

York University
Faculty of Health
PSY2030 A (Phillips)
RESEARCH METHODS
Fall 2014

Course Director: K. Phillips, Ph.D.
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*****you MUST put the course number in the subject line for all e-mail communications and use your York account*****

Secretary: Barbara Thurston, Rm. 283 BSB, (416) 736-2100 ext. 66253

Class Time and Location: Thursdays, 7:00-10:00 CLH-E

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

Prerequisites: AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 2410 6.00, with a minimum grade of C. Prerequisite or co-requisite: One of AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2020 6.00, AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2021 3.00, AK/HH/PSYC 2510 3.00

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 with the following weightings:

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

Exams will be non-overlapping in terms of course material and will consist of multiple-choice items based on the text material, lectures and tutorial presentations **There will be no make up tests for missed midterms.** In the event that the midterm is missed for legitimate reasons, students will write a cumulative final exam covering ALL course materials. 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 the Final Exam make up will be provided only to those students with legitimate reasons and appropriate supporting documentation. *** **It is expected that students will consult the Guidelines for Missed Tests and Exams posted at <http://psyc.info.yorku.ca/missed-tests-or-examinations/> for information on legitimate reasons for missing evaluations, what types of supporting documentation are required in the event of missed tests, etc.**

Grading: 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.

Information on Academic Honesty, Student Conduct Standards, Religious Observance Accommodation and Accommodations for Students With Disabilities: It is also expected that students are familiar with the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards web page:

(http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm). Information on plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty is provided in the Department of Psychology Supplemental Calendar and the York University Academic Integrity web site:

(<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>)

LECTURE SCHEDULE

- September 11: Introduction (Chapter 1)
- September 18: Paradigms, Theories and Data (Chapter 2)
- September 25: Ethics in Psychological Research (Chapter 3 text and the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (may be found on the APA website at:<http://www.apa.org/ethics/code2002.pdf>
**Students should download and peruse this document prior to lecture.
- October 2: In-class Library Tutorial: Using PsycInfo and other databases (with guest librarian)
Assignment 1 will be distributed (due beginning of next class). Late assignments will NOT be accepted.
- October 9: Methods of Measurement (Chapters 4 & 5)
Tutorial : Scaling
- October 16: Reliability and Validity (Chapter 6)
- October 23: **MIDTERM**
- October 30: Co-curricular Day - No classes
- November 6: The Experiment I: Logic (Chapters 7 & 8)
- November 7: *****Last day to drop course without penalty*******
- November 13: The Experiment II: Research Designs (Chapters 7 & 8)
Tutorial: Variables and Confounds
- November 20: Survey Research (Chapter 9)
- November 27: Correlational Techniques (Chapter 11)
Chi Square Tutorial ** Assignment 2 will be distributed (due beginning of next class)
- December 4: Making Inferences (Chapter 12)
- December 9 - 22 Final Exam Period**