

University of Toronto, Scarborough
PSYB01, Lecture 01
Fall, 2015

Instructor: Connie Boudens (connie.boudens@utoronto.ca)
Office: PO103, room 123
Office hour: Mondays, 15:00 – 16:00

Tutorial Instructors:

Nathaniel Brown (nat.brown@mail.utoronto.ca)
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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

Textbooks: Cozby, P. C., & Rawn, C. D. (2012) *Methods in Behavioral Science* (Canadian ed.). Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.
American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Grading Summary:

Midterm exam 35% (October 26)

The midterm will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions

Final exam: 35% (during the exam period)

The final exam will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions

Note: The final is NOT cumulative

Tutorial participation (5%)

Attendance at tutorials is mandatory. Your mark will be based on both attendance and participation. Participation essentially means “contributing to the class”, which entails joining in group exercises and refraining from disruptive or distracting behaviour.

Tutorial assignments (25%)

You will receive 5 tutorial assignments over the course of the term. The assignments will be given out in hard copy in seminar. They will NOT be posted on BlackBoard. If you miss a tutorial and you want a copy of an assignment, you will need to provide your tutorial leader with documentation supporting the reason for your absence. The dates on which the assignments will be handed out are in the schedule below, as are the due dates. These dates are your responsibility; you will not receive reminders about these dates.

Tentative Schedule and Readings

Week of:	Topic	Readings	Tutorial Topic
Sept 14	Introduction / review of syllabus	Chapter 1	Introductions Real Science vs Pseudoscience Assignment 1 handed out
Sept 21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Getting started: sources of research ideas, 2. Academic journals: their nature and purpose 3. Library / literature searches 4. Ethics in research 	Chapter 2, Chapter 3	Searching databases, reading journal articles Assignment 2 handed out
Sept 28	Essential concepts in behavioural research	Chapter 4 <i>up to</i> “Experimental methods” (p.78), Chapter 5	Is this an experiment? Assignment 1 due
Oct 5	Observational research	Chapter 6	Observational research exercise Assignment 3 handed out Assignment 2 due
Oct 12	Reading week		
Oct 19	Conducting experiments	Chapter 9	Assignment 3 due
Oct 26	Midterm Exam		
Nov 2	Survey research	Chapter 7	Writing survey questions Assignment 4 handed out
Nov 9	Experimental design	Chapter 4: Section on “Experimental Method (pp 78 – 85), Chapter 8, Chapter 10	Identifying variables
Nov 16	Additional research designs	Chapter 11, lecture notes, Chapter 4: Section on “Choosing a method” (pp. 85 - 89)	Designing experiments Assignment 5 handed out Assignment 4 due
Nov 23	Data analysis: description and correlation	Chapter 12	Statistics Exercise
Nov 30	Data analysis: inferential statistics	Chapter 13, Appendix B	Factorial design exercise Assignment 5 due
Dec 3	Generalizing and presenting results	Chapter 14, Appendix A	No tutorials this week

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 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.**
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 include 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 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.
7. Extensions on graded assignments *may* be granted depending on the circumstances, but you must speak to your tutorial instructor *in advance* of the due date. Each case will be considered individually, so please be prepared to give 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.
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>).