

# Psychological Research Laboratory PSYB01H3Y (Lec 01)

## *Course Outline—Winter 2016*

*Class Meets: Fridays from 1100-1300 (Classroom SY110)*

*Tutorials: Wednesdays (See UTSC Course Timetable)*

**Instructor: Anna Nagy ([a.nagy@utoronto.ca](mailto:a.nagy@utoronto.ca))**

**T.A.: To be announced**

**Office:** Room 3, Portable 0123

**Home page:** Blackboard

**Office Hours:** Fridays from 1600-1700

**\*\*\*\*\*Please check the Psy B01 Blackboard page on a regular basis for both additional readings and important announcements\*\*\*\*\***

**Text:** Cozby, Paul & Rawn, Catherine (2013). *Methods in Behavioural Research* (Cdn. Ed). Toronto: McGraw-Hill.

This text is concise, and easy to understand. Chapters are of a very reasonable length; thus, supplementary lecture and/or reading materials that serve to further illustrate the important concepts in the course will be added on some weeks. The supplementary reading list will be posted on the course webpage and is subject to change.

**Course Description:** This course surveys the basic techniques and designs used in both experimental and non-experimental areas of psychological research. The topics range from the general principles of scientific research and writing to concrete design issues, and from sampling techniques to the typical problems faced when interpreting data.

**Learning Objectives:** Upon completion of this course (includes class attendance, tutorial attendance, readings, and assignments), students will be competent in the interpretation and application of basic and applied research techniques, both experimental and non-experimental. In addition to learning how to 'find' relevant and important material, critical interpretation of research is demonstrated and encouraged through class examples and discussion. Application of concepts is also supported through the completion of the course assignments.

**Grading:** Your final grade will be based on three written assignments (**5%; 5%; 20%** (5% for detailed outline+15% for final product)); a midterm examination (**30%**); a final examination (**35%**); and, tutorial participation (**5%**).

Exams will be comprised of multiple choice and/or short answer/essay questions (details to be announced). The midterm will be held in class on **Friday, February 26th**. The date for the final examination will be arranged by the Registrar and announced during the term (please note that the final examination will be comprehensive, but not cumulative). All exams will be based on both the lecture and tutorial material, and assigned chapters from the book.

Although we will talk about study techniques in class, for additional help, you might want to have a look at the *Great Big Book on How to Study* (see link below):

<http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/98797>

You might also want to consult with *Teaching and Learning Services at UTSC* for information on their facilitated study groups. See:

<http://ctl.utsc.utoronto.ca/home/fsg>

**Make ups:** Make-up tests are allowed for legitimate medical reasons only. A medical certificate is required if a test is missed due to illness, as per university policy. The official UTSC medical certificate can be found at <http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/>. If you miss the midterm, please provide a medical certificate **by March 11th**, otherwise a grade of 0% will be given. Please talk to the instructor if you are having difficulty with the course (or if you have personal issues) **before** an assignment is due or an exam is to be held. Extra assistance is available both from teaching staff and from the support team in the writing and research centers here at UTSC.

**Assignments:** There will be three mandatory assignments due at various times across the term (see course schedule below for due dates). The first one will involve finding a news, internet, or magazine article making a claim of some sort; your task will be to evaluate the claim critically (two pages max). The second assignment will give you practice extracting important information and creating a summary from an academic journal article (one page max). Finally, the third assignment will be a 5 page research proposal. The proposal includes an introduction, methods section, abstract, references and title page (only intro and methods are included in the page limit). The introduction and methods will have to include at least 6 references, of which a minimum of five must be peer reviewed empirical journal articles. The format of the paper should conform to APA style. You will be asked to submit a detailed outline to your tutorial leader, so that he/she may give you feedback. Overall, the assignments are worth 30% of your grade.

A detailed overview of the marking schemes and requirements for each paper will be available from your tutorial leader (they will NOT be posted online). It is expected that assignments will be handed in on the due date in tutorial (no email assignments will be accepted), unless there are exigent circumstances, and prior appropriate arrangements

have been made with an instructor or T.A.. Late assignments will result in a loss of 4% of the total score for the paper per day. In other words, please hand them in on time☺!

Please note and read the following websites on 'how not to plagiarize'

(<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>) and

(<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/document.html#apa>); remember that you must

As per the conditions cited on the University of Toronto's Office of Teaching

Advancement website: (<http://www.utoronto.ca/ota/turnitin/ConditionsofUse.html>)

**“Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site”.**

Please submit an electronic copy of your papers to turnitin, and a hard copy to your tutorial leaders. Instructions on how to submit electronically to the turnitin website will be posted on Blackboard. **Your paper will NOT be marked if a hard copy is not received. E-mail assignments will NOT be accepted.**

**Lecture Notes:** Many (but not all) of the Powerpoint slides used in class lectures will be available on the intranet by Thursday evening. You should be aware that these slides do not constitute complete class notes nor do they cover everything discussed in class. The best way to use them is as a reference and structure; print them (use the black and white option to save ink) so that you can make additional notes during the lecture. Much of the material will be presented in the form of interactive class lectures and discussions, so attendance is important to do well in this course. Please read the corresponding textbook chapters and assigned readings prior to class each week.

**Office Hours:** If you are having difficulty with the course material, please come and see me during office hours.

Your tutorial leader will also be available for office hours each week.

**Good luck and welcome to Psy B01!**

## COURSE OUTLINE (Tentative—Subject to Change)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings Textbook chapter</b>
<b>Jan 8</b>	<b>Introduction; the Scientific Approach</b>	<b>1 (all);2 (pp.16-23)</b>
Jan 15	The Scientific Approach (con't) Ethics	2 3;Tri-Council Policy
Jan 22	Ethics (con't) Experimental Manipulations Writing Research Reports; Anatomy of a Research Article;	4 Appendix A 2 (pp. 24-36)
<b>Assignment 1 due in tutorial (January 27<sup>th</sup>)</b>		
Jan 29	Experimental Manipulations (con't) Measurements	4 5
Feb 5	Approaches to Studying Behaviour	6
Feb 12	Surveys	7
<b>Assignment 2 due in tutorial (Feb 10)</b>		
Feb 19	<b>READING WEEK—NO CLASS!</b>	
Feb 26	<b>Midterm (Chapters 1-5; appendix A + lecture/tutorial material)</b>	
March 4	Experimental Design Conducting Experiments	8-9
<b>Outline for assignment 3 due in tutorial (March 2)</b>		
March 11	Complex Experimental Designs	10

March 18	Quasi-experiments and Single-Subject Designs; Generalization	11 & 14
Apr 4	Correlation; Understanding Research Results	12
	Statistical Inference	13

**Assignment 3 due in tutorial (March 30<sup>th</sup>)**

**Note:**

**Final exam period: April 8-22<sup>nd</sup>** (Date of final exam to be determined by the Registrar)