica Sutherland, PhD

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Office Hours: By appointment

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Please make sure to use your York email address and reference PSYC2030 in the subject line of emails to make sure your message does not get caught in spam filters.

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|--------------|---|--|
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| Office Hours | Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm | Thursdays, 3-4pm |

Communication

I will make every effort to respond to your emails within 24 hours of receiving them. Please note that I will not, nor will the TAs, respond to emails asking about information that can be found in the syllabus (e.g. “When the assignment due? What chapters are covered on the exam?”).

If you are struggling with course material, your TAs are excellent resources and you should attend office hours to receive support. I am also happy to support your learning and success in the course, so please contact me if you need assistance with course material or would like to discuss your assignments and tests.

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

Course Credit Exclusions

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

Course website: [Moodle](#)

Course Description

This course introduces students to the various research designs used by psychologists, including experiments, quasi-experiments, surveys, case studies, and qualitative methods. We will evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each of these approaches, the philosophy of science

supporting them, and the ethical issues they raise. By the end of this course, students should be able to locate empirical psychological reports in the academic literature, comprehend their design, and critically evaluate the findings. Students will learn how to assess different forms of psychological measurement, the nature of sampling, and research ethics.

Program Learning Outcomes

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

- Distinguish between experimental and non-experimental designs.
- Demonstrate critical thinking in identifying strengths and weaknesses of different research designs
- Define hypotheses, independent and dependent variables, validity and reliability.
- Demonstrates an ability to locate and identify valid, credible, and rigorous psychological research.
- Identify the problems that arise during sampling, measurement, and making inferences from data
- Understanding ethical obligations of researchers.

Topics Covered

- Basics of the scientific method
- Finding scientific articles
- Understanding the methods in a scientific article
- Samples and populations
- Measurement (reliability, validity, measurement error)
- Basics of descriptive & inferential statistics
- Case studies
- Observational studies (naturalistic & participant)
- Correlational survey studies
- Qualitative studies
- Basics of experimental & quasi-experimental designs
- Experimental control (threats to internal and external validity)
- Research ethics and questionable research practices

Required Text

Haslam, S. A. & McGarty, C. *Research Methods and Statistics in Psychology* (2nd ed.)

Course Requirements and Assessment:

| Assessment | Date of Evaluation (if known) | Weighting |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Test #1 | October 1 | 25% |
| Assignment #1 | October 15 | 15% |
| Test #2 | November 5 | 25% |
| Assignment #2 | November 19 | 15% |
| Test #3 | December 3 | 20% |
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| Total | | 100% |

Description of Assignments

Tests: You will have 3 tests. Each will be non-cumulative and require you to apply your learning. You can expect multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and scenario-type questions.

Assignment #1: You will be asked to design a study and identify the key aspects of it (independent/dependent variables, the research question, survey methods). This should be no longer than 2-3 pages.

Assignment #2: You will be asked to complete an annotated bibliography of 3 articles, from a selection that will be given to you. You will have to search for the articles you want, complete the proper APA citation for them, and then provide sufficient detail about their research questions, methods, and conclusions. This should be no longer than 3 pages.

Grading as per Senate Policy:

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, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the [York University Undergraduate Calendar - Grading Scheme for 2018-19](#))

Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

Tests: Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at:

<http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf> may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

If you miss a test, you must contact your TA within 48 hours after the missed test. Failure to do so will mean you are not eligible to write a makeup test and will receive a 0 for that test. Also note that a makeup test will not be the same as the original test.

Assignments: Failure to submit an assignment on time (by 2:30 pm, *before the class begins*) will result in losing 5% of your grade on the assignment, per day, up to 3 days (i.e. until 2:30 pm on Thursdays) for a total loss of 15% from your final grade on the assignment. After 3 days from the due date, late work will not be accepted and you will receive 0 on the assignment.

Assignments must be submitted in typed/printed hard copy, at the beginning of class, stapled with your name and student number. No assignments will be accepted over email under any circumstances.

If you anticipate you will need an extension, please discuss this with me in as much advance as possible.

Important New Information Regarding Missed Tests

For any missed tests or late assignments, students **MUST** complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the test/assignment.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2018-19 - Important Dates](#)

| | FALL (F) | YEAR (Y) | WINTER (W) |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines) | Sept. 18 | Sept. 18 | Jan. 16 |
| Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines) | Oct. 2 | Oct. 23 | Jan. 30 |
| Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines) | Nov. 9 | Feb. 8 | March 8 |
| Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below) | Nov. 10 - Dec. 4 | Feb. 9 - Apr. 3 | March 9 - Apr. 3 |

***Note:** *You may withdraw from a course using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as*

"W". The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

Electronic Device Policy

Laptops are permitted and should be used for taking notes. Laptops should not be used for web browsing, watching videos, playing games, or other non-class-related activities. Not only will it harm your learning, it is distracting for other students around you.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will not be taken. However, you are responsible for all material covered in lectures and if you must miss a class, you are responsible for learning what you missed.

Academic Integrity for Students

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity information [SPARK Academic Integrity modules](#). These modules explain principles of academic honesty.

Test Banks

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. 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/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The [York University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources. Policy Statement.

Policy: York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

For Further Information please refer to: [York university academic accommodation for students with disabilities policy](#).

Course Materials Copyright Information

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC2030B course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

Course Schedule

| Date | Textbook Reading | Topics Covered |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|
| September 10 | Chapter 2 | Introduction to the class Why study research methods? Is psychology a science? The scientific method |
| September 17 | Chapters 3-4 | Psychological methods and measurement Experimental and quantitative methods Forming a research question |
| September 24 | Chapters 4-5 | Validity and reliability Defining your variables Survey design |
| October 1 – TEST #1 | | TEST #1 (chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5) |
| October 8 – No Class | N/A (READING WEEK) | N/A (READING WEEK) |
| October 15 | Chapters 6-7 | Descriptive statistics |

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| *Assignment #1 Due | | Statistical inferences |
| October 22 | Chapters 8, 9, and 11 | Correlations Chi-squares T-tests |
| October 29 | Chapter 10 | Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Introduction to literature searching, reading an empirical article, and APA formatting |
| November 5 – TEST #2 | | TEST #2 (chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) |
| November 12 | Chapter 12-13 | Qualitative methods Qualitative sources of data |
| November 19 *Assignment #2 Due | Chapter 14 | Research ethics Problematic research practices Rights of participants and responsibilities of researchers |
| November 26 | | Communicating research findings Future directions in psychological research |
| December 3 – TEST #3 | | TEST #3 (chapters 12, 13, 14, and November 26 lecture) |