

University of Toronto, Scarborough
PSYC11H3: Social Psychology Laboratory
Winter 2015

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

Office: PO103, Room 123

Office Hours: Thursday, 17:00 – 18:00

Teaching Assistants: Philip Desormeau

Christy Guthrie

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 you some 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. Assigned readings must be completed *before* class, as in-class work will be based on the readings.

Textbooks: Textbook: Cozby, P. C., & Rawn, C. D. (2012) *Methods in behavioural research* (Canadian ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

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. *This includes such activities as carrying on conversations, texting, surfing the internet, updating social media accounts, and playing games on your computer.* If you engage in these activities, you will be asked to leave the class.

Research proposal topic 5% (due May 28)

The major paper for the term is a proposal for an experiment. This paper will be done in groups of 3-5 people. You must submit the topic for your paper on or before May 28 at 15:00. 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. Your topic **MUST** be submitted by the due date, or you will not be permitted to hand in a term paper. **Late submissions of topics will not be permitted.**

Field observation 15% (due June 11)

For this assignment, you will conduct a structured 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 28.

Questionnaire assignment 20% (due July 2)

For this assignment you will write a survey instrument either on your own, or with up to 2 other people. 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. Further details will be discussed in class on June 4.

Term Paper: 25% (due July 23)

Working in a group of 3-5 people, 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. Your introductory section must include at least 8 empirical or theory articles dated no earlier than 2005. These articles must be from high-quality peer-reviewed journals. Additional details on the requirements for this project will be discussed in class.

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	Readings	Deliverables
May 7	Introduction to the course		
May 14	Finding research topics	Cozby & Rawn Ch 2	Formation of groups
May 21	Experiments – basic ideas	Cozby & Rawn Ch 4 & 8	
May 28	Observational research	Cozby & Rawn Ch 6	Term paper topic due
June 4	Surveys and questionnaires	Cozby & Rawn Ch7	
June 11	Library research/ how to read a paper	See assigned reading on BB	Observation assignment due
June 18 ** reading week **			
June 25	Conducting experiments: independent variables	Cozby & Rawn Ch 9 & 10	
July 2	Conducting experiments: dependent variables		Questionnaire assignment due
July 9	Internal validity, external validity, control		
July 16	Consultations on term papers		
July 23	What's wrong with this experiment?		Term paper due
July 30	Qualitative research		

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>).