

**Faculty of Health**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**PSYC 2030 O: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS**  
**Monday/2:30-5:30/Location: Curtis Lecture Hall-A (CLH-A)**  
**Winter 2019**

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**Instructor:** Dr Rebecca Jubis

**Office:** Rm 251 B.S.B. (Behavioural Sciences Building)

**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Email:** [jubis@yorku.ca](mailto:jubis@yorku.ca) Be sure to indicate your **course**, **section**, and sign with your **full name**. (Please do not contact me via Moodle's messaging because you will not receive a response).

**Teaching Assistants (TAs):** TA contact information is provided on Moodle

**Psychology Undergraduate Office:** Rm 291 BSB; [psyc@yorku.ca](mailto:psyc@yorku.ca) or call 416-736-5117

**Course Prerequisite (strickly enforced):**

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 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 locating and familiarizing yourselves with APA-style published research in psychology. **(Please see the last page of this syllabus for a list of chapters covered in order of instruction).**

**Program Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. Distinguish between experimental and non-experimental designs.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking in identifying strengths and weaknesses of different research designs
3. Define hypotheses, independent and dependent variables, validity and reliability.
4. Demonstrate an ability to locate and identify valid, credible, and rigorous psychological research.

5. Identify the problems that arise during sampling, measurement, and making inferences from data
6. Understand ethical obligations of researchers.

**General Topics Covered in a Research Methods Course:**

1. Basics of the scientific method
2. Finding scientific articles
3. Understanding the methods in a scientific article
4. Samples and populations
5. Measurement (reliability, validity, measurement error)
6. Basics of descriptive & inferential statistics
7. Case studies
8. Observational studies (naturalistic & participant)
9. Correlational survey studies
10. Qualitative studies
11. Basics of experimental & quasi-experimental designs
12. Experimental control (threats to internal and external validity)
13. Research ethics and questionable research practices

**Required Text:**

**C. James Goodwin and Kerri A. Goodwin (2017). Research in Psychology: Methods and Design (8<sup>th</sup> edition). Toronto: John Wiley and Sons Inc.**

This is **the most recent edition** of the text book and **tests will be based on this edition**. The organization of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition is different from the 7<sup>th</sup> edition, and the 8<sup>th</sup> edition contains some material that is different from the 7<sup>th</sup> edition. I have made the 8<sup>th</sup> edition available for a 2hr loan at the Reserve Desk of the Scott Library in the event that you want to compare the two editions. **(Please don't ask me whether the 7<sup>th</sup> edition can be used; make your own decision based on your comparison of both editions).**

**Study Guide and on-line resources** (there's also a link on Moodle):

**<http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&itemId=1119316316&bcsId=10505>**

### **COURSE ASSESSMENTS:**

<b>Test 1</b>	Feb 4	30%	Chap 5,6,7
<b>Library Workshop</b>	Feb 25 (in-class)		
<b>Test 2</b>	Mar 11	30%	Chap 8,9,10, sampling procedures (pg 94-96); reliability and validity (pg 101- 105)
<b>Assignment due <u>in lecture</u></b>	Mar 18	20%	
<b>Test 3</b>	Apr 1	20%	Chap 12, 1, 3, 2, Empirical reports (pg 384-394)

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

**Apr 1 - DEADLINE** for NOTIFYING your TA that you wish to view any tests. Tests don't have to be viewed by this date, but you must have contacted your TA by Apr 1 to set up an appointment. You will need to provide photo ID to view your test.

### **INFORMATION ABOUT COURSE ASSESSMENTS:**

#### **Tests:**

There will be 3 non-cumulative tests that will each consist of about 3 or 4 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. (I don't post lecture notes).

**Missing a Test : please see information on page 4**

**Take-Home Assignment (due in lecture on Mar 18):**

**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 18, but after class, there will be a 5 mark penalty and if it's handed in on Thurs, Mar 21 there will be a 10 mark penalty. Assignments will not be accepted after Mar 21. Late assignments should be submitted to the secretary in Rm 101 BSB, and must be dated. **Do NOT leave your assignment under my office door or under any other door – it will not be accepted).**

### **On-Line Open-Forum Discussion:**

You can participate in a general discussion forum on Moodle where you are free to discuss with classmates, course-related issues or any psychology-related topic or concern. Discussions will be monitored regularly by a teaching assistant.

### **Important Information about Grades:**

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.

### **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:

A+= 90-100, 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

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

### **IMPORTANT - Missed Tests and Make-Up Test Session:**

Students with a documented reason for missing a test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation, may request accommodation from the course director. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

If you miss a test for medical reasons, your physician must complete an **Attending Physician’s Statement** which can be found at: <http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf> or down-loaded from Moodle. To be deemed valid, the document must be the **original**, contain the **doctor’s signature**, **office stamp** and be **dated within a few days** of the test. Be sure to look over this form before leaving the doctor’s office because if it is incomplete or filled out inaccurately it will not be accepted. **Alternative medical notes will not be accepted.**

**If you miss a test, you must notify your teaching assistant by email NO LATER THAN 48 HOURS after the test.** Failure to do so will render you ineligible to write a make-up test. You must have appropriate documentation for your absence and you should submit it at the time of the make-up test. After the original test is written, TAs will email you with make-up test details.

**IMPORTANT: IF YOU MISS MORE THAN ONE TEST, YOU WILL BE ASSIGNED A 0% FOR THE SECOND MISSED TEST.**

Please note that make-up tests are not necessarily the same as the original tests.

**Add/Drop Deadlines:**

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

	<b>FALL (F)</b>	<b>YEAR (Y)</b>	<b>WINTER (W)</b>
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 18	Sept. 18	Jan. 16
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> 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 in lectures provided that they are used solely for note-taking. Using laptops for other purposes (social media etc) tends to be a distraction, not only for the user but also for other surrounding students.

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is not a requirement, however, it is **strongly** recommended.

**Academic Integrity (Honesty) 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 Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

If you are registered with the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and will be writing your tests through “alternate 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 year, you schedule ALL three tests with that office. If you miss a test, re-schedule it as soon as possible with the Alternate Exams Center.** You will need to submit a test-reschedule form, and attach a permission email from me. **Be sure that you understand all rules and procedures** and any questions should be directed to your counsellor.

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:** 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 this 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](#).

## **CHAPTERS COVERED (IN ORDER OF INSTRUCTION)**

(Please note that I do not break down topics by date, however, at the end of each class, I will tell the class what I'll be covering the following week).

Chapter 5- Introduction to Experimental Research

Chapter 6– Methodological Control in Experimental Research

Chapter 7 - Experimental Design I: Single-Factor Designs

Chapter 8- Experimental Design II: Factorial Designs

Reading and writing empirical reports (pg 384-394 in text)

Library Workshop

Chapter 9 – Non-Experimental Design I: Survey Method

This chapter discusses the correlational method and survey method of research. Also, refer to Chapter 4 (pg 94-96) for the different types of sampling procedures used in the survey method.

Chapter 10 – Non-Experimental Design II: Observational and Archival Methods

Reliability and validity – see Chapter 4, pages 101-105 only.

Chapter 12 - Small N Designs

Chapter 1 - Scientific Thinking in Psychology

Chapter 3 - Developing Ideas for Research in Psychology

Chapter 2 - Ethics in Psychological Research