

PSYB01.01: Psychology Research Laboratory Winter 2015 – Revised March 2, 2015

Course

PSYB01H3: Psychology Research Laboratory

Lecture Time/Location: Mondays 3-5pm, SY110

Blackboard Website: <https://portal.utoronto.ca/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

Instructor

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Office: Science Wing, SW531

Office Hours: Mondays 5-6pm

Course Description, Goals, and Objectives

The discipline of psychology occupies a peculiar niche. Modern psychologists are concerned with basic humanistic issues (e.g., the nature of emotions, the mind, relationships, free will, and consciousness) that have traditionally been studied by philosophers, poets, and historians. However, unlike scholars in other disciplines, modern psychologists employ methods of the natural sciences (e.g., measurement, experimentation) in order to understand these phenomena. The objective of this course is to introduce you to scientific methods, and how they can be used to better understand psychological phenomena.

The ***general goals and objectives*** of the course are

- Practice and develop critical thinking skills and scientific analysis
- Explore experimental and non-experimental methods of conducting psychological research
- Become more informed consumers of science
- Find ways to apply science to social issues in everyday life

The first half of the course will provide a broad overview of scientific methods to develop students' core understanding of methods and basic scientific literacy; and the second half of the course will provide application and analysis of this newly developed literacy.

Required Course Readings

Stanovich, K. E. (2013). *How to think straight about psychology (10th ed.)*. Pearson: Boston, MA, USA.

Cozby, P. C., & Bates, S. C. (2014). *Methods in behavioral research (12th ed.)*. McGraw Hill: New York, NY, USA.

Exams

There will be 2 exams in the course. The first exam will cover the first half of the class, and the second exam (during finals) will cover the second half. The exams will cover material from the textbooks, as well as class lectures, activities, and discussions. Consistent with the structure of the class, the first exam will require comprehension of conceptual and practical issues concerning scientific research and design; whereas the second exam will require application of one's understanding of these issues to real-life examples and case studies.

Exams are to be taken when scheduled. Make-up exams will only be given in cases of 1) illness and/or 2) emergencies. Make-up exams will be given only if I am contacted before the exam is given (unless completely incapacitated). Further, you must be able to produce a written

excuse from a responsible party, such as a doctor or a lawyer. In the case of illness, a UTSC medical form must be signed and submitted to me within two weeks of the exam. Excuses from mothers, fathers, friends or roommates will not be accepted.

At the end of the course, the two exams will be weighted with a 40-60% distribution, with the heavier (60% weight) given to the exam with the higher mark.

Disabilities

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities who are registered with AccessAbility Services. Students who register and utilize the AccessAbility services will not be identified on their transcript as receiving accommodations. Information disclosed to the service is confidential and is disclosed only with the student's permission. Students in need of disability accommodations should schedule an appointment with me early in the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations for the course. Talking with me well in advance is always better. There is little to nothing that I can do for you *after* an exam or assignment is due.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

Grading System

40% - Exam with lower mark

60% - Exam with higher mark

Course Calendar

Date	Topic	Stanovich	Cozby
5-Jan	Why Research?	1, 2	1
12-Jan	Ethics, Design, & Empirical Process	5, 6	3
19-Jan	Hypotheses, Variables, Operational Definitions	3	2
26-Jan	Measurement, Reliability and Validity	4	4, 5
2-Feb	Descriptive Stats, Sampling, and Probability	8, 11	12, 13
9-Feb	In-Class Mid-Term Exam		
16-Feb	Family Day (No Class)		
23-Feb	Experimental Design		8, 9
2-Mar	Experimental Design		
9-Mar	Quasi-Experimental Design		11
16-Mar	Quasi-Experimental Design		
23-Mar	Correlational Design		6, 7
30-Mar	Correlational Design		
TBD	Final Exam		