

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
Intermediate Research Methods
(PSYC 3010 3.0 Section M)
Winter 2021

Meeting Times: Tuesday 5:30 – 7:30pm
Meeting Location: Online via Zoom
Course Website: <https://eclass.yorku.ca/>

COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome to Intermediate Research Methods! We will meet on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30pm synchronously on Zoom. During these live Zoom sessions, you will interact over video and actively participate in team-based group work, class discussions, and activities. Active participation during these synchronous class sessions is expected and will determine your participation grade. Prior to each weekly live session, you will watch and engage with pre-recorded lectures (~ 1-hour long) on eClass asynchronously on your own time. Viewing these lectures ahead of time prepares you for the team-based group work in that week's live session, and are therefore mandatory.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Joey Cheng
Office: Behavioural Sciences Building (BSB) Room 322
Office Hours: Mon 3:30-4:30pm (Book your meeting slot here: <https://www.canumeet.com/joeycheng>)
Email: chengjt@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)
- Completed at least 54 earned credits

COURSE CREDIT EXCLUSIONS

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

COURSE WEBSITE

<https://eclass.yorku.ca/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

“To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science.”
--Albert Einstein

“Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge.”
--Carl Sagan

This course is about how to use the tools of science to understand human behavior. Working together, we will explore the foundations of the scientific method, and the different types of research designs that are commonly used today by scientists, policymakers, and other curious souls to understand the complexities of our species' mind and behavior. This course is highly experiential and involves a hands-on research project, in which you will take an active role in your learning by designing and executing your own research study in a team of 3-5 students.

By the end of this course, you will have developed and honed transferable skills important to your future classes, workplace, and personal lives, including the ability to: (a) be a critical consumer of claims and scientific evidence; (b) evaluate, analyze, and interpret data and evidence; (c) communicate effectively using evidence-supported arguments; and (d) work effectively in teams.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, you 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 that conclusions are limited by methods.

SUGGESTED TEXT (NO REQUIRED TEXT)

- Any undergraduate textbook on research design and methods
- Original journal articles that you select
- Supplemental readings assigned by the instructor

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT:

Assessment	Assessment Type	Weighting	Due Date
TCPS Training (mandatory to continue)	Individual	0%	Jan 18
Hypothesis Presentation	Team	10%	Jan 19
Pre-Registration Document	Team	15%	Feb 10
Data Collection Log	Individual	1%	Feb 23
Poster Presentation	Team	30%	March 23
APA-Style Final Report	Individual	40%	April 6
Participation (based on instructor & teammate evaluations)	Individual	4% (minimum 2.4/4 or 60% on 'Participation' to pass course)	Ongoing
TOTAL		100%	
Bonus: Winner of 'class-voted favourite blog post'	Team	+2%	March 30

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 will bear a percentage grade, out of 100.

Final course grade will be determined based on the exact percentage that you achieve as indicated by the following chart, without any rounding:

A+	90 - 100 %	B+	75 - 79.999 %	C+	65 - 69.999 %	D+	55 - 59.999 %	E	45 - 49.999 %
A	80 - 89.999 %	B	70 - 74.999 %	C	60 - 64.999 %	D	50 - 54.999 %	F	< 44.999 %

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - [Grading Scheme for 2020-21](#)

LATE ASSIGNMENT

For any missed quiz or late assignment, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. At this time, due to COVID-19, an [Attending Physician Statement](#) (APS) is not required. However, a reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided.

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

Out of fairness, for late submissions, you will lose 10% (out of 100%) for each day that the work is submitted late. Any submission received 4 days (i.e., 96 hours) past the deadline will receive a grade of zero. For all late submissions, students must contact the instructor no later than 24 hours after the original deadline to receive late-submission approval.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at all synchronous live Zoom meetings is expected because each meeting involves extensive team-based group work. Attendance will be taken at the start of each live session on Zoom.

In particular, attendance is mandatory on days of hypothesis presentation (Jan 19) and poster presentation (March 23). Failure to attend on either of these days will result in a grade of zero on the 'Hypothesis Presentation' or 'Poster Presentation', unless you have a valid documented reason (see above). Exceptions will not be made.

Your attendance in all Zoom live sessions is crucial to your participation in the team project. Your participation will be subjected to evaluation by both the instructor (e.g., based on attendance on Zoom, focus shown during group work) and that of your teammates, in the form of teammate evaluations conducted in the middle and end of the term. In particular, in the rare occasion that teammate evaluations indicate a serious problem with lack of participation or failure to contribute to the project, this student may be denied from continuing to work with the team. Moreover, in order to pass the course, students must receive at least 60% on the 'Participation' component.

ADD/DROP DEADLINES

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2020-21 Important Dates](#)

	Fall (F)	Year (Y)	Winter (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept 22.	Sept 22.	Jan. 25
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 6	Oct. 27	Feb. 8
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 6	Feb. 5	March 12
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 7- Dec. 8	Feb. 6 – April 12	March 13- April 12

ADD AND DROP DEADLINE INFORMATION

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are **different**, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.

After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

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

All submitted work is subject to plagiarism detection screening, which includes but is not limited to: TurnItIn, manual on-line searches, and automatic text-matching software.

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](#).

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 university encourages students with disabilities to register with ***Student Accessibility Services (SAS)*** to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. **Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.**

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and

appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

COURSE MATERIALS COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

These course materials (including pre-recorded lectures) 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 (TENTATIVE)

Week	Date	Topic
1	Jan 12	Course overview, and introduction to research study project Team assignment, designing a research study, and ethical considerations TCPS training overview
2	Jan 19	Giving scientific presentations overview Hypothesis presentation
3	Jan 26	Qualtrics for conducting experiments overview Experimental design (Day 1)
4	Feb 2	Experimental design (Day 2) Qualtrics experiment peer-review Study pre-registration overview, and scientific writing Data collection considerations Formulate data collection plan
5	Feb 9	Pilot Qualtrics survey & analyze preliminary data Final adjustments to Qualtrics survey before launch Finalize pre-registration plan Data collection period: Feb 10 to Feb 22

-	Feb 16	No Class: Reading Week
6	Feb 23	Complete data collection log Data analysis and visualization (Day 1) Teammate evaluations (mid-term)
7	March 2	Data analysis and visualization (Day 2)
8	March 9	Data analysis and visualization (Day 3) Data and code repository; GitHub overview
9	March 16	Science communication: Effective poster presentations
10	March 23	Poster fair
11	March 30	Science communication: Informative and engaging scientific blogs and popular articles Blog showdown Teammate evaluations (end-of-term)
12	April 6	APA-Style Final Report Due

Adjustments to this course schedule may be made at any time. For the most up-to-date version of the syllabus, please refer to the course website on eClass.