

Faculty of Health

Department of Psychology

PSYC 3010 3.0 Section: *Intermediate Research Methods*

Wednesdays 2:30-5:30pm, VH 1154

Fall 2018

Instructor: Ingo Freund - Office: Lassonde Rm. 0003F - Office Phone: 416 736 2100 ext. 22932 - Office Hours: by appointment - Email: ifruend@yorku.ca

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.
- HH/PSYC 2020 6.00 (Statistical Methods I and II) or HH/PSYC 2021 3.00 (Statistical Methods I)
- HH/PSYC 2030 3.00 (Introduction to Research Methods)

Course Credit Exclusions

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

Course website: Moodle

Course Description

This intermediate course will provide students with the tools to design, execute, analyze, interpret and communicate psychological studies. The course will build on the foundation of HH/PSYC 2030 3.00 to further prepare students for different types of advanced-research and Honours thesis projects.

During the course of the term, students will familiarize themselves with the basics of academic writing and will then design and execute a small research study on length/size perception. They will then proceed to apply the newly learned techniques to analyze, interpret, and communicate the results of that study.

Program Learning Outcomes

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

1. Explain and critique psychological methodologies across sub-disciplines.

2. Analyse and interpret results from simple psychological studies.
3. Generate testable hypotheses in psychology.
4. Express in written form psychological findings using APA style.
5. Demonstrate knowledge how conclusions are limited by methods.

Suggested Texts

- Any standard research methods textbook.
- 5 original journal papers to be selected by the students.
- American Psychological Association (2010): *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. American Psychological Association, 6th Edition.
- Sternberg (2000): *Guide to publishing in Psychology Journals*. Cambridge University Press.
- Goodlad (1990): *Speaking technically: Handbook for Professional Scientists and Engineers on How to Improve Technical Presentations*. World Scientific Publishing.

Course Requirements and Assessment:

<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Date of Evaluation</i>	<i>Weighting</i>
Introduction and methods	Oct 2	15%
Initial research paper	Nov 6	15%
Peer review	Nov 7	5%
Presentation	Nov 14-28	20%
Discussion questions	Nov 14-28	5%
Final research paper	Dec 4	40%
<i>Total</i>		100%

Description of Assignments

Students will perform a small research project, present the results in class, and document the outcome in a small research paper. In addition, students will review of each other's papers and suggest revisions where appropriate.

1. The *research paper* will be the primary outcome of the class project. The final version of this paper should not exceed 800 words and two figures (maximum half page per figure). Shorter is better. The research paper must be submitted through the web interface made available in class.

2. A first draft of the introduction and methods part of the research paper should be prepared after the student consultations (week Sept 17-21) and should be submitted before October 3.
3. The results should also be presented in a brief oral *presentation* (10 minutes), followed by 5 minutes discussion.
4. During the three dates scheduled for discussion, every student should ask a total of at least two *discussion questions*.
5. Before the oral presentations, an *initial version* of the paper should be submitted for *peer review* by other students. These reviews will be subject to evaluation.
6. At the end of the term, the *final paper* should be submitted and it should address points raised during the peer review and possibly in the discussion.

Note that experiment planning will happen in pairs or groups of three, yet every student must submit their own version of the final paper and must prepare a separate oral presentation.

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^[^x] will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, 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

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.

The final research paper can not be submitted at a later date than December 4. If students miss any of the deadlines outlined above, they must contact me as soon as possible and no later than 24 hours after the original deadline. Here, "contact" means either (i) a phone call or (ii) an email *and* a reply to confirm that I actually received your email.

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 <i>without permission</i> 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

[^x] **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.*

Information on Plagiarism Detection

I will use any means I deem reasonable to detect plagiarism. This may include manual on-line searches as well as automatic n-gram based on-line searches and automatic text-matching software.

Electronic Device Policy

It is each student's own responsibility to use electronic devices in a responsible manner. Other students should not be disturbed.

Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend for the peer review session on Nov 8 and for the presentations from Nov 15-29. At other dates, attendance is not mandatory. Yet, as most of the material is not available in the condensed form of a textbook, it is recommended for students to attend the other dates as well.

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 by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#).

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 PSYC 3010 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

- Sep 5: Scientific writing I - Formal structure of a research paper and correct citation
- Sep 12: Presentation of paper topics
- Sep 19: Student consultations (see below)
- Sep 26: Ethics, more structure, and formatting
- Oct 3: Experiments
- Oct 10: Reading Week
- Oct 17: Experiments
- Oct 24: Data analysis and visualization lab
- Oct 31: Scientific writing II - Writing effectively
- Nov 7: Peer review
- Nov 14: Student presentations
- Nov 21: Student presentations
- Nov 28: Student presentations

Student consultations

Instead of the class on September 19, students must make an appointment with the instructor. These appointments are to be taken in groups of 2-3 and they will discuss the following:

1. Hypothesis. Students should propose a hypothesis to the instructor and motivate it using at least 5 original journal papers. The papers should be brought to that meeting.
2. They should prepare a design to test the hypothesis and be able to discuss it with the instructor. The design should at least include the number of participants to test, the stimulus material, the task, the manipulated variable (and variable levels), and the dependent variable.

Students in the same group of 2-3 will need to agree on a hypothesis and a design. During the consultation, the instructor will work with the students sharpen their hypothesis and to improve their design. This will form the basis of the introduction and methods parts for the research paper. More specific guidance will be given in the session on September 12.