

University of Toronto, Scarborough
PSYC11H3, Lecture 02
Winter, 2010

Instructor: Connie Boudens, PhD.
Teaching Assistant: Gregory Schell (contact information TBA)
 Class time: Wednesdays 9:00 – 11:00
 Class location: SW 143

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 Phone: TBA
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 Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:00 -13:00, Thursdays
 15:30- 16:30

Course description: In this course we will cover the research methods most commonly used in social psychology. The goals of the course are two-fold: to develop your skills at evaluating and critiquing research in social psychology, and to further your growth as researchers. The course will consist of a mixture of lectures and in-class exercises.

Textbook: Dunn, D. S. (2009). *Research methods for social psychology*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Grading Summary:

Article critique: 15% (due Feb 10)

You will be given a short empirical article to critique. You will need to point out as many methodological errors as you can find, and make suggestions for improvements.

Survey assignment (due March 10)

For this assignment you will write a survey instrument with two other people in the class. You must produce an initial questionnaire and submit that, then get feedback from a few friends about the clarity of the questions, the formatting, and so on. After that you will make comments on a copy of the original, revise it, and submit the completed work.

Midterm exam: 20% (date TBA)

The midterm will be a mixture of multiple choice and short-answer questions. Further information about the midterm will be given as the date of the exam approaches.

Term Paper: 20% (due March 31)

For the term paper you will produce a complete lab report on the topic of your choice once you have cleared that topic with me. The paper is to be done in groups of two or three. You will fabricate the data, but write the report as though it were based on a study that you actually carried out.

Final exam: 35% (during the exam period)

Similar to the midterm, the final will be a mixture of multiple choice and short-answer questions, but will be more comprehensive. Further information about the midterm will be given as the date of the exam approaches.

Tentative Schedule and Readings

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan 6	Introduction / review of syllabus	Dunn, Chapter 1
Jan 13	Developing research topics/ Formation of groups	Dunn, Chapter 2
Jan 20	Ethics, and review boards	Dunn, Chapter 3
Jan 27	Experimental design	Dunn, Chapter 4
Feb 3	Alternatives to experimental research	Dunn, Chapter 5, class notes
Feb 10	Questionnaires and surveys <i>Article critique due today</i>	Dunn, Chapter 6, class notes
Feb 24	Independent variables	Dunn, Chapter 7
March 3	Dependent variables	Dunn, Chapter 8
March 10	Validity and realism <i>Survey assignment due today</i>	Dunn, Chapter 9
March 17	Practical matters related to experiments	Dunn, Chapter 10
March 24	Data analysis	Dunn, Chapter 11
March 31	Presenting your research <i>Final paper due</i>	Dunn, Chapter 12

Rules and Policies Pertinent to This Class:

1. Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca.
2. In accordance with the Provost's guidelines on appropriate use of information and communicative technology, and for reasons of privacy and copyright protection, you may not record class session in either audio or video format without the explicit consent of the instructor.
3. Cell phones and laptops should not be used in class unless absolutely necessary. Should you require the use of either of these, please consult with me before class.
4. Email policy: Whenever possible, please talk to me in person if you have a question or problem. Typing an email requires a great deal more time than a verbal response, and talking in person makes it easier for me to understand what you are asking and give an appropriate response. When this is not possible, please do not expect an immediate response to your email. I will respond to emails within 48 hour (exclusive of weekends).
5. Respect for all class participants is essential for a seminar, and it is something that I insist on as an instructor. When another member of the class is speaking, everyone else is expected to give that person their full attention.
6. Extensions on graded assignments *may* be granted depending on the circumstances, but you must speak to me in advance of the due date. Each case will be considered individually, so please be prepared to tell the reason you need the extension, and how much more time you think you will need to complete the work. Work that is handed in late and has not been approved for an extension will be penalized 5% for each working day that it is late.
7. Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently. Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:
 - IN PAPERS AND ASSIGNMENTS: Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor. Making up sources or facts. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.
 - ON TESTS AND EXAMS: Using or possessing unauthorized aids. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test. Misrepresenting your identity.
 - IN ACADEMIC WORK: Falsifying institutional documents or grades. Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesfor students.html>).