

University of Toronto, Scarborough
PSYC11H3, Lecture 01
Summer, 2010

Instructor: Connie Boudens, PhD

Teaching Assistant: Anthony Naimi (anthony.naimi@gmail.com)

Class time: Mondays 15:00 – 17:00

Class location: BV516

Office: PO103, room 101

Phone: TBA

email: connie.boudens@utoronto.ca

Office Hours: Monday 13:30 – 14:30

Thursday 12:30 – 13:30

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 June 7)

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 20% (due June 21)

For this assignment you will write a survey instrument either on your own, or with up to 2 other students. You must produce an initial questionnaire and submit that to me, 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.

Term Paper: 25% (due July 26)

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 may be done individually or in groups of up to three. You will fabricate the data, but write the report as though it were based on a study that you actually carried out. You should start thinking about topics as early in the term as possible, and you **MUST** clear the topic with me by June 22.

Final exam: 40% (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
May 3	Introduction / review of syllabus	Dunn, Chapter 1
May 10	Developing research topics/ Formation of groups	Dunn, Chapter 2
May 17	Experimental design	Dunn, Chapter 4
May 31	Alternatives to experimental research	Dunn, Chapter 5, class notes
June 7	Questionnaires and surveys	Dunn, Chapter 6, class notes
June 14	Independent variables <i>Article critique due today</i>	Dunn, Chapter 7
June 21	Dependent variables	Dunn, Chapter 8
June 28	Validity and realism <i>Survey assignment due today</i>	Dunn, Chapter 9
July 5	Practical matters related to experiments	Dunn, Chapter 10
July 12	Data analysis	Dunn, Chapter 11, class notes
July 19	Ethics, and review boards	Dunn, Chapter 3
July 26	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. Laptops should only be used in class if you are using it to take notes.
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. If you must send email, please put the class you are in, and the topic of your email in the subject line.
5. Respect for all class participants is essential, 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. Distracting behaviour will not be tolerated. This includes talking to fellow classmates, playing video games, texting (unless there is an emergency), and attempting to redirect the discussion to a topic that is not relevant to the class.
7. 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.
8. 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/resourcesforstudents.html>).