

Psychological Research Laboratory PSYB01H3

Course Outline

Class Meets: Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m. (Classroom T.B.A.)

Instructors: Isabelle Boutet & Anna Nagy

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Home page: to be announced

Office Hours: I. Boutet: Wednesday 10:30 – 12:30 on teaching days (Rm S-6333)

A. Nagy: Wednesday 4:15-5:15 pm on teaching days (Rm S564A).

Other hours available by appt.

Please check the course webpage on a regular basis for both readings and important announcements. A discussion board interface will also be set up (link from the intranet) for students to discuss questions and concepts related to the course.

Text: Cozby, C. P. (2004). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (8th edition). New York: McGraw-Hill. This text is well-written, concise, and easy to understand. Chapters are of a very reasonable length, and thus supplementary reading materials that serve to further illustrate the important concepts in the course will be added each week. The supplementary reading list will be posted weekly on the course webpage and is subject to change.

Course Description: This course surveys the basic research techniques and designs used in both experimental and non-experimental areas of psychological research. The topics range from the general principles of scientific research to concrete design issues, from sampling techniques to the typical problems faced when interpreting data.

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course (includes class attendance, readings, and assignments), students will be competent in the interpretation and application of basic and applied research, both experimental and non-experimental. In addition to learning how to 'find' relevant and important material, critical interpretation of research is demonstrated and encouraged through class examples and discussion. Application of concepts is also supported through the completion of the major writing assignment (an opportunity to learn how to write a research paper with all the help you might need!).

Grading: Your final grade will be based on an assignment (20%), a midterm examination (35%) and a final examination (40%). Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer format (details to be announced). The midterm will be held on June 22nd, 2005. The date for the final examination will be arranged by the registrar and announced during the term. (please note that the final examination will be comprehensive). All exams will be based on both the lecture material and assigned chapters from the book.

Make ups: Make-up tests are allowed for legitimate medical reasons. A medical certificate is required if a test is missed due to illness, as per university policy. The official UTSC medical certificate can be found at <http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/>. Students must provide a medical certificate **by August 3rd, 2005** otherwise a grade of 0% will be given for their missed or make-up test. Please talk to an instructor if you are having difficulty with the course or personal issues **before** an assignment is due or an exam is to be held. Extra assistance is available both from teaching staff and from the support team in the writing and research centers here at UTSC.

Assignment: The assignment will consist of a 5 page research proposal. A detailed overview of the marking scheme and requirements for the paper are posted on the course webpage. This information is extremely detailed and helpful. The proposal will consist of an introduction, methods section, and abstract. The introduction will have to include at least 6 references, four of which have to be journal articles. The format of the assignments should conform to APA style. It is expected that assignments will be handed in on the due date, unless prior appropriate arrangements have been made with an instructor. Late assignments will result in a loss of 4% of the total score for the paper per day. In other words, please hand them in on time☺!

Lecture Notes: Many (but not all) of the Powerpoint slides or overheads used in class lectures will be available on the web site, by Tuesday noon for the class being held on the same week. You should be aware that these slides do not constitute complete class notes nor do they cover everything discussed in class. The best way to use them in class is as a reference and structure, which you can make additional notes on. Much of the material will be presented in the form of interactive class lectures and discussions, so attendance is important to do well... Please read the corresponding textbook chapters and assigned readings prior to class each week. They will help you absorb the material and provide a context/background for the lecture material.

Office Hours: We encourage students to ask questions during office hours because some of the concepts covered in class cannot be properly explained via email. If you cannot come during office hours, pls contact one of instructors ahead of time to make alternative arrangements.o

Good luck and welcome to Psych B01!

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

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Date	Topic	Textbook chapter	Instructor
May 11	Introduction, the scientific approach, Writing research reports, assignment	1 Appendix A	A. Nagy
May 18	Library research, anatomy of research article, ethics	2-3	A. Nagy
May 25	Experimental manipulations	4	I. Boutet
June 1	Measurements	5	I. Boutet
June 8	Approaches to studying behavior, Surveys	6-7	A. Nagy
June 15	How to design and conduct an experiment	8-9	I. Boutet
June 22	Midterm , open session to discuss assignment		A. Nagy
June 29	Reading week		
July 6	Chapter 9 continued, Experimental designs	9-10	I. Boutet
July 13	Correlation, How to read a research article	12	I. Boutet
July 20	Statistical inference	13	I. Boutet
July 27	Evaluations, Quasi-experiments and single-subject designs, Generalization	11 & 14	A. Nagy
August 3	Assignment due , Conclusion and review		A. Nagy