

**Faculty of Health  
Department of Psychology  
PSYC 2030 3.0 (A)  
INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS  
Summer 2019**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

**This document contains two sections. Section I contains information compiled and disseminated by the Department of Psychology. All rules, regulations, and procedures in this section apply to and will be strictly enforced in PSYC2030 (A). Section II contains information specific to PSYC2030 (A), with K. Phillips.**

**SECTION I: DEPARTMENTAL COURSE OUTLINE**

**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](#)

**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. Demonstrates 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. 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
- Basics of experimental & quasi-experimental designs
- Experimental control (threats to internal and external validity)
- Research ethics and questionable research practices

**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 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 Exam

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.

\*\*\*\*\*See Section II for specific policies in PSYC2030 (A)

## 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- Important Dates

For a list of all important dates please refer to: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/su19>

Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	<b>S1</b> May 3
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	May 10
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	May 27
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a “W” on the transcript – see note below)	May 28 - June 10

*\*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.*

## 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 PSYC2030 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.](#)

## SECTION II: COURSE OUTLINE FOR PSY2030 (A)

**Course Director:** K. Phillips, Ph.D.  
Rm. 253 BSB  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 - 2:30  
e-mail: [phillips@yorku.ca](mailto:phillips@yorku.ca)

**Teaching Assistants:** *For students with last names A-L*  
Shayna Fox Lee ([shayna4@yorku.ca](mailto:shayna4@yorku.ca))  
*For students with last names M-Z*  
Monika Janus ([mjanus@yorku.ca](mailto:mjanus@yorku.ca))

\*\*\*\*\*you MUST put the course number in the subject line for all e-mail communications and use your York account\*\*\*\*\*

**Class Time and Location:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7pm. - 10pm., CLH-A

**Required Text:** Rosnow, R.L. & Rosenthal, R. (2012). *Beginning behavioral research: A conceptual primer* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Pearson Prentice Hall

### Course Description:

This course will provide a comparative analysis and critical evaluation of the major methodologies employed by researchers in the behavioural sciences including: observational techniques, surveys and questionnaires, correlational methods, and experimentation. Important considerations in the design of research studies such as ethics, sampling procedures, reliability and validity of psychological measures, and the interplay between theory and data will be addressed.

**Procedures:** Classes will meet for lectures of approximately 2.5 hours. The balance of the sessions will comprise informal discussions or (in-class) tutorials. In-class tutorials are designed to supplement various topical areas and will provide additional opportunities for questions and discussion. Students are advised to read assigned materials and prepare questions concerning problematic material in advance of the tutorials. The TA will also be available for individual consultation by appointment. Students are advised to check Moodle frequently for course announcements

**Evaluation:** Evaluation is based on 2 written assignments, one midterm exam and a final exam weighted as follows:

Assignment 1	10%	Assignment 2	15%
Midterm	35%	Final Exam	40%

Exams will be non-overlapping in terms of course content and will consist of multiple-choice items based on the text material, lectures, films, and tutorial presentations. There will be no make up tests for missed midterms. In the event that the midterm is missed for legitimate reasons (and supporting documentation is provided), students will write a cumulative final exam covering ALL course materials, the structure of which is determined by the course director. Students who miss the Midterm waive the right to have graded feedback prior to the drop date. A grade of 0 will be assigned to a missed midterm in instances where students fail to provide appropriate supporting documentation. TAs must be notified of absence within 48 hrs. of the midterm. A grade of 0 will be assigned to missed midterms in instances where students fail to provide appropriate supporting documentation.

All students must write the Final Exam. Opportunities to write a Final Exam make up will be provided only to those students with legitimate reasons (see website below) and appropriate supporting documentation. Deferred final exams are held on a single common date. No individualized testing opportunities will be available

**Grading:** As noted in Section 1, the grading scheme for this course will conform to the 9-point grading system outlined in the York University Undergraduate Calendar. With increasing frequency, students have requested grade adjustments at the end of term, in service of enhancing their GPA standings. Grade adjustments, when warranted, will be applied to ALL students in the class, rather than on an individual basis. This practice is designed to ensure fairness.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

- April 30: Introduction (Chapter 1)
- May 2: Paradigms, Theories and Data (Chapter 2)
- May 7: Ethics in Psychological Research (Chapter 3 text and the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct which may be found on the APA website at: [www.apa.org/ethics/code/principles.pdf](http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/principles.pdf)  
\*\*Students should download and peruse this document prior to lecture.
- May 9: Methods of Measurement (Chapters 4 & 5)  
**Tutorial : Scaling .**
- May 14: In-class Library Tutorial: Using PsycInfo and other databases  
(guest librarian, Ms. Amy Poon)  
Assignment 1 will be distributed (due beginning of next class). Late assignments will NOT be accepted
- May 16; Reliability and Validity (Chapter 6)
- May 21: **MIDTERM**
- May 23: The Experiment I: Logic (Chapters 7 & 8)
- May 28: The Experiment II: Research Designs (Chapters 7 & 8)  
**Tutorial: Variables and Confounds**
- May 30: Survey Research (Chapter 9)
- June 4: Correlational Techniques (Chapter 11)  
**Chi Square Tutorial** Assignment 2 will be distributed (due beginning of next class).  
Late assignments will NOT be accepted
- June 6: Making Inferences (Chapter 12)
- June 12 - 14 FINAL EXAM PERIOD**