

University of Toronto, Scarborough
PSYC11H3: Social Psychology Laboratory
Summer, 2013

Instructor: Connie Boudens, PhD (connie.boudens@utoronto.ca)

Office: PO103, Room 101

Office Hours: Thursday 13:30– 14:30 or by appointment

Teaching Assistants:

Chad Danyluck (c.danyluck@gmail.com),

Amanda Sharples (amanda.sharples@mail.utoronto.ca)

Class time: Thursdays 15:00 – 17:00

Class location: SW316

Course description: In this course we will cover the research methods most commonly used in social psychology, and give students practical experience at designing and carrying out research. 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, workshops, and exercises

Textbook: There is no assigned text for the class, but a basic text in research methods in psychology or would be helpful to you if you didn't keep your B01 text.

Readings: Readings will be posted on Blackboard as they are finalized.

Grading Summary:

Attendance and Participation (10%)

This includes attending class, paying attention, and participating in workshops and exercises. It also means refraining from activities that distract the instructor and/or your fellow students. If you engage in these activities, you will be reminded that it will negatively impact on your participation grade. If the activities continue, you will be asked to leave the class.

Research proposal topic 5% (due June 6)

The major paper for the term is a proposal for an experiment. You must submit the topic for your paper on or before June 6. The topic submission must include the specific topic, a brief explanation of your interest in the topic, your independent and dependant variables, and your tentative hypothesis. Note that although you will be allowed to change your hypothesis, you will not be allowed to change the topic. In addition, you are required to submit a draft of your proposal on July 25. The proposal will not be graded, but if you do not submit it, you will not receive a grade on the proposal

Field observation 15% (due June 13)

For this assignment, you will conduct an unstructured field observation in a setting of your choice. Specific instructions about how to conduct the observation, and what you should be handing in will be discussed in class on May 23.

Survey assignment 20% (due July 5)

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 August 1)

For your final paper you will propose an original experiment. The paper itself should be presented in the same format as a research paper, but will include anticipated rather than actual results. Additional details on the requirements for this project will be discussed in class and posted on BlackBoard. You may do this paper independently, or in groups of up to 4 students.

Final exam: 25% (during the exam period)

The final exam will consist of multiple choice and written questions of varying lengths.

Tentative Schedule and Readings

Date	Topic	Deliverables
May 9	Introduction to the course	
May 16	Finding research topics	
May 23	Developing hypotheses	
May 30	Observational research	
June 6	Surveys and questionnaires	Research proposal topic due
June 13	Experiment – basic ideas	Field observation assignment due
June 20	***** Reading Week *****	
June 27	Library research/ how to read a paper	
July 4	Other non-experimental methods	Questionnaire assignment due
July 11	Classic studies in social psychology	
July 18	Validity, control, and realism	
July 25	What’s wrong with this experiment?	Research proposal draft due
August 1	Qualitative research	Research proposal due

Rules and Policies Pertinent to This Class:

- 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.
- 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.
- Laptops and other electronic devices should only be used in class for course-related purposes. If you are using them for another purpose, you will be asked to stop.**
- 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 include the class you are in and the topic of your email *in the subject line*.
- 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.
- Distracting behaviour will not be tolerated.** This includes chatting with fellow classmates, playing video games, texting (unless there is an emergency), surfing the internet, and attempting to redirect the discussion to a topic that is not relevant to the class.
- 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 10% for each working day or weekend that it is late.
- 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>).