

University of Toronto, Scarborough
PSYB01, Lecture 02
Fall, 2010

Instructor: Connie Boudens, PhD.

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 Office Hours: Thursday 12:00 – 14:00

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Class time: Thursdays 15:00 – 18:00

Class location: SY110

Course description: This course surveys the basic research techniques and designs used in the diverse field of psychological research, both in experimental and non-experimental areas. 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.

Prerequisites: PSYA01H & PSYA02H

Textbook: Cozby, P. C. (2009) *Methods in Behavioral Science* (10th ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.

Grading Summary:

Mid term exam 30% (date TBA) The midterm will be consist of a mixture of short answer and multiple choice questions and will be based on the readings and lecture material up to and including the work of October 14.

Term Paper: 30% (due Nov 18)

For the term paper you will design three *different* ways of answering a specific research question (the question itself will be provided to you in the second week of class). You must design an experiment, an observational study and a questionnaire-based study. For each component of the paper you are expected to produce a complete method section in APA format, including all the details that would be required for someone else to replicate your study.

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.

Tentative Schedule and Readings

Date	Topic	Readings
Sept 16	Introduction / review of syllabus	Chapter 1
Sept 23	1. Getting started: sources of research ideas, 2. Academic journals: their nature and purpose 3. Library / literature searches 4. Ethics in research	Chapters 2, 3
Sept 30	Essential concepts in behavioural research	Chapters 4, 5
Oct 7	Experimental design	Chapter 8, 10
Oct 14	Conducting experiments	Chapter 9
Oct 21	Observational research	Chapter 6
Oct 28	Survey research	Chapter 7
Nov 4	Additional research designs	Chapter 11, lecture notes
Nov 11	Data analysis: description and correlation	Chapter 12
Nov 18	Data analysis: inferential statistics	Chapter 13, Appendix B
Nov 25	Generalizing and presenting results	Chapter 14, Appendix A
Dec 2	Overflow and exam review	

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>).