Psychological Research Laboratory PSYB01H3S

Course Outline—Summer 2009

Class Meets: Thursdays 1-4pm (Classroom SY110)

Instructor*: *Anna Nagy (a.nagy@utoronto.ca)

T.A.: To be announced

Office*: *S415

Home page: Blackboard
Office Hours: Thursdays fro 4-5 pm (other hours by appointment)

*****Please check the Psy B01 Blackboard page on a regular basis for both additional readings and important announcements*****

Text: Cozby, C. P. (2008). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (10th edition). New York: McGraw-Hill. This text is well written, concise, and easy to understand. Chapters are of a very reasonable length; thus, supplementary reading materials that serve to further illustrate the important concepts in the course will be added on some weeks. The supplementary reading list will be posted weekly on the course webpage and is subject to change.

Course Description: This course surveys the basic techniques and designs used in both experimental and non-experimental areas of psychological research. The topics range from the general principles of scientific research and writing to concrete design issues, and 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 a written assignment (25%), a midterm examination (35%) and a final examination (40%). Exams will be comprised of multiple choice and short answer/essay questions (details to be announced). The midterm will be held on **June 18, 2009 in class**. 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, but not cumulative). 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 only. 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/. If you miss a test, please provide a medical certificate **by June 25, 2009,** otherwise a grade of 0% will be given. Please talk to the instructor if you are having difficulty with the course (or if you have 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 will be posted on the course webpage. This information is extremely detailed and will be a helpful reference. The proposal includes an introduction, methods section, abstract, references and title page (only intro and methods are included in the page limit). The introduction and methods will have to include at least 6 references, of which a minimum of five must be peer reviewed empirical journal articles. The format of the paper 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☺!

Please note and read the following websites on 'how not to plagiarize' (http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html) and (http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/document.html#apa); remember that you must properly acknowledge others' work throughout—plagiarism will not be tolerated.
As per the conditions cited on the University of Toronto's Office of Teaching Advancement website: (http://www.utoronto.ca/ota/turnitin/ConditionsofUse.html) "Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site".
A link will be created on Blackboard through which you can submit your assignments. Please also hand in a hard copy during class on the due date.

Lecture Notes: Many (but not all) of the Powerpoint slides used in class lectures will be available on the intranet by Wednesday evening. 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 is as a reference and structure; print them (use the black and white option to save ink) so that you can make additional notes during the lecture. Much of the material will presented in the form of interactive class lectures and discussions, so attendance is important to do well in this course. Please read the corresponding textbook chapters and assigned readings prior to class each week.

Office Hours: If you are having difficulty with the course material, please come and see me during office hours.

Good luck and welcome to Psych B01!

COURSE OUTLINE (Tentative—Subject to Change)

Week	Topic	Textbook chapter
May 7	Introduction; the Scientific Approach	1-2 (pp.16-23)
May 14	Ethics	3; See web
May 21	Writing Research Reports; assignment	Appendix A
	Library Research; Anatomy of a Research Article	2 (pp. 24-36)
	Tentative date: to be held in computer labs (sign-up info to be posted on Blackboard)	
May 28	Experimental Manipulations; Measurements	4-5
June 4	Approaches to Studying Behavior;	6
June 11	Surveys	7
June 18	**Midterm**	
July 2	READING WEEK—NO CLASS!	
July 9	Experimental Design	8
	Conducting Experiments	9-10
July 16	Quasi-experiments	11 & 14
	and Single-Subject Designs; Generalization	
July 23	Correlation; Understanding Research Results	12
July 30	Statistical Inference	13

Assignment due; Conclusion and review

(Final exam period: August 8-21)